Unusual photo processes highlight art gallery exhibit

By Beth Harig
Staff Writer

Student Andrea Schwalm's photographic works are on exhibit in the Arts Gallery through Dec. 14.

Schwalm, a senior art major, said she became interested in photography 2 1/2 years ago at Creighton. This will complete her bachelor of arts work with some of the more usual photographic processes, one of which is non-silver processes.

Directly onto material

Non-silver processes create images by sensitizing them from large-format negatives directly onto the desired material, using an ultraviolet light source.

Schwalm said the non-silver processes she works with the most are cyanotype or printing, a process used in the 19th century, and kwik-print, used since the 1970s for commercial proofing.

These processes provide Schwalm with a limitless choice of colors and images. The non-silver processes are my favorite way of working because they offer a maximum of experimentation which I can't find in formal photography," Schwalm said. "I find my possibilities with art have been widely expanded, and my desire for open experimentation has been made possible through these processes."

Prints from slides

About half the work in the exhibition consists of non-silver processes. The other half is black-and-white photographs and cibachromes, color prints from slides.

The pieces showing include a shirt which has been blueprinted, kwik-printed pillows and quilts, and a series of fabric postcards made from the Schwalm family's old vacation photographs.

Schwalm has worked in a photo lab for almost two years. She said this has helped her technical understanding of photography and has improved her vision as a photographer.

Schwalm said she hopes to go to graduate school and then teach on the university level. She said she will continue working in her current mediums and explore other non-silver processes and other interests, such as designing and sewing clothing and photographic printing on fabric.