Otero's drawing exhibition featured at art gallery

by Cristina Flagler

Paul Otero's drawing exhibition opened October 12 at the Fine Arts Gallery. The exhibition will remain on display until November 9.

Otero, of Denver, Colo., is a former Creighton student and an Art Education graduate of Kearney State College, in Nebraska.

All of Otero's drawings are portraits of people who have become part of Otero's life. "I have always been fascinated by people," Otero said. "I like to know them and personally become attached to them."

Otero said he is fascinated by people's physical appearance but the most important things to be considered are people's personalities and feelings.

Drawings are self-portraits

Otero said he feels all the portraits he draws or paints are really self-portraits revealing how he feels about other people. He said that with his portraits, he creates portraits of himself through somebody else's feelings.

Everybody follows different patterns when observing the exterior world, Otero said. But the sequence of procedures in which this observing is done are the same. People are stimulated by images and they relate to them, Otero said.

Then an incubation process occurs in which the person thinks about those images. This leads to the next step, which is how to put the image together by taking light, mood and composition into consideration.

Finally, the artist deals directly with that image by actually taking a photograph, drawing or making a sketch. The final image will be a simple one but the result of a complicated process, Otero said.

Moods important

Otero is concerned with the drawing of moods not just the graphic images of persons. "The total expression of a person is important — not the technique used to show that expression," he said.

That is why some of his drawings are blurry and others clear.

Regarding the fuzzy drawings, Otero said the mind of the observer should furnish the extra detail which is lacking in the blurry images.

It is important for the artist to know when a piece of work is finished, Otero said. If not he is under the risk of destroying that work. "I trust my artistic intuition, my intuition developed while becoming an artist, to tell when a piece of artwork is finished," he said.

Otero said he knows when a work is finished because a great feeling overwhelms him. When this happens, to avoid destroying the work, Otero completes it immediately.