

Review: SpaceCamp MicroGallery

by Dan Grossman

Through the month of February.

3.5 stars

If you saw the performers getting tangled in the webs of yarn spanning the hallway outside SpaceCamp on First Friday evening, Feb. 4, you might've thought of spiders.

This was, in fact, a site-specific installation/performance with a serious purpose (entitled "Maps, Networks, and Nodes"). The performers were recreating what installation artist Christen Sperry-Garcia termed "the improvisation, chaos, and order" you might find, say, in the crowded traffic of a Bangkok side street by interweaving long strings of yarn into a web-like installation.

After their weaving was done, the performers donned hats dubbed "energy conservation units." Then they ate soup. Their hats — designed by Brian Dick — were designed to absorb the energy emanating from the soup.

Inside the gallery, the most interesting installation was Derrek Curry and Jennifer Gradecki's "Biofeedback Loop," in which participants got to see a live sex performance in return for having their facial reactions recorded and their stress levels measured. All you got to see, however, were their facial reactions on TV and the record book containing their resulting stress levels!

Such performance "byproducts" were the unifying theme of this show, which certainly seemed clever enough. But don't expect any of this stuff to appear in a peer-reviewed science journal anytime soon. Open Saturdays through February.

317-426-1321; Murphy Arts Building, 1043 Virginia Ave.; www.spacecampgallery.com.

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