BFA exhibits show philosophy in art

Creighton seniors look inward for creative inspiration.

By LOUIS JACKSON
Scene Reporter

This upcoming spring's Bachelor of Fine Arts thesis brings an assortment of "Function, Creation, and Chaos" to Creighton's art scene. The joint exhibit by Arts & Sciences seniors Alexandria Walter and Rebecca Herbert is showing from April 19-May 11 at the Lied Art Gallery.

Half of Walter's exhibit includes functional ceramic pieces such as bowls, plates and cups representing her preferred use of the medium. "I like to know somebody has bought my stuff and is going to use it," Walter said. "It's not something that's just going to sit and look pretty. It's something that's actually useful."

The other half is a 50-tile mural entitled "From the Recesses of My Mind." The tiles vary individually from handprints, fingerprints and toes, even to scratch marks made with forks.

"It's suppose to kind of represent different feelings, emotions, struggles, good times, bad times, being in college, working on this thesis project. So it's supposed to be all the thought in the back of my head," Walter said.

Walter predicts each tile will mean and evoke something different to each viewer.

While working on her thesis, Walter's future plans have been occupied by her upcoming wedding in June and moving to Washington State.

"Maybe after that I might consider [grad school.] My thing is, I don't really want to teach. And a lot of reasons why people go to graduate school is to learn to teach," Walter said. She already has some exhibits and a studio lined up for her after graduation.

Adviser Amy Nelson who played a major influence in Walter's work, observed a big change in her student's passion for art after participating in the inaugural Empty Bowls project.

"Her energy and effort for that event had a major impact on her work. Her skills and her confidence grew rapidly, and I noticed a significant change in her attitude and interest toward ceramics," Nelson said.

For Rebecca Herbert, her thesis has taken a very personal and innovative approach toward expressing herself. Herbert decided to step out of the square canvas to experiment with painting on more non-traditional sculptural surfaces. Littleton Studios helped Herbert create the forms, and her advisor Bob Bosco gave guidance on painting the different surfaces.

The included subject matter of brains, arteries and veins was influenced from her sister's brain malformation that required four operations.

"The only way to take care of it was to have surgery on it, otherwise it could burst, and she could die from it or have more seizures," Herbert said. Stressing that her work is not a literal medical representation. "It's kind of a serious topic. I kind of wanted to put out there. It's sort of inspired by her and the struggle she went through," said Herbert.

Her thesis visually portrays her philosophy on life bringing together thoughts of individuality, purpose and spontaneity.

"The point I wanted to give across is that the human body and things in creation such as trees, there's a general plan. They're not just created chaotically. But at the same time, they're not all the same. And that's where I come from with my sister. Her brain, same as all ours, but something went wrong. The process is chaotic, yet there's perfection in chaos."

Graduating with a double major in math and studio art, Herbert wants to explore her style more before venturing into grad school. Both Walter and Herbert's works will be for sale.