Aikin, Bay Open Exhibit

by Bill Tressler
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Visual artists Roger Aikin and Stuart Bay opened their month-long exhibition "Russia, Rome and the American West" in the Creighton Fine Arts Gallery Wednesday January 20. The exhibition features photographs, slides and videos of Rome, Russia, Siberia, Mongolia, and the American West.

Aikin, a PhD in Art History, has taken photographs for 30 years and has studied with internationally known photographers Ansel Adams and Brett Weston. Aikin’s works on display consist of 80 color slides shown simultaneously with his half hour video "Rome by Feet." Together the slides and video give "the total experience of Rome," Aikin said. "Rome by Feet" is a search for the largest, most impressive feet. He said "some of the feet encountered in the video are as large as small Italian cars." Also on display are two sets of photographs from Aikin’s travels to Rome between 1972 and 1988. His most recent photographs of the American West are contact prints taken with an 11x14 inch camera and the prints are unique because they do not require enlarging. The contact print technique that he used gave unrivaled tonal richness and razor sharp detail to his prints, he said.

Bay has a diverse background in the visual arts having started with film and progressing into video and still photography. On display are 162 slides, 7 cibachrome prints and a six minute abstract video from his recent trip with 300 performing artists, photographers, musicians, economists, educators, environmentalists, and journalists through Russia, Siberia and Mongolia, he said. Bay claims that he is not normally a subject photographer and that he photographs images that interest him. Both the slide shown and the video capture abstract images of road rail tracks and landscape. The slide show and video simulate the experience of riding a train, Bay said.

Roger Aikin encountered many interesting feet for his video "Rome By Feet." This particular foot is the size of a small Italian car. The Aikin and Bay exhibition will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays until February 20. The gallery is located on the second floor of the Fine Arts Building and admission is free.