Bosco work infiltrated by his landscape style

By Beth Harig
Staff Writer

Since summer began, Bob Bosco has been working on art for his one-man exhibit showing in the Fine Arts Gallery through Nov. 17.

The department of fine arts instructor's current medium is watercolor on wet paper, followed by layers of chalk pastel and spray varnish. Bosco said the chalk will smear and crumble off without the varnish.

Originally, Bosco intended to do landscapes exclusively this summer. He said he had never dealt with landscapes before.

'Always been baffled'

"I have always loved landscapes and have always been baffled by them."

Bosco spent time in city parks and the countryside working directly on location. Bosco said the flickering light and ever-changing landscape helped to rekindle the flame in his work.

"But after doing it (landscape painting) for a month or two, I felt the need to branch out into still-life and abstract," he said.

"I just let it happen," Bosco said.

Infiltrated subject matter

Then he found the style he had developed in landscape infiltrated other subject matter. "In a sense I didn't really leave landscape."

Bosco said he works on more than one still-life at a time because he then is able to allow the watercolor to dry. If he reaches stumbling blocks, his subconscious can solve the problems while he concentrates on something else.

"It allows me a healthy state of balance," Bosco said.

The process Bosco uses for his current works parallels his thought process. His thinking process begins with general considerations, just as he begins with watercolor, painting large generalized areas that are very changeable.

Specific realizations

Bosco ends with specific realizations, which are shown in the more specific, smaller lines, and marks of chalk that more of a commitment, he said.

Bosco said his favorite work in general is his most recent, which is on display in the gallery.

Bosco has also placed some of his old work in the gallery. He chose one of the most representative of each of the many works he has studied, such as pencil drawings and anatomy.

"My style has changed radically over the years, every couple of years," Bosco said.

Noticing similarities

He developed his current style by noticing the similarities between the different styles after six or seven years. Bosco's current style began in May 1985, and he hopes to continue it with different subject matters.

Bosco received his M.F.A. from the University of Iowa in 1969. He majored in painting and minored in drawing. He taught at the University of Iowa, St. John's Heights College in Adrian, Mich., and Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan.

Bosco has been teaching at Creighton since 1976. Classes taught include drawing, painting and color theory. Bosco said he teaches mixed groups of students with few students on each skill level.

'I never stopped'

While most people take art in grade school, Bosco said he also did art in college. "I did it in school, out of school, never stopped."

In late June, Bosco was able to go to Philadelphia, primarily to see the work of Marc Chagall, one of the many artists Bosco has admired. It was the first major show of Chagall's work since his recent death.

"I have always looked at his work with wonder and respect, so this was an emotional and insightful experience," Bosco said.

Bosco said that normally when he went to all the exciting things that go on in a studio are private. But in this exhibit he has been able to share these things.