

CLAIRE EVANS: 'SACRIFICE ZONE' AT FCC

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Claire Evans, a photographer born and based in Fresno, had her art featured in the "Sacrifice Zone" Exhibition Opening at the Fresno City College Art Space Gallery on Nov. 13. Her photos will continue to be displayed there until Jan. 29.

This was an emotional and exciting moment for Evans.

"I was really happy, and I felt really honored that I was able to present my work in that way," Evans said.

According to Evans, exhibitions like this influence our community in a positive light, and they can motivate others.

"I hope people can step away from it and feel like they can do something like this in Fresno," Evans said.

According to the program of the exhibition, there is a sense of stillness in many of Claire Evans' photographs of Fresno and the surrounding areas.

Also Evans has a personal connection with some of the pictures, like "Morning Fog."

"My grandma used to ask the fallen leaves permission to take them home, and she'd pick them up, complimenting their colors and shape," Evans wrote in the exhibition program. "I fully believed the conversations had between my great grandma and the leaves, due to her admiration



"David in the Warehouse" by Claire Evans as featured in the "Sacrifice Zone" art gallery on Nov. 13. Photo by Logan Payne.

and intention with each one. She smiled wide at the ground beneath us and all of her friends smiled back."

Evans was surprised and absolutely satisfied with the quality of the exhibition, and she was so proud of her works.

"I was surprised that it just looked really beautiful, and I was really honored to be a part of this," Evans said.

A lot of people visited this exhibition and showed great interest in Evans' art.

"I think it's just wonderful," Kevin Evans, Claire's father, said.

FCC art instructor Ricardo Rivera was surprised by the large attendance of the exhibition.

"My first impression was 'whoa', there's a lot of people, so it's nice to see a gallery that is full," Rivera said.

According to Elena Harvey Collins, the curator of the Art Space Gallery and art history instructor at FCC, this exhibition influenced our community positively, and it is so important for us.

"I think exhibitions like this help to create a sense of community by reflecting people's lived realities, and I always hope that the gallery can be a place where students, the campus community and the local community can come and feel welcome," Collins said.

There were a lot of pictures that caught the attention of visitors.

According to Collins, a big challenge was choosing which images to put on the wall out of lots of really wonderful images.

Two of the pictures that caught visitors' attention were "Kiwi at Susland" and "Wrestle."

"There's two of them that I saw next to each other," Rivera said. "What really stands out for me in the images, is there seems to be a search for trying to understand diversity, specifically diversity of different cultures, different upbringing."

According to Rivera, "Kiwi at Susland" shows someone who's dressed up, and "Wrestle" shows two gentlemen wrestling.

"One that looks very religious and traditional, and another one looks kind of very testosterone aggressive, so I like that contrast," Rivera said.

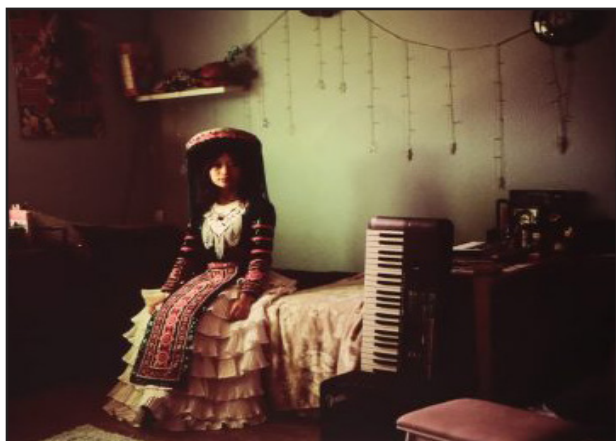
All in all, after viewing the artworks people felt honored and excited.

"I felt a lot of hope and just proud that the maybe underserved are being recognized," Kevin Evans said.

This exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Jan. 29.



"Wrestle" by Claire Evans as featured in the "Sacrifice Zone" art gallery. Photo by Gavin Ruland.



"Kiwi at Susland" by Claire Evans as featured in the "Sacrifice Zone" art gallery on Nov. 13. Photo by Artem Tikhomirov.



THE HISTORY MYSTERY OF SAM THE RAM

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At every major Fresno City College event there is a familiar face known as Sam the Ram. The mascot has been at FCC for as long as most faculty can remember, but Sam the Ram is only one part of a long and confusing mascot history.

