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Georgia Southern University, "BFS News Online" (2017). *Art Department News (2010-2023)*. 286. https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/art-news-online/286

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BFSDoArt Alumna Exhibits Artwork at the Averitt Center for the Arts

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"Visit Beautiful Roach Town," an exhibit by Georgia Southern alumna Kathleen "Xed" Blankenship ('17), will be on display Nov. 3-24 in the Averitt Center's Rosengart Gallery, 41 West Main Street, Statesboro. The public is invited to a reception from 5 to 7 p.m., Nov. 3 during First Friday downtown.

Presented by The Averitt Center for the Arts and the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art (BFSDoArt), "Visit Beautiful Roach Town" explores an imaginary world where cartoon roaches wear suits, visit hotels and run town halls.

"The Roach Town body of work is a creepy-cute look at a town made for and by roaches, focusing on the feelings of a small town and the politics and culture that brings, despite the species difference," said Blankenship, who brings the quaint town of insects to life through a combination of cardboard and ink sculptures and watercolor drawings.

Blankenship won Best in Show for her "Roach Motel" creation in <u>last spring's Juried Undergraduate</u> <u>Exhibition</u>, a show that granted opportunities for students to showcase their artwork. As a result of this success, she was awarded a solo exhibition at the Averitt Center for the Arts for the 2017-2018 school year.

"Blankenship has a creative drive that, coupled with her urge to explore ideas, is a marvel to see," said University Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher. "Given her ability to realize concepts in two and three dimensions, and based on complex backstories, I expect her exhibition at the Rosengart Gallery to be very cool and compelling."

Blankenship is currently working on freelance art projects and managing social media for a marketing firm. Some of her work can be viewed at https://www.xedblankenship.com/ or on her Instagram, @XedBlankenship.

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art (BFSDoArt) is committed to offering quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs that prepare students to become professional artists, designers, art historians and industry leaders. The BFSDoArt is recognized as an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). For more information, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/art.