

RHYTHM & REVIEWS

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Exhibit showcases platinum prints

■ **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Historic process gives modern artwork its unique style

By Anne Moser-Kornfeld
Entertainment Editor

Four American artists, attracted by the warm tones created by negatives placed directly on paper with a light-sensitive platinum solution, exhibit their work at the University Museum of Art from now to September.

"Contemporary Platinum Photographers" features prints by Dan Burkholder, Lois Conner, Douglas Frank and Dennis Purdy. Their subject matter varies from surrealistic landscapes, panoramic views of China, portraits and computer digitized images.

Lawrence Fong, registrar at the University's Museum of Art, said the artists "all chose to use a historical process because traditionally platinum photography is so direct."

The platinum prints require time and patience to produce, Fong said.

Susie Morrill, chairwoman of the Photography at Oregon Gallery, helped organize the exhibit and said the prints are extremely expensive to produce.

"The exhibit looks at contemporary artists using a historical process dating from the 1800s and offers a huge range of tones. The innovative, creative applications of these artists really work well with one another," Morrill said.

Douglas Frank needed a home-built, 11x14 pinhole camera for extremely wide angle views to bring out the romance of the landscapes in his prints.

Lois Conner used a "banquet"



Jude Hobbs and daughter Gabrielle examine a photograph at the Contemporary Platinum Photographers exhibit at the Museum of Art.

camera, designed for group portraits, while Dennis Burkholder scanned his photos and then manipulated the images before printing them using the platinum process.

Because the work is so different Morrill also said, "It's important to understand the process. The tonal creations, the contact prints and the one-to-one transformation makes these prints very seductive."

To develop the photographs, negatives are placed directly onto paper, Morrill said and the photographer controls the image by the choice of paper, the light source and the chemical solution used.

Fine art photographer Dennis Purdy, a Portland resident, demonstrates the platinum printing process and discusses

the work on display at 12:30 p.m. Aug. 5.

Purdy includes 12 portraits in the exhibit of a young woman undergoing a contemplative, emotional transformation. He believes platinum processing gives photographs rich depth and tonality.

"I work in the platinum process for a more powerful presentation. With platinum, the image present is much more intense and the range of tones is incredibly beautiful," Purdy said.

The exhibit continues through Sept. 24 and admission to the Museum of Art is free. A reception for the artists is Aug. 20 from 4-6 p.m. The museum is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, call 346-3027.

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