



OCC: TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES THROUGH THE ARTS

by Tyler Stallings

Orange Coast College is in a significant expansion mode. This includes a recommitment to presenting ambitious and thought-provoking exhibitions at the Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion, starting with my recent hire as the Doyle's first full-time director in more than seven years.

Designed by architect Steven Ehrlich, the Doyle opened in 2007. It came to fruition through the support of community leaders, volunteers, generous donors and loyal alumni who understood that a student's education is enriched through engagement with the arts and that the region would benefit from OCC being a leader in the arts.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the campus's founding. For me, being at a crossroads with the Doyle's short history is very exciting. I have already begun the Doyle's relaunch by creating a strategic plan, an Advisory Council, an endowment campaign, and rebranding, along with developing an ambitious exhibition program.

My aim for the Doyle is to enrich the cultural life of the campus and the region by presenting transformative experiences through the arts. This will be done by focusing on contemporary visual culture and creating dynamic programming that inspires interaction and dialogue between artists, students, scholars, and local and international communities. Additionally, free admission makes these experiences accessible for everyone.

Highlights in the exhibition program for the 2018-2019 academic year include "Amy Elkins: Photographs of Contemporary Masculinity" (Sept. 20–Dec. 1). Elkins' first survey of photographs and first solo exhibition in the Western States explores the many facets of male identity, masculinity, and vulnerability. Presented concurrently, "Elizabeth Turk: ThinkLab LIVE .002: Cages" (Sept. 6–Oct. 4)

is a month-long, live exhibition by Turk, a 2010 MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship awardee, as she explores the extinction of birds in the Americas. And "Stargazers: Intersections of Contemporary Art & Astronomy" (Feb. 7–April 6) will be presented in tandem with the opening of OCC's new Planetarium. This multi-media exhibition of nationally recognized artists explores observations of the night sky, reflecting on questions of space, time, and the human condition within and beyond the observable universe.

As the Doyle continues with its relaunch, plans include continuing to work with the a newly established Advisory Council on rebranding, updating the website, and freshening up the facilities, along with improved wayfinding to the gallery. Part of this strategy includes embracing the concept of the "arts pavilion" in the Doyle's moniker by emphasizing its various components. These include the two art galleries, which are its focal point, but also a forthcoming sculpture garden, along with the cafe. Additionally, rethinking the plaza as an active place for performing arts and public art, plus repurposing the open-air loading dock for special live events on occasion.

The Doyle's relaunch can only happen with support from those who will join me in going beyond the norm in the arts, just as Gertrude "Trudy" Doyle did in memory of her husband Frank M. Doyle, when she committed \$1 million to support the founding of the Arts Pavilion. There has already been a positive response to the Doyle's relaunch with people selecting from the naming opportunities, such as naming a gallery (\$250–500K) or one of the large walls in a gallery (\$50K). For Gertrude and Frank Doyle, the motivation for their foundation was to "dream of a better world for all"; to which I would add, "through the arts at Orange Coast College."