Okanagan College organizes environmental art competition and symposium

Okanagan College is organizing an environmentally-focused event, Earth Matters, which fuses intellect and creative expression by blending an art competition with an academic symposium.

The college has arranged speakers on four themes: biodiversity, water resources, waste and climate change. Artists are invited to participate in this event through presentation of environmentally-themed works of art.

"We are organizing this competition and symposium for a number of reasons," said Kathleen Jagger, professor in the department of geography and earth and environmental science. "First and foremost, we intend to highlight the link between creative expression and academic study in the natural and social sciences."

The competition is open to new and experienced artists alike. Participants are being asked to create two-dimensional environmentally-themed art that engages the public on any one of the four themes. Entries must be submitted by March 20.

"We have scheduled academic talks in four areas of environmental science, and each area will be showcased and augmented by artwork submitted by artists who choose to express their connections with the environment through the medium of art," said Jagger.

Entries in the art competition are not limited to any specific medium or genre.

"The art should invoke a greater appreciation for the environment and perhaps inspire new ideas and solutions to current issues," said Jagger.

Original works should be no larger than 45-by-75 centimetres. All entries must be submitted in digital format for judging and need to be accompanied by an artist statement that explains the work.

Contest details can be obtained at okanagan.bc.ca/earthmatters.