

# No Neo: Yes, something new

Penn State news bureau

If you saw a sign that said No Neo in letters about five feet tall, would you be intrigued?

Do the words neopunkedelic or psychotronic pique your curiosity?

If the answer is yes, you're in luck. "No Neo: Neopunkedelic and Psychotronic Art," the current exhibit at Penn State's Zoller Gallery, can be seen and experienced until Saturday. Although the name of the exhibit, "No Neo," means nothing new, when you enter the gallery you will see things that seem unprecedented in their approach and vision. Wall-size paintings, neon sculpture, photographs and other vivid multimedia works fill the walls and pedestals of the gallery.

"No Neo" refers to a pattern avant garde work follows. It begins as an underground force with its own power and message, makes its way into the public eye, but then, in the victory of commercial success, becomes passe and ineffectual.

About 10 years ago, a new art phenomenon began speeding around under the streets of New York City. Huge, brightly-colored cartoon characters, spray painted on the sides of subway cars by talented young artists of the punk art movement, took the art world by surprise.

These artists called themselves urban guerrillas and felt their purpose was to show the world the truth about urban America. Although the movement ended after its stint of commercial gallery success, a number of artists still work in the punk/graffiti tradition. The neopunkedelics use the same strong colors and bold techniques to express their personal messages and themes, "but they've gone to another level," says Cindi Morrison, manager of Zoller Gallery.

## INFORMATION

**WHAT:** "No Neo: Neopunkedelic and Psychotronic Art."

**WHERE:** Zoller Gallery, Visual Arts Building on the Penn State campus.

**WHEN:** Through Saturday. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

"Psychotronic artists use subtler colors. They send their message without screaming at you." Morrison was first inspired to put the exhibit together when she saw a similar show at Edinboro University, curated by James Goldworthy. The show was a collection of work by artists that Goldworthy described as working "in the neopunkedelic or psychotronic direction." Morrison felt this tendency was important enough to merit further documentation, so she applied for and received a grant from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts to do an exhibit and catalog. Works were gathered from all over the country that followed the neopunkedelic or psychotronic aesthetic.

"These artists aren't just from the East Village (in New York City, where the graffiti art movement originated), they're scattered all over," says Morrison. "Some didn't even know they fit into this category until they were contacted."

The artists in "No Neo" are a collection of progressive artists working outside the main-stream commercial galleries. "I felt it was important to bring this type of exhibition here to expose local people," says Morrison. "I wanted to expose faculty and students to a different way of using media."