

Local Dr. Ruth says fat suction is most popular

By Kari Mott
Staff Reporter

Cosmetic surgery can help perfect and pacify people who think their breasts are just not big enough or their noses are too big.

There has been a definite overall increase in plastic surgery, said Larry D. Ruth, M.D., whose practice is at 2221 S. 17th St.

Rhinoplasty, face lift and rhytidectomy, nose reshaping, have been around for the past 50 years and Ruth said he has not seen as big of an increase in these as he has seen in lipoplasty, fat suction.

Lipoplasty is relatively new and has been in the United States for seven years, but only in Lincoln for the past four years, Ruth said.

Ruth, who has been in practice for 17 years, said that in the last 10 years people have been wanting to look extremely thin.

A representative of Surgical Images, P.C., in Omaha, said people in the past two to five years have been more into looking good and are starting to have cosmetic surgery done.

Ruth said Nebraska is more conservative about plastic surgery than the East or West Coasts are.

"People in Los Angeles are geared to plastic surgery; almost everybody has something done," he said.

Most Nebraskans are too shy to have face lifts or their noses altered, Ruth said.

Augmentation mammoplasty, breast enlargement, is the surgery Ruth said he performs most often.

The August 1988 issue of Cosmopolitan said augmentation mammoplasty is the most common surgery procedure, with eyelid tucks as second.

Ruth performs lipoplasty, face lifts, nose reshaping, breast enlargement and reduction, ears, abdominal and general skin reduction.

"We do everything that everybody else does," he said.

The cost to have cosmetic surgery with full anesthesia and a one-day hospital stay is \$3,200 for breast enlargement, \$2,800 for nose reshaping and \$5,000 for a face lift, the most expensive surgery.

The cost is \$500 less with local anesthesia, Ruth said.

Insurance generally doesn't cover the cost, he said.

Cosmopolitan said breast reduction often is covered by insurance because the operation is not considered merely cosmetic.

Ruth said it takes five to six days for faces to heal after the operations, four days for eyes, and seven days for breast and abdominal.



Photos courtesy of Lori Carr, photographer for Knutzen

A model shows off local fashion designer Duran Knutzen's spring designs. The dress is an example of "decadent" style, and the short pants are part of his "Circle Collection."

Local designer is a material man

By Micki Haller
Senior Editor

Duran Knutzen looks as though he belongs in Greenwich Village. His long black hair, his unshaven face and, most of all, his unusual clothes look distinctly out of place in a Nebraska coffee house.

But unusual clothes are not just something Knutzen wears; they are his life.

"(Designing) is quite a major part of my life," 23-year-old Knutzen said. "Forty-one percent of my lifetime has been devoted to clothes."

Knutzen grew up in Lincoln, but his clothes are selling all over the country in places like St. Louis, Phoenix, Orlando, Fla., and New York.

"Fashion is what the majority of the people are wearing at a particular time," Knutzen said. "It's style I'm creating."

Knutzen described his clothes as avant-garde, and wearable art.

He said he uses hand-painted fabrics and textures to make things interesting; leather, lace, and a lot of gauze and chiffon.

"I'm always using sheer things," he said.

Knutzen said he hopes the trends in style will be along the lines that he is experimenting with right now.

Bell shapes that are narrow on top and full at the bottom, very rounded shapes, bright colors and more textures will become bigger, he predicted. He said style will be functional, but more unique. Also, decadence will become big.

Knutzen described decadence as sheer, low-cut styles with layering, pleating or encrustation of material, and using hand-made textures within fabrics.

Knutzen said he's doing "acid house" style right now, which he picked up in the clubs in New York.

He described acid house as "the '60s with more of a punch."

He said for his summer collection he will use layers of fabric and spirals.

"It's kind of Roman-looking," he said.

In fact, Knutzen said his influences are ancient sculpture. Also, he said he has some "really wild dreams."

Knutzen said he finds his ideas mostly from inside of himself. He said living in Lincoln reduces the inspirational influences to television and advertising.

Lincoln's relative fashion unconsciousness can be an advantage.

"I don't have to do much, but it's still style in this town," he said.

Because Knutzen is based in Lincoln, he has to travel to major markets, but Nebraska's central location also can be an advantage, he said. Also, Nebraska has a slower pace.

"It's nice to be able to come back and relax and work," he said.

"It's like a retreat."

"It's a great place to grow up," he said. "It's a great place to continue."

Knutzen may not be continuing in Lincoln for much longer, however.

He said he's been accepted to New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. His family wants him to go to school, but he'd like to travel, he said.

Even though fashion designing is rather nontraditional, his family supports his ambitions, he said.

"My grandmother loves it," he added.

In fact, his more than 80-year-old grandmother wears his fashions, he said. Knutzen has designed for all ages, but his major clientele is in the 19 to 23 age group, he said.

For alternative clothing, no matter what age group, Duran Knutzen is in Lincoln's own backyard.

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