



James Mehling/DN

# Modern art thrives at Sheldon

By John Fulwider  
Staff Reporter

George Neubert thinks visiting the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden is one of the best free dates on campus.

Granted, as director of the gallery, he's a bit biased.

But perhaps with good reason: Three exhibits on display at Sheldon highlight a broad range of contemporary art forms.

"David Maxim: Painted Philosophy" is easily the most visually imposing of the three exhibits, Neubert said, with its aggressive mix of colors and three-dimensional shapes on 12- to 15-foot canvasses.

Neubert said Maxim wanted the viewer to concentrate on the process he used to create the painting.

Maxim's work, Neubert said, is in the abstract expressionist tradition of Jackson Pollock, the "classic drip painter."

"Process of Form: Drawings by Judith Shea" is a set of drawings by the internationally renowned sculptor.

The drawings give a behind-the-scenes look at Shea's thinking process as she creates a sculpture.

Neubert admits that drawing is not Shea's specialty. "Some of the drawings are quite inept," he said. "She's not a drawer; she's a sculptor."

But the drawings are valuable because they provide an opportunity to look over Shea's shoulder and see how she thinks, Neubert said. He hopes the

i don't know what it is she said

and her brown eyes sparkled

i didn't say anything

never been much for modern art

the security guard asked us

to please stand back

she laughed and said but i like it



drawings will help viewers appreciate "Shield," a Shea sculpture in the exhibit that is part of Sheldon's permanent collection.

"Biography of a Line: Lithographs by Sol Lewitt" is a suite of 16 lithographs composed entirely of one-inch lines.

Neubert said the Lewitt exhibit was the most difficult to appreciate, especially for non-art students, because of its extremely minimalist composition. Lewitt's drawings emphasize the importance of the component — in this case, lines — over the whole.

Lewitt was one of the founders of the U.S. minimalist movement in the 1970s. Minimalism seeks to pare down

art to its most basic elements, often eliminating color, identifiable form and even an obvious artist's hand.

In addition to these three exhibits, which will close in late August or early September, Sheldon offers a permanent collection of more than 12,000 works of art in many media.

Neubert recommended several favorites to look for: "Mickey" by Andy Warhol, "Horse" by Debra Butterfield, and "Salads, Sandwiches and Desserts" by Wayne Thiebaud.

Neubert makes no apologies for the preponderance of contemporary art on display at the Sheldon.

"We feel obligated to bring to this campus art of our own time," he said.

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