

Garth Amundson
ART 390: Photo II Black & White Photography

Press Release

Macy's commissions WWU photography students for permanent installation

BELLINGHAM –Photography students from the Western Washington University (WWU) Department of Art have been commissioned to create a permanent installation entitled "Edifice Complex", which turned 17 cameras on one million square feet of retail space to explore the relationship between fine art and commercial photography. The intention of the project was to commemorate the history and architecture of the Macy's store on 3rd Avenue in downtown Seattle, Wash.

Working with Macy's visual manager, Pierre Gour, students in WWU's 390 Photography course, led by Garth Amundson, used the historic landmark as a starting point to create 34 large-format black-and-white photographs highlighting the store's façade, its interior spaces and its historic charm. The students were given permission to photograph both inside and outside the store, with the exception of retail employees and customers. Gour then selected images that were relevant to the spirit of the project and the students were asked to alter or edit their work according to what suited the exhibition space.

Featured students in "Edifice Complex" include Jonathan Bishop, Marybeth Coghill, Marguerite Crooks, Mikel Cumiskey, Andrew Figgs, Aiden Forrest, Heidi Killings, Katie Johnson, Hailey MacKay, Dana Ollestad, Kei Omotaka, Allie Paul, Forrest Perrine, Justin Riehl, Drew Trusler, Kelli Waugh and Anna Zuck.

The exhibit is currently on view in the corner bank of windows at 3rd and Stewart, and will permanently installed at a later date. Macy's provided all of the materials for the project.

For more information about the project, please visit <http://wwu.edu/artphotography> or contact Garth Amundson.