

Art Exhibit Reflection:

In the art exhibit in Covington Hall at Radford University, "Leaves of the Tree's" there were many different abstracts works of art that were based on trees. When you first enter the art exhibit, you are guided by place marks around the art exhibit. In the center of the art exhibit was a very large tree trunk extending to the very top of the ceiling. Coming from the tree in the middle of the room were leaves of varying kinds that were made of different fabrics. These hanging leaves made up the center of the exhibit. On the walls of the room were different pieces of art, for example there were several art canvases, shadow boxes and photographs of leaves in many different forms. One canvas had images of leaves with words stitched onto them as part of an ongoing social media project. There were also displays of art in the middle of the art exhibit such as a dress that was stitched together with leaves and a "walking stick" with a hand and each piece of art was made of wood. Every piece of art in the exhibit was unique and unlike anything I had seen before. I was surprised by the creativity of the artists and how they were able to create such unique pieces of art just with leaves. I found it interesting how my understanding and knowledge of trees made my experience at the art exhibit different than it would have previously been before I started studying the field of biology. It has been said before that, "scientists' intense, methodical study of life can cause the beauty or spiritual part of life to be obscured." When I visited the art gallery I did not find this to be true for myself rather, I took in the beauty of the artist's work and of their craftsmanship. I was surprised at people's raw talent and ability to create work from leaves and trees. The knowledge I had of trees from taking two classes this semester based on trees did not obscure my enjoyment of the art exhibit but rather enhanced my experience because I had a deeper knowledge of trees

and the benefits that they provide to us as well as the benefits that we can provide to them. As I walked through the art exhibit I paused at each art piece to look at the work of art to see the work that was put into creating that art piece. Finally, my knowledge of biology helped my reactions to the exhibit. I feel as though I was able to understand the works of art differently and more in depth than if I had not studied biology. If I had not studied environmental biology my experience of the art exhibit would likely have been boring and uninteresting to me but having studied this field it enhanced my experience at the art exhibit. Studying environmental biology has helped me better understand the world around me and because of my background knowledge I enjoyed my experience when attending the "Leaves of the Tree" art exhibit on Radford's campus.