Realist painter conveys emotional events

by Cristina Flagler

Jeffrey Loxterkamp is a fine arts senior, preparing his thesis show. Loxterkamp, 22, from Rolfe, Iowa, concentrates his artistic talent in painting.

"I consider myself a realist painter trying to combine elements from the Renaissance and Baroque periods with elements of the 20th century," Loxterkamp said.

Loxterkamp said he wants to convey events which have had an important emotional impact in his life through his art.

"I want to convey things which are not only important to me but also to other people," he said.

"It does not matter if people feel the same emotions I do. The most important thing is to raise their consciousness."

Loxterkamp said that subject matter is more important than the painting. He thinks a social theme should be reflected in his paintings for them to mean something to him and his public.

Loxterkamp has taken classes in other artistic fields such as drawing, sculpture, etching and photography. But he said painting is his best field.

"Although photography has helped me a lot in my painting, I'm not a great photographer. I get too impatient in the darkroom." He said that photography helped him in the composition and lighting of his paintings.

Generally, Loxterkamp, starts a painting using one of several photographs. "I generally do not come up with the same image as that on the photograph," he said.

When he uses one photograph, Loxterkamp takes some elements of the photograph and combines them with others from his own imagination.

"Sometimes I change the proportions and the lighting and sometimes I use the background and vice-versa. All this is done to bring into the painting certain appeal which will touch the public," he said.

"When using different photographs, sometimes as many as five, I combine elements of each into a single painting," he said.

Loxterkamp uses a lot of earthy colors in his paintings. "I like the rustic effects," he said.

"The artist's environment has a great effect on his work," he said. For Loxterkamp, places he has been and places he would like to visit play an important part in his imagination and in his painting.

Reading is another element that greatly influenced Loxterkamp's artistic work.

William Faulkner is Loxterkamp's favorite writer. One of his paintings portrays the writer.

"Faulkner portrays life in a very proud way," Loxterkamp said, "and I'm trying to use in my paintings the same style Faulkner uses in his writing."

Other aspects of life which influence Loxterkamp's painting are movies, world events and friends. His brother also has influenced his painting, Loxterkamp said.

"He has a great artistic talent, and has helped me a lot. He made me decide in my sophomore year between psychology, my previous major, and painting."

Normally, Loxterkamp produces about two or three paintings each semester.

He participates in several Creighton student shows and also had painting exhibitions at Kilgore's Bar in Omaha.

Right now, he has a canvas exhibited at Mike Wilson's gallery.

Loxterkamp has sold several of his paintings. Three hundred dollars was his highest priced painting.

The rest of his work is kept in his house. "My house is almost like a gallery," he said.

Besides painting, Loxterkamp loves writing. "Right now, I am in the process of writing a book about a college art professor in his 40's," he said. The first draft of this book should be ready by Christmas, Loxterkamp said.

Hopefully, Loxterkamp said, he will have about eight paintings in his thesis show which will be presented by the end of next semester.

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