

Cafe steeped in culture

by David Cherry

In the far east they have the tea house. In Europe they have the sidewalk cafe. In Las Vegas we have Cafe Espresso Roma. Three very different places with one common element. They all offer an unconventional forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Walking into the Cafe, one can't help but notice the variety of people sitting about sipping various caffeinated concoctions on any given day. As the eye wanders past the bohemian clientele, it soon settles on the odd assortment of acrylic, metal and wood suspended on the cafe's walls. Each image is unique in its form and message, like the many different conversations simultaneously filling the room.

This art, said Spit, a cafe regular in his 20s, tells people where they stand when they come through the doors. The art on the walls says its okay to express yourself.

James Doose is the new art coordinator for the cafe. He is also one of its current exhibitors. In the future Doose

hopes the cafe can provide artists of all types with a chance to show work that might otherwise be overlooked.

"I would like to see more works by UNLV undergraduates," Doose said. "Anyone interested in having their art shown should contact me immediately."

Doose says he doesn't censor artists. "Nudity is fine when done with artistic vision," he said. "The artist's medium and message is a matter of choice."

Doose does, however, prefer art that makes you think.

Every piece of art is as unique as the person who created it. Art is a voice that we each understand in our own way. When a voice is silenced, its ideas goes unheard.



Patrons sit outside the Cafe Espresso Roma.

photo by Rob Weidenfeld



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