Bronze exhibit features Creighton sculptor

By Elizabeth Elliott

Art is often said to imitate life, and one of the most important things in life is the physical sense of touch.

Kim Maloney, a 1993 Creighton graduate, incorporates touch into her art by making her sculptures into reflections of that sense.

"I love the ability to touch something," Maloney said. "You know it better when you touch it."

Maloney said her sculptures are interactive in the way you can pick them up and touch them.

She recently opened her art exhibit entitled "Intimate Bronze Works" at Jackson Street Artworks, 1108 Jackson St. She also teaches a sculpture class in the Fine and Performing Arts department while Littleton Alston, associate professor of visual arts, is on sabbatical.

Her exhibit includes 40 pieces of artwork and is scheduled to run through Nov. 8. There are four new pieces that have been sculpted since the beginning of the semester. Some were completed between 1996 and 1998.

Some of her pieces hang from the wall, while others sit on platforms. Maloney also creates smaller bronze works as necklaces.

The work Maloney does now has evolved from a focus in abstract steel to bronze and other mediums that are more moldable, such as wax.

"There is only so much you can do with steel. It's unforgiving," Maloney said.

Maloney began as a painting major while at Creighton, but decided after taking Alston's class that she wanted to major in sculpture.

After graduating from Creighton, Maloney received her master's degree from Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. When she applied for her master's degree, she was in the fourth class to graduate from the academy with a Masters of Fine Arts. The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts was the first art school to form in America.

Maloney is active in the community art scene and hopes to continue this in the future.

"It's important to be a part of the community," Maloney said. "Possibly in the future I hope to be doing something with community and art."

One of the ways she has done this is in her home of Chicago, Ill. was by being the curator and chair of an exhibit at the Polish Museum of America. While she was getting her master's degree in Pennsylvania, she coordinated artists from across the country to come for lecture and critique with the Visiting Artists Program.

While at Creighton, Maloney said she is trying to decide whether to be a studio artist or combine teaching with her art.

Although teaching takes her out of the studio and is challenging, Maloney said she enjoys seeing the students connect with their own work.

"It's all the hard work that makes it come to life," Maloney said.