



Blake Shell

New gallery director aims to connect community, college

Much as she looks to the world around her for her photography work, **Blake Shell**, who was hired in June as the new director at Clark College's Archer Gallery, hopes to connect the gallery with the community at large.

Shell, 30, earned her Masters of Fine Arts degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design and was previously the gallery director at the University of Arizona. She currently teaches photography classes at Clark College.

"I've always considered my source to be what's happening around me, what's happening in my life or in my surroundings," she said.

Shell hopes to use that curiosity when planning exhibits at the Archer Gallery in Vancouver. Shell takes over for Marjorie Hirsch, who had worked with the gallery for 12 years. Shell admits that she isn't exactly sure what's in store but hopes that artists in the community and students can learn from each other.

"Really, you want to keep things changing and energetic and expose students to a wide range of possibilities in the art world," she said. "The direction of the gallery is really about a wide range of processes, ways of making art, materials, media and to give the students exposure to all the different things that are going on in the art world."