

# Sentinel & Enterprise

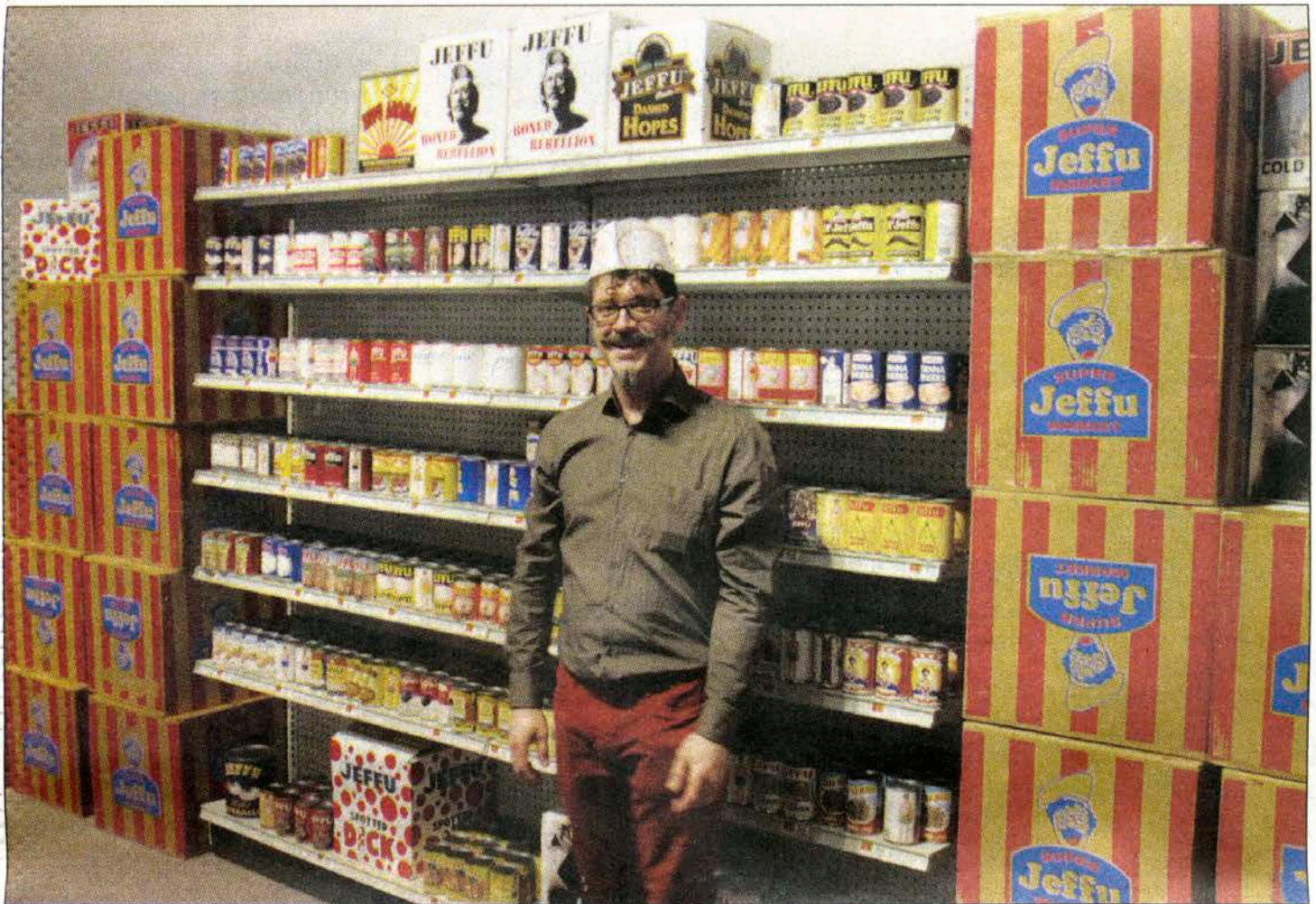
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MONDAY, February 10, 2014

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\$1.00



Artist Jeffu Warmouth, professor of communications media at Fitchburg State University, poses with his work "Super Jeffu Market" during the opening of his "No More Funny Stuff" exhibit at the Fitchburg Art Museum Sunday afternoon.

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / NICK MALLARD

## FSU prof gets down to (funny) business

By **Cillea Houghton**  
Correspondent

**F**ITCHBURG — The Fitchburg Art Museum on Sunday opened an exhibition like you've never seen before with the launch of "No More Funny Stuff," a mid-career retrospective featuring

the work of local artist and Fitchburg State University communications media professor Jeffu Warmouth.

