

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Press Releases

Office of Communication

4-4-2014

Connell and Oakes senior exhibit, "Back," to open in Hammons Gallery April 14

Chelsea Whelpley
Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita News Bureau
Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Organizational Communication Commons](#), and the [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Whelpley, Chelsea and Ouachita News Bureau, "Connell and Oakes senior exhibit, "Back," to open in Hammons Gallery April 14" (2014). *Press Releases*. 1022.
https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases/1022

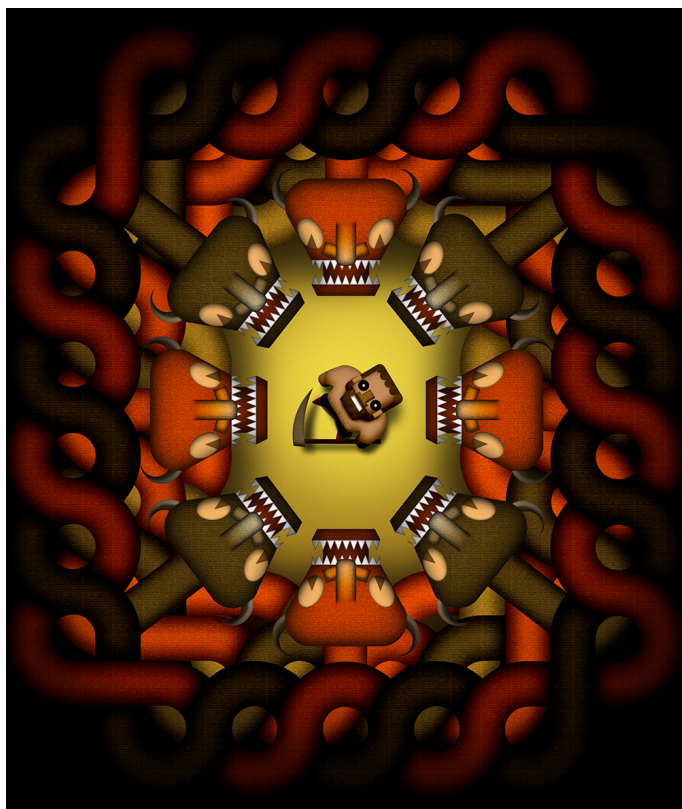
This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Communication at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



NEWS

Connell and Oakes senior exhibit, "Back," to open in Hammons Gallery April 14



By Chelsea Whelpley

April 04, 2014

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. -- Ouachita Baptist University will host Michael Connell and Adam Oakes' senior exhibit, "Back," in Mabee Fine Arts Center's Hammons Gallery from April 14 to 24. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

In this avant-garde exhibit, the artists express urban deconstructivism through a display of their works in design and digital art. The show will be a culmination of the students' work while at Ouachita.

A reception will be held April 17 at 6 p.m. in Hammons Gallery to give Connell and Oakes the opportunity to interact with the public about their art and the creative process behind it.

Connell and Oakes said they seek to explore the subliminal side of graphic design by re-contextualizing design in different mediums, including sculpture, multimedia pieces and live performance art.

"I plan to take this show to the outer limits of what constitutes graphic design," said Michael Connell, a senior graphic design and computer science major from Little Rock, Ark. "I like exploring the bizarre and gauging the reaction of my audience. That, to me, is the enjoyment of art. Though many view art as a way to inspire, instill or instruct, I see art as a conduit of emotion – an amplifier of an idea, perhaps."

"I have always had a love of motion, attitude and humor in art and have aimed to reflect that in my own work," explained Adam Oakes, a senior graphic design and computer science double major from Campbell, Texas. "All of my pieces, though static, were designed with motion in mind."

Oakes reminisced on one of his earliest memories standing under stained glass dome ceilings and explained, "I felt this breathtaking feeling of being immersed in something inconceivably vast. Oftentimes in my work I aim to replicate that immersive feeling with my viewers, which is sometimes directly expressed in the relationship between man and God."

"Connell and I have been like-minded in our creative direction, seeking to redefine what an art show is," Oakes noted, "so we have had good cooperation to make the show as engaging to our audience as possible."

"Showing with Adam Oakes is an honor, and I feel that together our show is a great taste of what kind of quality is expected by the Art and Design department," said Connell.

Regular gallery hours for the exhibit are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, contact the School of Fine Arts at (870) 245-5129.