

# 'Commitment to Vision' opens at art museum

By Barbara Shaw

Of the Emerald

Marking the twentieth anniversary of the Photography at Oregon Gallery, the "Commitment to Vision" exhibit opened Sunday in the University Museum of Art. The gallery staff of 12 volunteers assembled the works of 129 of America's best fine art photographers and produced a show catalog to compliment the exhibit.

Project coordinator Richard Wilhelm, a Eugene photographer and member of the Photography at Oregon Gallery Committee, says the 149 prints were chosen from works the artists had exhibited in one-person shows in the gallery since 1966.

The photographs range from historically significant, classic work to the most avant-garde. Many of the artists were relatively unknown when their works were originally selected but have gone on to establish solid reputations internationally, Wilhelm says.

Others, such as Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, Diane Arbus, Edward Weston and Minor White, had already established themselves as masters when their prints were originally exhibited here.

Eugene photographer Susie Morrill is co-director of the gallery, with David Simone. She says of this show, "It brings to light the incredible diversity



Photo by Sherlyn Bjorkgren

Kay Kruger-Hickman and son Benjamin view the Museum of Art's retrospective photography exhibition. Kruger-Hickman's husband Craig Hickman has a photo in the show.

of the work that's been shown... The people on the committee had a lot of foresight in supporting the artists they did over the years, including up and coming pre-famous artists. And we've shown the work of teachers of photography from around the country."

These are the people who have exerted major influence on the directions younger photographers have pursued, Morrill says.

A number of Eugene-based

photographers are represented. Some work locally, like Morrill and her friend Paul Neevel, who both earned MFA degrees at the University. Several are on the University staff. Others work in a larger realm, such as Brian Lanker, former photo editor at The Register-Guard, who contributes to Sports Illustrated and National Geographic and claims a six-figure income.

Opening day at the art museum brought out Eugene's enthusiastic professional and

hobby camera fans to appreciate the works on display. J.K. Byrne, a student of Bernard Freemesser, a former professor and leading Northwest photographer, admired Ansel Adams' classic black and white image titled "Sierra Nevada," while free-lance photojournalist Michael Williams slowly took in the subtleties of a group of colorful photomontage and collage assemblies, contrived still-life subjects out of the imaginations of Leslie Krims, Peter DeLory and Lawrie Brown.

An exhibit poster featuring an

Oregon beach scene by Portland's Stu Levy, titled "Eel Creek Dunes," sells at the museum for \$5. The catalog, for \$15, will be available Nov. 15.

When "Commitment to Vision" closes in Eugene on Dec. 21, it will begin a three-year national tour coordinated by Visual Arts Resources, a museum affiliate. The gallery is open noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, except during the four-day Thanksgiving break. Admission to the show is \$2.



Photo by Sherlyn Bjorkgren

Mara Brock studies Ansel Adams' "Sierra Nevada." The work of 129 photographers was assembled for the show, "Commitment to Vision."

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