

FINE ART OPEN HOUSE AT FCC

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The annual Fine Art Open House, which showcased artworks by Fresno City College fine art students, occurred on Nov. 20.

Art students from several different classes selected and showcased their work, including paintings, drawings, ceramics, digital art and more. Every artwork had its own history and message.

Star Gonzalez, an art student at FCC, represented her artwork in the exhibition. Her painting was based on a personal journey with grief.

"My artwork is based on my uncle, who passed away," Gonzalez said.



Star Gonzalez's painting that was represented in the exhibition on Nov. 20. Photo by Wyatt Bible.

The main message was to pay tribute to her uncle, and keep the memories of her uncle alive in her father's memory.

Gonzalez wants viewers to feel that every moment can be in our memory in perpetuity.

"You could always capture a moment forever," Gonzalez said.

Creating art is not an easy process, and Gonzalez's was no exception.

According to Gonzalez, the most challenging part was getting the colors correct because at first it was a lot of trial-and-error and a lot of mixing, and sometimes it would come out too muddy or "just not the exact colors that I wanted."

For painting professor Kevin Stewart-Magee, this is also an exciting moment to see how his students represented their art.

"I've got a lot of pride in how much the students have grown, and I think it's a great representation of their energy and knowledge," Stewart-Magee said.

Every class has its own style and meaning.

"Each class and each classroom has a different curriculum, and my curriculum in beginning sculptures is a lot of self-expression and storytelling, so each piece has its own unique experience,"

Caleb Duarte, professor of sculpture at FCC, said.

According to Jahen Vazquez, an art student at FCC, the main idea of his art is to put a positive balance out there, and make something that resembles passion or ideas connected with him.

"When people see works of my students, I want them to understand that this was a project, and each of the individual students made a wonderful unique artwork," Ricardo Rivera, art instructor at FCC, said.

According to Rivera, it is important to try to instill that "sense of openness" to different things and make students feel comfortable doing things that they wouldn't otherwise do.

"I really try to emphasize to the students that there's not a correct way to get to this answer to the project they have to explore and diverge from the things that they already know to be creative," Rivera said.

Exhibitions like this are so important for our community because the showcase represents what FCC students have been doing during the semester, and open house promotes the art department.



A welcome sign is displayed at the ceramics classroom at a fine art open house on Nov. 20. Photo by Wyatt Bible.



Watercolor paintings by FCC art students on display on Nov. 20. Photo by Wyatt Bible.

Howsepien 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 has never had a live ewe.

Rocky's Rocky History

The Rampage was quiet about the mascot until the most scandalous mascot to ever grace the campus appeared.

Rocky the Ram appeared in the Oct. 31, 1988 Rampage issue and was seen hugging a child while attending a Disabled Day event. This was the first time Rocky was ever mentioned, but he seemed to be well established on campus by this point.

The Rampage updated their nameplate to include a drawn picture of Rocky on Feb. 14, 1992 and kept him there the entire spring and fall semester, until Rocky had met his demise.

On the humor page of the Dec. 9, 1992 issue of The Rampage, a satirical article was published with the headline, "Rocky the Ram Found in Lurid Sex Pit." The story included reference to a time when Rocky was caught, "attempting to sneak away from an orgy he was attending."

Rocky was quoted and said that, "It's not what it looks like," and that, "We were doing homework."



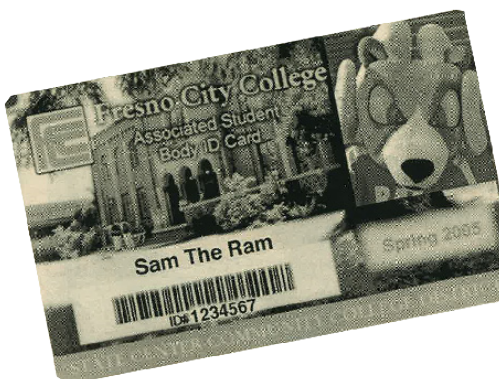
Rocky The Ram Becomes Rampage Logo

1992



Rocky The Ram Gets Hit By Car And Dies

1992



First Mention Of Human Sam The Ram

1999

Sam The Ram Is Official Mascot

2005+

But once these stories break they can do irreparable damage. The article stated that among the herd, 24 sheep could be Rocky's offspring.

The campus was "clamoring for a new mascot," according to the Dec. 9, 1992 Rampage issue.

They sadly didn't have to look for long. While the campus was debating between a squid or sloth to replace Rocky, tragedy struck.

"Rocky the Ram Run Over by Nut," was the next headline. According to the satirical article, after a crazed driver ran him over and escaped, Rocky got hit and became unconscious only to die just 12 minutes later.

"I did not see him coming at all...I had my horns pointed the other way," were Rocky's last words according to the Dec. 9, 1992 Rampage issue.

The Official Sam the Ram Mascot

After Rocky's passing, the Rampage didn't cover any mascot related topics for awhile, but they did update their nameplate in 1993. The next mention of a mascot was for the beloved Sam the Ram that is known today.

Sam the Ram teamed up with the FCC football team to meet with chemotherapy patients at Valley Children's Hospital accord-

ing to the Nov. 4, 1999 Rampage issue.

In the spring of 2005, Sam the Ram purchased a student ID card which solidified his status as a FCC forever student associate, which is how he has gotten to where he is today.

Sam the Ram still partakes in many school events like football games and vendor fairs. He even helped to distribute print editions of The Rampage this semester.

Conclusion

Between multiple live animal Sam the Rams, Ramrod the Ram, Samson the forgotten ram, Rocky the Ram and the human mascot Sam the Ram, there are still many questions left unanswered.

What is Rocky's connection to Sam? Are they related? Were they friends? Is Rocky the Ram Sam's alter ego that he doesn't want anyone to know about? Where did all the live rams go? Why does nobody care about Samson and Ramrod?

The lack of documentation following his growth and development have led to gaps in Sam's history. But given the current Sam the Ram status on campus, it is unlikely he will be forgotten the way all the other rams have.

STUDENT CERAMICS AT ART HOP

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Students from the Fresno City College ceramics classes had the opportunity to display their projects at Art Hop from Nov. 6 to Nov. 29 in an exhibition called "EARTH2."

The student artwork was sheltered at Clay Hand Studios, and this marks the second time that ART-15 and ART-20 students had their ceramics presented at Art Hop.

Roxanne Arias, a ceramics student at FCC, had her art showcased and believes that despite the fact the showcase is over, the medium of ceramics can withstand the test of time.

"Our teacher teaches us that ceramics is the kind of thing that can withstand centuries or even 1000's of years. So look back, one of us might have a piece that would stand the test of time. So it's not a sad thing to do ceramics," Arias said.

Arias said one of the best things about the class is being able to see each others' ideas and get inspired by their projects.

"It's just a good place to kind of release all of your thoughts, whether they're good or bad, we also experience that here in our art as well," Arias said.

Evelyn Luna Flores talked about how supportive their art teacher, Hiromi Iyoda, is, no matter how many times they fail a project.

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"Old Minoan Style Pot" by Hailie Finney, "Little Dragon Dreams" by Stephanie Ortiz and "So Here I Lay" by Catalina Gomez are displayed in the Clay Hand Studio on Nov. 19. Photos by Logan Payne.

