Student exhibit explodes with array of color

By Anna-Lisa Gallagher
Entertainment Editor

Michael Brazil, Kenneth Guthrie, and Kristin Pluhacek are three artists now exhibiting their B.F.A. Thesis show at the Fine Arts Gallery.

The combined works release a burst of energy. It is as if each artist brings to the exhibit their own world which fuses together in an magnificent array of color and imagination. This is intense art that will never cause a blank stare.

Brazil's largely psychedelic paintings are haphazardly composed from oil, stencils, spray paint, charcoal, and bones. That's right—bones. When describing his work in general Brazil comments, "It has nothing to do with anything. That's what it's all about." He said, "I tap into my subconscious, and when I reflect back I realize that the work is intertwined with my experiences."

Pluhacek said about Brazil's work, "He's the most direct out of all of us. His works are whimsical but can also be really dark." She describes his work as being serious and expressionistic.

Guthrie was interested in Brazil's way of working. "Mike's work is more spontaneous, but he is also able to sit back and reflect on his work."

Guthrie adds elements of surprise to his alkyd (synthetic oil) paintings. Several of his works are light, sound, and motion activated which forms an interaction between the work and the viewer.

Pluhacek said, "His light and motion activated works are hooked up by himself. He's not limited because he knows all aspects of his work."

Guthrie uses high intensity color to form the definite strong shapes in his paintings. The subject matter of a piece titled "Loosening of Morality" delves into the current issue of obscenity. The black canvas symbolizes the future. He reflected, "Times have changed with the invention of the phonograph. Nowadays music like 2 Live Crew and New Kids are just to make money."

"I'm more into the subject than the painting," he said, "I'm trying to make it easy to understand. I think painting has become too abstract and out of touch with the viewer. I'm trying to bring back the Renaissance."

Pluhacek's style varies greatly from Brazil's and Guthrie's. Her work includes six life-size figurative pastel drawings. The colors are explosive gentled by the graceful yet powerful forms. Some of them are of acrobats floating in space.

"It's all about mythological beings. Kristin has a lot of draftsman skills, and the color is incredible. She knows what works," Brazil said.

Although Pluhacek draws from people she knows she said, "The drawings are not portraits but the figures are not non-descript. They have a personality which I am fascinated with."

The exhibit will run through Dec. 15.