Gallery displays colorful canvases, stone sculptures
by Anna-Lisa Gallagher
Reporter

An exhibition of painting and drawing by Johnna Marcil and sculpture by Richard Rymill is on display at the Fine Arts Gallery.

Marcil, an Omaha native, is featuring works of pastels, oils, acrylics and charcoals. Her theme is based particularly on still life and figures.

Light is apparent by a deluge of colour on her canvases. “I try to show light. Light as a part of the subject matter is very important to me,” she said. Marcil’s use of colour and confident bold brushstrokes is a vehicle for her expressionistic style.

Her paintings explore the picture/plane concept which achieves the effect of “creating a border around the painting or splitting the canvas in half to show the 3-dimension illusion,” she said.

Marcil earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Creighton in 1985, and completed a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Chicago. She has taught art fundamentals at Creighton.

Rymill’s sculpture takes two primary directions: an exploration of the abstract female figure and the non-objective abstract. His strong background in life-drawing is apparent in the abstract female figure pieces.

He works mostly with pink, grey or neutral color alabaster although some pieces are formed from slate. Alabaster pieces contain smooth natural lines and geometrical treatment of the stone.

Growing up in Wyoming, Rymill was heavily influenced by the mountains which inspired his stack form of sculpture indicated in the slate pieces.

Japanese art is an inspiration for Rymill because of its close connection to nature which is why the “stone sculpture has an organic feel,” he said.

Rymill’s works have been exhibited and purchased nationally and internationally. He is also involved with the gifted program during the summer.

The exhibition will run through April 13.