

Ancient Greek myth inspires exhibition at BCC

By **CHRIS MCENROE**
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"Hero cheats Death, rescues Love." The powers of love and redemption run deep in our lives and in our culture. So runs the theme of Orpheus and Eurydice, an ancient Greek myth and theme for the current exhibit at the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Gallery at Bristol Community College.

The installation by B. Lynch, titled "Tragical, Comical . . . Art Shaken and Stirred via the Literary Tradition," reanimates the ancient tale in multiple disciplines.

Ms. Lynch's work marries

sculpture, painting, music, and film with literature and mythology. The artist's virtuosity resounds in the craftsmanship of her sculptures and paintings. Her command of form and material married with the artistry and literary sense she brings to her subject creates a powerful and unique experience for even the most casual viewer.

The story sounds like a screenplay pitch, with bits of "Ghost" and "The Crow," perhaps. The hero, Orpheus (not Morpheus from "The Matrix"), marries Eurydice,

who dies tragically. Orpheus uses his many talents to win back his love from the god of the underworld (whom you can meet in the labyrinth of the underworld in the exhibit). The story has many permutations, but the themes resonate through literary history.

Walking into the outstanding gallery space, there is an immediate sense of tangible and familiar forms rendered in unique presentations that both comment on the subject matter and open up the conversation. Part of the installation is a massive wall

REVIEW

space upon which viewers are invited to add their own drawings, comments, or poetry.

One gets the sense of having entered the exotic realm of a wild conjurer — but is it the island of Shakespeare's Prospero, who ultimately casts favor on his guests, or the garden in Hawthorne's "Rappaccini's Daughter," where the perfume is far more sinister?

Although it is not exactly a resemblance, one wonders

if the painting entitled "Priestess," depicting a robed figure in commanding stance with fists full of ouroboros (snakes biting their tails), is not in some way a self-portrait.

While the paintings and sculptures utilize a variety of classical symbols, such as the many spirals as a representation of the cycle of birth, death and renewal, the scope of the installation is encapsulated in a film projected in various ways within the labyrinth of the underworld. The artist uses this medium to animate the other disciplines represented

in the show including sculpture, painting, and storytelling. Here again we see representations of the myth in its various forms throughout history.

B. Lynch's "Tragical, Comical . . . Art Shaken and Stirred via the Literary Tradition" is showing at the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Gallery at BCC, 777 Elsbree St., Fall River through April 2.

It is open 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday-Friday. Admission is free. Call (508) 678-2811 Ext. 2631.