

Artist explores, captures illusions on film

BY BRET SCHULTE
Art Critic

Creating illusions is the job of every photographer, but Lincoln resident Ronda Esquivel truly has turned it into an art form.

Through Sunday, Esquivel's

experimental photography exhibit "Masks and other Illusions" will be featured in the main gallery of the Gallery 9 Professional Artist Affiliation, 124 S. Ninth St. The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays.

"Masks and other Illusions" is

a 25-piece collection of black-and-white and hand-tinted photographs. Incorporating friends and family, Esquivel has captured on film the escapism inherent in every costume, mask and adopted persona.

"We all wear masks every day," Esquivel said. "We wear them at our jobs, and when we go out. Masks of all types can allow us to be someone else while we wear them."

Exploring this theme, the photographs depict men, women and children wearing their "masks" in everyday and sometimes extreme situations. From a peaceful portrait of a man serenely gazing out

of the nylon stocking stretched over his head to a pre-adolescent, bare-chested boy screaming as he stands upon his chalk-drawing monster on the sidewalk, the concept of illusion is made tangible through Esquivel's photography.

Judith Andre, gallery coordinator, said she believed Esquivel's photography attracted people for many reasons.

"The ones with the sense of whimsy make people laugh," Andre said. "Then you go to the other extreme, and a lot are very mysterious."

Esquivel's work with the subject of masks and illusion covers a broad range of emotional evo-

lutions and subject matter, and thus provides a cohesive composition, Andre said. Her use of dramatic techniques with subjects and photographic production aid the mood, Andre said.

Esquivel said she believed the masks people wear - literally or figuratively - send important messages to others.

"I have a picture of my son with a box on his head and doing an Egyptian dance," she said. "What is he trying to tell me? Is this one of his masks?"

Esquivel's portraits are available for sale, ranging in price from \$150 to \$165. Call 441-8450 for more information.

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Minneapolis trio pops into Duffy's

BY SEAN MCCARTHY
Assignment Reporter

Named after an amplifier company that went out of business in the late 1960s, Magnatone will bring its hard-edged power pop to Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St.,

tonight.

The band wrestled with variations of the name "Magnatone" before choosing it, lead singer Tom Rosenthal said.

"We didn't want to be called 'The Magnatones' because it sort of sounds like a Holiday Inn lounge band," Rosenthal mused.

Before forming in November, Rosenthal, bassist Jacques Wait and drummer Johnny O'Halloran were playing in other bands in the Minneapolis area.

Rosenthal came to Minneapolis from New York in 1992. Describing New York as "creatively dead," he said he was happy to be in Minneapolis.

"It's a good place to live," Rosenthal said. "It's a cheap place to live and a great place for a band."

Forming the trio posed some

minor problems. Wait, a guitarist in the group Speedway, initially wanted to play guitar with Magnatone. Agreeing that the bands' styles sounded too similar, Wait switched to bass guitar. About the same time, Ewing was playing bass guitar in another band. He agreed to join as drummer.

"One of the challenges is creating a full sound with three guys because you leave out the certain subtleties of another guitar player," Rosenthal said.

Magnatone's self-titled album was recorded in less than two weeks. The band has been touring cities such as New York and Austin, Texas, since the album's April release. Constant touring has landed them a respectable following in both Minneapolis and Boston as well, Rosenthal said.

"Austin is an exciting town. It's similar to Minneapolis in that there's an immediate enthusiastic response to the music," Rosenthal said.

Tonight's performance won't be Magnatone's first Lincoln show. The band played Duffy's last July. Rosenthal said he looked forward to playing the town again.


"(Duffy's is) a nice bar to play in," Rosenthal said. "We had a great time playing there last time."

Opening up for Magnatone will be the high-energy power pop band Splitsville. Tickets for the show are \$3. Splitsville is set to take the stage at 10:30 p.m. with Magnatone following at 11:30.

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