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Sheppard exhibit takes look at relationships with sports

BY GERALDA MILLER • GMILLER@RGJ.COM • JANUARY 18, 2009

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Everyone has a relationship with sports.

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"Especially in America," said Marjorie Vecchio, director and curator at Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery.

Some grew up participating in team sports, embracing the philosophy of winning and losing.

Others dreaded gym class because they knew they would be bullied for their lack of coordination or skill.

And there are the spectators that sometimes can be classified as die-hard fans.

The upcoming exhibit at the Sheppard Gallery, "I Like Winners: Sport & Selfhood," is guaranteed to stir one's relationship to sports.

It opens Tuesday with the opening reception and lecture at 5:30 on Thursday, room 153 in the Church Fine Arts building.

Twenty-five artists, American or living in the U.S., display varied artwork styles, media and content.

"The works also represent a broad relationship to winning and selfhood," Vecchio said in her curatorial statement.

Judy Linn's 1973 photograph of three boys on the winner's stand epitomizes the emotions with winning and losing in sports.

The first-place winner proudly stands smiling ahead while the boy in second place has his hands on his hips and is angrily staring at the winner. Meanwhile, the boy in third place has his arms crossed with his head down.

"How do we live in a society where a second and third place winner still consider themselves losers?" Vecchio said. "Through sports, we have access to the psychological and cultural experience of competition and self-development."

Some take their emotional relationship with a sport to the extreme.



Marilyn Newton/Reno Gazette-Journal

Marjorie Vecchio prepares photos for hanging at the Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery. She is the director of the gallery.

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Provided to the Reno Gazette-Journal

Part of the show at the Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery at UNR includes a sequined football by James Jaxxa.

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I LIKE WINNERS: SPORT & SELFHOOD

- Opens Tuesday in Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery
- Opening reception and lecture: 5:30 p.m. Thursday, room 153 in the Church Fine Arts building

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A photograph by Lucas Michael, titled "Love conquers all night," is of an athlete with his shiny trophy embraced in a kiss.

"Let them serve as reminder to rediscover the joy and skillfulness in competition with oneself and peers, to fight the good fight, and get dirty as often as possible," she said. "Yay hoo!"

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