

CAM comes alive

The financially troubled museum

puts on its Annual Artist Hanging

Despite the fact that it's been under serious economic constraints since it opened at 409 W. Martin St. about a year ago, the Contemporary Art Museum still managed to assemble one of the most talked-about shows in Raleigh last weekend. In the warehouse building's downstairs space, the public was invited in to see the CAM Annual Artist Hanging, a one-of-a-kind chance for anyone, artist or no, to present anything they've created, and have it judged by peers and admired—or jeered—by onlookers.



Even though most of the show's participants don't have gallery representation, you'd never have known it from the work here. The call for work, which preceded the show by several weeks, asked for creations to be hung salon-style. Amid the swirling of wine and against the backdrop of DJs, artists lingered around their own pieces, awaiting feedback. The show's stand-out work may have been the innovative video installation by Raleigh artist Nate Hester, who has a showing beginning May 2 at Richard Hall Designs at 619 Tower St., behind the Cameron Village post office.

Like the artists hovering over their own work waiting to hear the good or bad news, attendees at the show came out as much out of curiosity over the future of CAM. While the "For Lease" sign hanging in the door is a reminder that the museum has seen better days, if the attendance at this show is any indication of how much the community wants the museum to survive, then it will see better days again.