Style contrasts shown

Two portraitists, independent of each other, are currently showing their vastly different styles at the University Art Gallery, Fine Arts Building, through Sept. 23.

Linda Pepper, originally from Chicago now living in Iowa City, said she wouldn't call her work impressionistic, that is, catching a momentary glimpse of a subject.

"Music, opera, eating, traveling, going and seeing, just being involved in all involvements sustain me as a person and that is what sustains me as an artist," Pepper explained.

She uses oil as her medium because she said she thinks it's rich, varied, has control and has a strong personality of its own. She said she hates acrylic as a medium because it can't express those characteristics. Oil has more color and range, she continued. Pepper sells her work and said she also does drawings, 3-dimensional sculptures and silver plating.

Her co-exhibitor, Ryle Smith, of Blair, Neb., doesn't call his work impressionistic either. He said he had aspirations of being a cartoonist, worked for a while as a commercial artist doing some cartooning and still draws comics for his own enjoyment.

His thesis project, for his graduate work at UNL, was on non-objective paintings, with no subject at all, he said. He's exhibiting his portraitures now but is doing some still lifes and landscapes.

Smith has varied the mediums he's used. He said he started out with acrylic and is now using oil. His work is not for sale.

The artists were asked to show their work together because neither had enough work to show alone, said Dr. Roger Aikin, Fine Arts Department. Pepper's work fits nicely in the small room and also lends a contrast to Smith's work, in size and color, Dr. Aikin said.

Linda Pepper and Ryle Smith, two artists currently showing their works at the University Art Gallery, with Dr. Roger Aikin of the Fine Arts Department.