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## Tamara Browning: Exhibit highlights artwork's form and content

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The sketch of a two-headed figure that sprouts wings over which a disembodied head hovers represents artist **CRAIG NEWSOM**'s exploration of a personal mythology.

The drawing "**TWO HEADED BLACK ANGEL WITH SPIRIT HEAD**" (ink on paper) is among several of Newsom's sketches that he'll have the opportunity to comment on during a reception of the exhibition "**CHIMERAS, IDEALS AND ERRORS**" on display through Sept. 22 in the Visual Arts Gallery at the University of Illinois Springfield, in room 201 of the Health and Sciences Building.

The reception will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. today. Regular gallery hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

"Chimeras, Ideals and Errors" features the artwork of Newsom, **CARL ANDERSEN** of Minneapolis and **BRYAN VAN DONSLEAR**, who teaches at the University of Northern Iowa. Newsom is assistant professor in the art department at Blackburn College.

The exhibition is the result of the three artists agreeing to lay bare drawings they created with technical pens on single pages (5.5- by 3.5-inch) from their Moleskine Pocket Sketch notebooks. The show explores the relationships between format and content.

"For many artists, the sketchbook is a secret and vulnerable place where early stages of projects are tested. But, it can also be the location of autonomous work with a particular strength and rawness," says a statement accompanying the exhibit.

Newsom's exhibited drawings represent the beginnings of characters and/or significant moments in the narrative arcs of characters in his personal mythology.

Van Donslear has explored a variety of media and subject matter, but many of his drawings in "Chimeras, Ideals and Errors" have the feeling of a birds-eye view of life in chaos. For example, one of Van Donslear's untitled drawings (ink on paper) seems to be a science or math lab gone asunder. It includes a chart with values for width, height and depth; the word "tritium"; and the saying, "I keep waking up in the middle of the night."

Andersen's work hybridizes his interest in the human figure and design. One of his untitled works in ink-on-paper seems like an abstract, but one can make out the figure of a fish head.

Visitors to "Chimeras, Ideals and Errors" can pick up an image listing for perusing the exhibit. Each framed drawing is accompanied by a number to help visitors identify descriptions of the pieces, most of which are available for sale.

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