

## Oops! They're inspired again

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If Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Monroe can inspire Andy Warhol, then why can't Britney Spears spark creations by a new generation of artists?

The twisting and shaking pop music star's hit "Oops! ... I Did it Again" is the focus of a new exhibit at the School of the Art Institute's 1926 Exhibition Studies Space, 1926 N. Halsted, on view through April 20. Fourteen visual artists, from the School of the Art Institute, University of Illinois at Chicago, New York, New Orleans and Missouri will interpret Spears' song through video, paintings, drawings, computer animation and sound installations. The exhibit is being curated by School of the Art Institute graduate students Katie Geha and Ryan Weber.

Don't expect to see pieces laden with ironies or cheeky cliches about Spears and her celebrity, says Weber, a master of fine arts candidate. This is serious work.

"The interest was what the phrase would lend itself to," he says. "The phrase would steer people in directions that we would be interested in. What we boiled it down to were issues about failure, love and repetition. It was open ended enough. 'Oops! ... I Did it Again' would be the conceptual backdrop."

Some artists, many of whom refused to listen to the song because they wanted to form their own opinions about the phrase alone, approach the theme from a context of what it's like to make mistakes and be embarrassed.

Whether it's Justin Hansch's drawing of a couple moving toward a heart or the "Madonna & Child" repetitive text from Julia Petho's artist's book, the works intellectualize this phrase plucked from pop culture.

Looking at the pieces, he says, people will think about the pop celebrity and the pop song. "It is everywhere in the culture and we are all affected by it in some way."

The exhibit plans to stimulate such visual exploration.

View "Oops! ... I Did It Again" through April 20 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; and 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is free. Call (773) 665-4802 for more information.