Warmouth's work has been featured all over the United States, as well as internationally.

Mary Tinti, Fitchburg Art Museum's associate curator, explained how she was introduced to Warmouth's

work about a year ago when she drove past a 30-foot marquee in Boston that displayed various digital artworks, including Warmouth's "Fall."

After becoming a curator at FAM and discovering that Warmouth worked at FSU, elements of putting

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together the exhibition fell into place.

"It became clear that we wanted to do something amazing with his work," she said.

The title, "No More Funny Stuff," juxtaposes Warmouth's thread of humor weaved throughout his works with his desire to step away from the common food-centered pieces for which he had become known. However, the idea was inspired by an earlier conversation he had with FAM Director Nick Capasso, when he asked the artist how much longer he would continue doing food-related work, prompting Warmouth to rethink the style.

"I realized from that conversation that I had put myself in a rut," Warmouth said.

He said selecting works to display in the show was a retrospective experience for him.

"I've been able to go back and reflect on my work to date and that's been really important," he said.

Some of the works that Warmouth is particularly excited for visitors to see include video projections "Fall" and "1Up," in addition to reprints of his early photographic work.

"I've never seen them this good," he said of the images.

Though food and humor are prominent in many of Warmouth's works, he wants visitors to know that there is much more to his artistic style than those themes.

"There are a lot of ideas in play, but also play itself embodies a lot of ideas," Warmouth said. "A work that isn't about humor is still playful."

Tinti also attested to the depth of Warmouth's pieces.

"His work is really layered; it's seriously funny," she said. "The work allows visitors to step back from their daily lives and not take their routines

so seriously."

Capasso echoed Tinti's sentiments.

"The show is huge fun. Jeff's work is accessible, hysterical, and meaningful; they're not just jokes," he said, adding that some of the themes explored in the various works range from consumerism to boredom.

Tinti, who describes Warmouth as "Fitchburg's most famous contemporary artist," said the show is full of technology, including interactive sculptures, full-screen video monitors and wall projections, all which create an engaging and inviting experience for the viewer. "A lot of it is participatory; it's visually stimulating. It awards people who spend time with it experimentation and insight into each one," she said.

"This is the first time the Fitchburg Art Museum has presented artwork like this," added Capasso. "I want people to leave the museum and tell their friends, 'You'll never believe what I saw at FAM.'"

A large part of this exhibition is the collaboration between Fitchburg State University and the museum. Students in Robert Carr's Document Design class this year helped design both the exhibition and promotional tactics.

"Without the university's help, we would have never been able to do it," Capasso said.

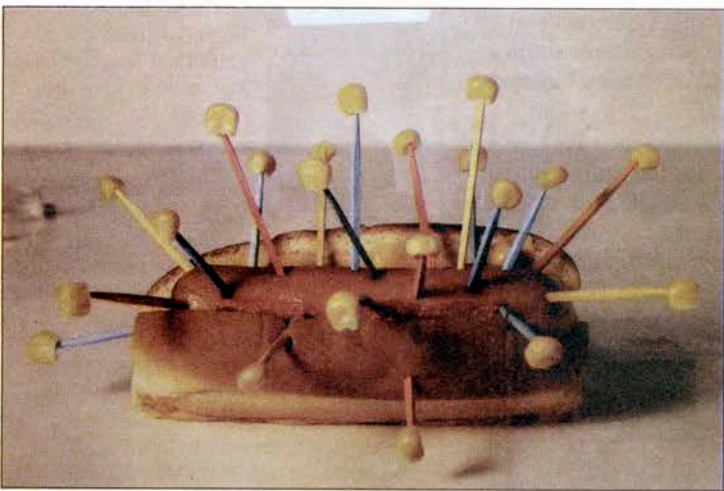
As for those attending "No More Funny Stuff," they can expect to leave with aching cheeks and a new appreciation for contemporary art, something that Tinti is hopeful for.

"I'm really looking forward to hearing the museum filled with laughter," she said.

The debut of "No More Funny Stuff" will be on display until June 1. For more information, visit [fitchburgartmuseum.org](http://fitchburgartmuseum.org).



"Jeffu Burger," a video display by artist Jeffu Warmouth, a professor of communications media at Fitchburg State University, is seen during the opening of the "No More Funny Stuff" exhibit at the Fitchburg Art Museum Sunday afternoon.



"Corn Dog," a photograph by Warmouth, is displayed at the exhibit.