Cabrillo Arts Summer Workshops to debut work

By Sarah Rolen
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APTOS -- Artists who attended the Cabrillo Arts Summer Workshops have started to line the path at the College Arts Complex with the sculptures they created.

This is the fifth year that Cabrillo College has held its arts workshops. The students' work will officially go on display during an opening Friday.

Interim directors of the workshop Janet Fine, Jane Gergorius and Lynda Watson are excited to see the sculptures going up. They are also taking workshop classes.

"We bring in renowned artists in their fields to teach workshops," said Jana Marcus, a spokeswoman for Cabrillo arts.

The program offers 10 two-week workshops in sculpting, painting, digital media and various other techniques. At the end of the class, the works go on display.

Instructors this year included Jaime Abbott, Rhiannon Alpers, Rebecca Alex and Sandra Frank.

On Wednesday, Alan Helfen, a student in Abbott's large-scale sculpture class, got to help with the installation of his first piece, "Improv I." The piece is made mainly of steel, but incorporates circles in various colors welded onto branch-like extensions.

"It has been incredibly satisfying," Helfen said. "Jami has been incredible."

Helfen's inspiration came from the idea of taking raw materials and making them into something new. His piece is in front of the Crocker Theater.

"It's exciting for me to see all of this go up," Abbott said. "I'm just thrilled to see all this work."

Abbott, who has been teaching at Cabrillo for 37 years, recently stepped down as chair of the art department. The former painter decided sculpting was for him when he realized the "limits of two-dimensional art."

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