

'Subterrain' has honeycomb vibe

By **RENEE BROCK**

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Kendall Buster may be small in stature, but her art installation, "Subterrain," currently on display at the Lamar Dodd School of Art, is larger than life.

The interactive installation is comprised of sheets of translucent industrial plastic hanging from a hexagonal wooden frame-work that form repeating patterns of gothic-like columns and vaults.

Buster's creation takes up much of the space in the main gallery at Lamar Dodd and forces the viewer to take notice of its presence.

"It's a peculiar space," Buster said of the rectangular gallery which also is a corridor to classrooms. "It's not just a white box typical of many galleries, but a hallway with traffic."

Sculpture is different when it is placed in a public space rather than a gallery, she said, because it encourages people to interact with it in a different way.

The piece gives a sense of being underneath something, much like a false ceiling or floor, Buster said.

For a different perspective of the sculpture, onlookers

can climb a set of stairs at the end of the installation for a bird's eye view.

From above, the installation appears to be a massive honeycomb ready for giant bees to return to the hive.

Buster, who has a bachelor's degree in medical technology and studied biology as well as microbiology, said she is interested in biological forms and their processes, as well as how they might inform architectural designs.

"The architecture is defined by growth just as a honeycomb grows in a downward pattern," Buster said.

Besides her interest in natural patterns found in nature, Buster said she also is interested in Islamic art and architecture, which is comprised of shapes and patterns.

The gallery space, which is rectangular and has a 30-foot barrel vault ceiling, is important to the feel of Buster's work.

The height of the space allowed for the viewing platform, and the different viewpoints help give a feeling of below and above, which the artist said she was trying to achieve.

The exhibit also gives shape to the name of the installation, "Subterrain."



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▲ **Kendall Buster, an artist visiting the Lamar Dodd School of Art, with her installation, "Subterrain."**

Buster said the work is like being in an underground catacomb.

The industrial plastic in the piece, which the artist described as luminous, helps achieve another theme: a sense of inside and outside, Buster said.

"It's like a cocoon or an act of germination," she said.

This warm, cocoon-like feeling is furthered by the lighting in the exhibit, which illuminates the plastic, making it appear in different tones of gold and creams

while casting shadows on the gallery walls.

Buster said she finds it interesting to watch students walk through the installation because they have developed habits and routes through which to walk through the work on their way to class.

The work, she said, is delicate in the materials she used, but aggressive in its presence.

"I hope I'm not aggravating, but giving students something to look at and think about," Buster said.