

HOLYOKE

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HCC gallery celebrates art, life of late Ben Banville

The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College is presenting "Poste Nébu-leux," a comprehensive retrospective honoring the life and art of the late Bernard "Ben" Banville, through Feb. 22.

Banville was a musician, photographer, artist and long-time resident of the Pioneer Valley who died in January 2017.

The show was curated by Christopher Willingham, an adjunct professor of visual arts at HCC.

"Ben was an extraordinary talent, a contagious wit, and a generous friend," Willingham said.

"He lived from the center of his art - a continuous, indivisible personal mythology that animated his trickster spirit, and imbued his life with passionate meaning. His art was exhibited widely throughout the area over the last 30 years, culminating in his profound and moving sculptural in-



stallations commemorating the Holocaust, which were centerpieces for large group exhibits in the thriving Holyoke art scene."

The works in "Poste Nébu-leux" span almost 40 years, from early Dada-inspired mail art, to visionary drawings

of erotic apocalypse, to the digital paintings, assemblages and installation documentation of Banville's mature work.

They are accompanied by encaustics, the last pieces he produced.

Banville was based in Shel-

burne Falls until his studio and most of his work were de-

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stroyed by the flooding from Hurricane Irene in 2011.

The works in the exhibition come from the collections of André Banville, Dennis Banville, Isabella Dell' Olio, Dean Nimmer, Eileen Roif, Don and Marcia Wheeler and Willingham.

The Taber Art Gallery at HCC is open Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. during regular school sessions. It is free and open to the public and located through the HCC Campus Library lobby on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke.

For more information, call Amy Johnquest, director of the Taber Art Gallery, at 413-552-2614.

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