

ARTS

'Impressions/Expressions' bears the fruit of Russian artist's vision

The women depicted in Anna Demovidova's exhibit at Howard Community College, "Impressions/Expressions," are as physically ripe as the fruit often surrounding their frequently unclothed bodies.

visual arts

Now that this exhibit has your attention, you'll notice that the artist generally depicts single female figures who are reclining or even asleep.

"With Bananas and Pineapple" shows a prone woman wearing a yellow and green dress that complements the fruit arranged behind her; the connections also extend, of course, between her rounded form and these rounded fruit forms.

In "With Melon and Beetle," she presents a seated nude whose eyes are closed; there is a melon split open next to this nude woman, and there's also a giant insect approaching the melon.

Insects also figure into "With Ladybugs," in which a woman wears a ladybug-patterned white dress while holding a relatively huge ladybug.

Demovidova's figurative lines, color choices and compositional arrangements stress a merger of women, fruit and insects as if to say that they're all part of the same physical world. Her paintings venture into surrealism to make these thematic links.



The 2003 oil-on-canvas effort "With Mollusks" from Anna Demovidova will be part her exhibit through April 28 at Howard Community College.

Perhaps the most ominously humorous surreal painting in the show dispenses with the female figure and simply depicts a giant mosquito in a barren hilly landscape whose earthy curves evoke a human body about to get stung.

It's engaging to watch the artist work variations on her basic approach, but it's also intriguing to see how she occasionally takes

on other subjects. Several jazz-themed prints and paintings bring her vivid figuration and colors to a subject that benefits from her stylistic assertiveness.

Anna Demovidova exhibits through April 28 at Howard Community College in Columbia. Call 410-772-4870 or go online to www.howardcc.edu.