

Arts & Entertainment

gical Time' at Sheehan

by Christy Borden

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From now until October 24, you have a unique opportunity to understand what it means to experience art. For the past two weeks, the Sheehan Gallery has hosted artist-in-residence Lycia Trouton, and has been open for public participation in the construction of *BioLogical Time*, an architectural spiral made entirely of organic materials. To the uninitiated, this installation may not qualify as 'art', but to go and experience this piece gives a profound *feeling* of what Art is that's different than plowing through crowds at the Louvre or the Met.

As you step into the gallery you see the exterior of the spiral. Although the construction is very large in scale for the room, its curves and colors make it inviting as opposed to daunting. The white-

washed walls are decorated with an ancient Celtic motif, in reference to Trouton's Irish heritage. Follow the design around to the entrance of the spiral, and begin a metaphorical journey into what Art really is. As you get deeper in the spiral, the straw walls block out the outside world, enveloping you as you work your way around and seem to discover a hidden space. On the walls are symbols and messages created by members of the community during the construction.

The construction itself was an integral part of the piece. Trouton began last June, planting *Serpentine Knowledge* on Ankeny Field in front of the Hall of Science with a group of students. Throughout the construction, the public has been asked to contribute, thus making the piece more than just a transplanted object, it has a real sense of connection to its site. In

fact, most of the graphic symbols and messages throughout the gallery are not by Trouton, but by those who volunteered their contributions. The group effort which made the installation possible highlights themes of process, creation, change, and personal expression. Even Trouton didn't know what the final product would be as different people came in and added their very different messages to the product.

Art is a way of recording the intangible emotions and ideas of a society, and it is also capable of presenting new ideas to those who experience it. *BioLogical Time* is a fully integrated work of art. From the small, discrete personal symbols of a community, to the large, unifying architectural structure by the artist, *BioLogical Time* is a metaphor for the personal experience of art.

From top-left to right:
Serpentine Knowledge, Lycia Trouton on exhibit, and various pieces contributed by members of the community.

Photos by James Egan

