

# Lay of the Land Exhibit reminds us 'how fragile it all is'

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Walking through the halls of the Health Science Building, most people might not be surprised to see some animals. It is the science building after all, but when there are four foot long, giant black bird corpses strewn across the floor, then some will wonder what is going on.

The corpses are not real, and are actually part of the Lay of the Land exhibit in the UIS Gallery. Karen Bondarchuk and Terrence Campagna are the two artists featured this month in the exhibit that is addressing sustainability and environmental conservation issues.

Both artists create their works from found and discarded materials, such as trash left on the side of the road, in order to question consumption in contemporary society.

The giant birds are the work of Bondarchuk and part of a series of sculptures entitled Corvus, which refers to the genus that crows and ravens belong to. With mangled limbs, contorted faces, and black as death feathers, Bondarchuk creates a haunting gallery piece that more resembles a scene from an Edgar Allen Poe story than what one would expect in an art gallery.

Looking outside the slim windows of the gallery, Robert Von Nordheim, Gallery Student Worker, said he saw the freshness of spring, and the contrast with the works, remind him "how fragile it all is."

And that is exactly the point. The sculptures are made entirely out of scavenged tire scraps found on an interstate in Michigan. According to her website, Bondarchuk hopes to represent the "environmental impact of the automobile industry is manifest in each sculpture" and convey "the uncomfortable rub between industrial progress and environmental degradation."

Campagna's work is on the wall. During a cross country walk from Ann Arbor, MI to Minneapolis, MN, Campagna collected throwaway materials that he found on his route. He arranged them in circular tiles according to where the garbage was picked up.

As one investigates the work, the familiar brand names such as McDonald's pop out and one can see dozens and dozens of flattened styrofoam cups, cardboard boxes, and fast food bags. Campagna also hopes to raise awareness of the extreme environmental problems that modern day society creates.

The Exhibit will display until April 22, Earth Day.