‘Faces’ exhibit displays works of leading artists

By Kathryn Mowat

The Faces exhibit opened Wednesday bringing students, professors, art enthusiasts and other Omahans to campus to view a collection of about 50 prints by more than 30 leading artists, spanning the last 80 years. The collection will be on view at the Fine Arts Gallery through Sept. 28.

Don Doll, S.J., chairman of Fine and Performing Arts, will give an informal talk on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Fine Arts Gallery. He will speak on the artists, their background and their work.

When asked for his reaction to the opening, Doll said, “It’s like having relatives come home for a visit. These prints are like old friends, I’ve known them for years.”

“The exhibition concentrates on the expressive power of human countenance,” Doll said. “It is more than a mere representation of the time period. It grasps the emotions and somehow suggests a classic timeless of human nature.”

Doll said there are many artists represented whose work is powerful. Edward Steichen’s glamour portraits of Gloria Swanson and Greta Garbo are stunning, he said, because they capture more than the “glamour” of the subjects. Edward Weston’s famous “Tina Modotti” shows the bitter-sweet tears of a woman in love,” said Doll.

Each artist is highly individual and yet they share a common interest in the impressive power of human countenance. The common theme is the human face and its infinite expressions. The images can be wealthy in their meaning as suggested by the following juxtaposition of quotes:

“The face is a mirror of the mind, and eyes without speaking center the secrets of the heart.” (St. Jerome, ca. 342-420 A.D.)

“The person portrayed and the portrait are two entirely different things.” (Ortega y Gasset, 1948).

In order to cover a wide range of ideas and beliefs, as seen through the eyes of the photographers represented, the exhibition includes two or more prints by each artist.