

ARTS

Student explores history in photos

By Kristin Genzer
Emerald Contributor

"(With photography) I have translated my ambiguous feelings toward my country through visual composition," said photographer Alan Brookfield, a University student whose 28 photographs are currently featured in a Eugene gallery. "And my stance is apparent. However, other art can be dogmatic, and I tried not to be that strict with my pieces," he said. Brookfield's presentation, showing in Photozone Gallery at 411 High Street, is his first solo exhibition. It began Jan. 5 and continues through Feb. 7. The exhibit includes a collaboration of photographs, including 15 black and white, various large-format color and computer-assisted imagery. The exhibition is entitled "Past/Tense."

"I chose this title because my work deals with the past in many ways; culturally and personally," Brookfield said. "The word 'tense' describes the tension and uneasiness of the past." Relying on his own experience as a baby boomer from an East Coast suburb, Brookfield's photos are constructed with his childhood in mind.

"Some pieces are drawn directly from my background," he said. "I grew up in the mainstream of American culture, but I don't accept that idea anymore. I am not rejecting values, but questioning them."

During the '60s and early '70s, photography was just a hobby for Brookfield. In 1975, Brookfield received his first degree in business from the University. After 15 years of work experience, he returned to the University to pursue an education in art.

He said he planned to primarily study painting and drawing, but took a photography class out of interest and "got hooked."

Brookfield continued studying at the University because he "found that Eugene and the University added up" to his career goals as an artistic photographer. "I have not regretted anything. It's been great," he said.

Brookfield has been a member of the



Photo by Andre Kanier

University student Alan Brookfield is currently exhibiting his photography series, "Past/Tense," at Eugene's Photozone Gallery, 411 High Street. The showing runs through Feb. 7.

cooperative, artist-run Photozone Gallery for six months. He said he applied for membership to receive publicity outside the University.

Gallery members rotate monthly into the exhibition slot while the other artists answer people's questions, publicize,

help on committees and support each other, he said. "I enjoy working with collages, but I did not realize how much until now."

Brookfield said the most outstanding piece is a series of 12 photos entitled "Hostages to Fortune," one part of a larger series.

'These photos are important to me because they are personal and more symbolic about our modern culture'

-Alan Brookfield

"These photos are important to me because they are personal and more symbolic about our modern culture," he said. "From this meaningful sense, I get the most comments from the public at the openings."

Brookfield plans to graduate from the University this spring. "I did not realize this until I was edit-

Local producer examines TV

By Ming Rodrigues
Emerald Reporter

Imagine a life ruled by a little, square box spewing larger-than-life, colored images. Imagine living engrossed in a secret world where the only thing that exists for you is the flickering drama unfolding in that goggle-box we call the television.

"It's scary how television has become a pacifier in our lives and how reality is defined along its lines," said Ben Beebe, a telecommunications and film major.

Beebe should know; he has been exploring the subject of television and its effects on our culture through video productions for as long as he can

remember. "There's so much in this world we don't know of that television and the media in general are shielding from us or distorting," he said. "That makes it hard to define between fact and fiction."

An example is the media coverage of war in the Middle East, he said. "That has taken on the proportions of a football game; everyone seems so thrilled about it. But do we know what's really happening behind all the censored information? I'm disgusted with the reports and can't watch it anymore," he said.

Beebe sees video filming as an alternative to the typical media.

'It's a personal statement where you're telling your own story, often sending out a real message about your experiences and about life.'

-Ben Beebe

remember. His current production, "Asleep in the Wild Kingdom," deals with the issue of media addiction and alienation. As the title suggests, the television addict, caught up with living out TV's fantasy realm, is oblivious to life in the real world.

The video itself is an internal monologue of one man's obsession with the small screen. It tells the tale of how he eventually frees himself from its chains and starts living.

"Asleep in the Wild Kingdom" will be screened Friday, Jan 25, at 8 p.m. in the Ben Linder Room.

Beebe's focus on the media stems from his perception of it as the "vast wasteland." Being addicted to television is bad enough, he believes, but being obsessed with something that doesn't represent the truth is painful. He added that the media issue is one of the most pressing problems of our

"It's a personal statement where you're telling your own story, often sending out a real message about your experiences and about life," he said.

A series of his home-made videos about the media, "Persistence of Vision," was featured in a University screening last spring.

A video installation is in the works for a later showing at the LaVerne Krause Gallery in Lawrence Hall.

However, his biggest project happens next month when, together with local film-makers, Beebe will be producing a program for a local television station. The program will showcase the works and talents of local film and video makers. Local producers interested in getting involved can contact Beebe at 343-3554.

Tickets for "Asleep in the Wild Kingdom" are \$1 at the door. There will be screenings of two other short films and video shorts at the showing.

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