

Computer's influence on art is examined

The computer's influence on art will be examined at a two-day symposium at Sheldon Art Gallery, March 31 to April 2.

Titled "The Computer and its Influence on Art and Design," the symposium is aimed at a general audience and will examine the aesthetic use of computers in art and the relationship between computer technology and art. In addition, a four-week exhibition of computer art will appear with the symposium.

Robert Mallery of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst will be the keynote speaker. Mallery will address questions on whether computer art can convey the wealth of feelings that more traditional art conveys, whether a computer program can incorporate the quirks and flashes of inspiration that go into a masterpiece, whether the use of computers will displace artists and whether the aesthetic value of a work is dependent upon the means by which it is created.

Other speakers at the symposium include Aaron Marcus, from Lawrence computer graphics in Lawrence, Kan.; Berkeley Laboratory at the University of California at Berkeley; Lance Williams, a video filmmaker at the New York Institute of Technology; Colette

Bangert, an artist from Lawrence, Kan.; Jeffrey Charles Bangert, supervisor of graphics at the Academic Computing Center at the University of Kansas at Lawrence; Manfred Mohr, an artist from New York/Stuttgart; Joan Truckenbrod, who works with computer tapestries in the Art Department at the University of Northern Illinois at DeKalb; Nelson Potter, chairman of the UNL Philosophy Department; Noreen Christon, an Omaha artist; Robert Nunley, also from computer graphics in Lawrence, Kan. and Bob Gotsch, from the California College of Arts and Graphics in Oakland.

Demonstrations of computer hardware and software will also be available.

To register for the symposium, contact the department of Conferences and Institutes, Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets, Lincoln, 68503. The registration fee is \$15.

Funding has been given by the Nebraska Committee for Humanities, the Nebraska Arts Council and the UNL colleges of Engineering and Technology, Arts and Sciences and Architecture.

Glasswork, photography on display at Sheldon Gallery

An exhibition of unique glass works by artist Larry Bell, which will help prove that seeing is not necessarily believing, is on display at Sheldon Art Gallery through April 3.

Three major Bell works in gallery-sized proportions are on display. They are made up of a number of interchangeable glass panels which create deceiving images, according to Donald Doe, assistant director at the gallery.

Bell was in Lincoln to assemble the pieces, a process which "is very much a part of the work itself," Doe said. "The resultant pieces of art are dictated by the physical space and lighting conditions of each gallery."

Doe said there is no specific blueprint, "but every installation is unique and designed in response to the gallery space he is working with. The end results are extremely illusive."

These glass works are "experiences rather than objects," he said.

One of Bell's pieces can be assembled in 40,000 statistically different ways, Doe added.

Considered one of the most innovative American artists and sculptors, Bell began his artistic career in oils and acrylics on

canvas. He gradually incorporated glass into canvas and then moved into glass alone. Bell's early glass works in the 1960s are said to have shaped the conception of what is referred to as L.A. art.

His work is in major publications in Europe and Australia, as well as in dozens of major art museums and galleries in the United States.

More than 50 photographs by reknown photographer Andre Kertesz are hanging at Sheldon through March 20.

These photographs span Kertesz's career from 1914 to 1972, and are on loan from the Hallmark Photographic Collection in Kansas City.

"Kertesz is, without a doubt, one of the most influential forces behind 20th-century photography," Doe said.

Kertesz, a native Hungarian, was one of the first photographers to explore the potential of the small hand-held camera, and photographed scenes from early Budapest, Paris, New York, Mexico and Japan.

"His work ranges from intimate glimpses of people in their daily lives to extraordinary formal images of urban streets, village housetops and mining towns," Doe said.

'The Conversation' showings benefit Amnesty International

Special benefit showing of a Francis Ford Coppola film, "The Conversation," starring Gene Hackman, will be presented at the Sheldon Film Theatre Saturday at 3, 7 and 9:15 p.m. The showing will benefit Amnesty International.

"The Conversation" has long been regarded as the best one of many Coppola films, as good or better than his hit films, "Godfather," "The Godfather, Part II" and "Apocalypse Now."

Critic Pauline Kael described the film as "the freezing case history of a wire tapping and bugging expert, wonderfully played by Gene Hackman as a man riddled with Catholic guilt and depleted by continual secrecy and self-deception."

UNL Film Studies Professor June Levine said it is a film that is "successful on many levels; as a complicated and satisfactory plot, as a portrait of an unus-

ual man, as a representation of contemporary society and as an original integration of sound with image and both with story and theme."

Amnesty International is the worldwide human rights organization that works on behalf of prisoners of conscience — men and women who are imprisoned for their beliefs, color, ethnic origin or religion, and who have neither used nor advocated violence.

In conjunction with the film, the local Amnesty International chapter will host a special reception with refreshments in the Sheldon Art Gallery Great Hall from 8:30 to 9:45 p.m.

The price of benefit tickets with the reception is \$10; student tickets with the reception are \$5. Tickets for the film only are \$3. Tickets can be purchased from Amnesty International chapter members or at the door.

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