Ceramic Art Shows Energy, Range of Styles

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REPORTER

The 1990-91 traveling exhibit of the latest works chosen from the United States' premier ceramics artists opened Sept. 11 at the Fine Arts Gallery.

The exhibit, sponsored by the National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts, is the group's 24th annual juried exhibition.

Styles of the show's 48 pieces range from the abstract to the primitive to the practical, representing a wide cross-section of American artists working in the ceramic arts today.

Standout works in the exhibition include Iowa State art professor David Buell Dahlquist's "You and Me," a surreal portrait/landscape piece involving the meshing of human and abstract forms, and Verne Funk's "Night Beat," a thin slab relief of a chic, slow-dancing couple straight out of a 40's movie still.

Berkeley Jane Skei's work "Triplex" is the exhibit's centerpiece. "Triplex" is an M.C. Escher print in three-dimensional form—a ceramic sphere deceptively airbrush-painted—which hypnotizes the viewer with its trickery.

The viewer wants to reach out and feel for the crevices painted onto the deceptively flat, spherical surface. Skei's piece is beautifully representative of the wonder and energy captured in the NCECA show.

The NCECA Juried Members' Exhibition will be on display in the Creighton Fine Arts Gallery, located on the second floor of the Fine Arts building, through Oct. 11.