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Artists use old, new media in group show at Bemis

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WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Artist Matthew Kluber's FireWire pictures call to mind water in a running stream.

Kluber, whose work is part of the new group show "Borderland Abstraction" at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, has created a new kind of art that mixes digital technology with traditional painting.

His "Deeper Into Movies" at the Bemis projects a digital image of an abstract painting onto a screen. The colors slowly but constantly move and mix together, like water in a bubbling brook.

"The projector never shows the same image twice," said Hesse McGraw, the exhibit's curator. "So this is a work that is in a constant state of being created."

Many of the 13 artists in the show work with new media. Eric Sall's "Washed Out," a charcoal, acrylic and oil on canvas, looks at first blush like a traditional painting. But Sall used digital technology to create the piece. He painted on canvas, took a digital photo of the work and then enhanced it on computer.

Tim Bavington's "Cold Fire," a synthetic polymer on canvas, is intended to look like a sound wave. The different frequencies and vibrations in the wave are bathed in cool colors — aqua, pink, blue, yellow, magenta and maroon.

Ara Peterson's aptly named "Long Impervious Vibes" is a 24-foot-long abstract painting made of wood and acrylic paint. McGraw describes the piece as part architecture and part sculpture because of its size and the intricacy of its individually crafted segments.

One of the artists, Nils Folke Anderson, created his work while in residence at the Bemis last month. His "Untitled" consists of a series of large, interconnecting foam squares. Linked together, they form a complex structure that resembles an ice crystal.

The exhibit runs through May 8.

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