The Era of Live Animal Rams

The current Sam the Ram is the first Sam to many, but he is actually Sam VIII. According to an article published by The Rampage in 1966, the first live animal ram mascot appeared at FCC in 1948. He was named Sam the Ram and appeared at different events, but sadly passed away on May 9, 1951.

This inaugural Sam the Ram was beloved, and they held a burial for him on campus according to an Oct. 7, 1960 Rampage issue. It is still unknown where exactly this ram was buried, but he very well could be under anyone's feet on the FCC campus.

Ram Replacement Recurrence

After the first Sam died, FCC continued to bring in different living rams to replace the original Sam.

According to the Oct. 7, 1960 Rampage issue, Sam the Ram II was around in 1951, Sam the Ram III from 1953-1954, Sam the Ram IV in 1956, Sam the Ram V in 1958 and finally Sam the Ram VI in 1959. They all served briefly before disappearing from the records.

FCC borrowed Sam the Ram VI from a farmer in Raisin City, according to the Oct. 7, 1960 Rampage issue, so it can be assumed that Sam VI made it safely back to the farm after a game. But where did all the other Sams go?

Sams II-V vanished with no explanation. Were they returned to the farm quietly like Sam VI? Did they escape? Did they live lavishly in retirement? We may never know, all that is known is

that these Rams were not reported on by The Rampage.

FCC had other variations of live animal rams as well. In between Sam III and Sam IV, the campus switched it up and got Samson who served as the mascot in 1955, according to the Oct. 7, 1960 Rampage issue. Little is known about Samson just like the other rams, and it is possible he met a similar fate as the Sam succession line.

But this was not the last of the live rams. FCC took a break from live animal mascots after 1960, but the push for the live ram returned.

The final live ram was named "Ramrod," an 8-month-old ram that would show up to events as the unofficial mascot. The student council had to debate and vote whether or not this ram should be the official mascot, according to the Oct. 6, 1966 Rampage issue.

Ramrod became the FCC official mascot and had his first appearance as part of the Homecoming parade hosted on campus, according to the Oct. 27, 1966 issue of the Rampage. Ramrod's fate was never reported on, but it's safe to assume that he passed along with the other rams.

This was the last time that a live animal mascot was a part of campus life, not without trying. In 1973, the Associated Student Body president set a meeting to discuss the potential purchase of a ram to become the FCC mascot. Fresno State was willing to sell FCC one and they even contacted a trainer, according to the Sept. 20, 1973 Rampage issue. This ram was never reported on again, so most likely they didn't purchase one.

The First Unnamed Mascots

In 1949, the first ever human ram mascot got its start, and while FCC still used live animal rams at the time, a suit mascot was also created, according to the Oct. 28, 1965 Rampage issue. In the same issue, Marsha Pearl was revealed to be the student inside the Ram mascot.

Diana Beckhoff was another student who wore the Ram costume to celebrate the pride and spirit on campus, according to the Sept. 28, 1967 Rampage issue. Debbie Hale also wore the ram mascot outfit for two years according to the Dec. 14, 1972 Rampage issue.

Throughout the years, the ram mascot was continuously used and students would apply and conduct tryouts to wear the suit.

Ram Mascot with Flair

One of the most iconic people to step inside the Ram mascot suit was George Howsepian. When he entered the ram suit he became a performer who "feels like a hero" and "loses himself" to become the ram, according to the Nov. 4, 1976 Rampage issue.

Howsepian told the Rampage at the time, "It's like a Jekyll-Hyde relationship," says George, stroking his full-length beard. "I am George until I put on the head, and then I am the Ram. No one knows who the Ram is...not even me." Howsepian was joined in the spring of 1977 by Tara Thor as an ewe, the female version of the ram mascot, according to the May 5, 1977 Rampage issue. No photographs were published and FCC never had a live ewe.



The First Live Sam The Ram Is Our Mascot	Sam Dies, Flag Is Dipped In Memoriam	Six More Live Animal Rams Come and Go	First Mention Of Human "Ram Mascot"	Ramrod Is Our Last Live Mascot	Human "Ram Mascot" Tryouts Occur Each Semester	First Mention Of Ewe, Female Human Mascot	First Mention Of Rocky The Ram
1948	1951	1951-1966	1965	1966	1967+	1977	1988