

Driesbach appointed to Sheldon director's post

By **Melanie Mensch**

Staff writer

For Janice Driesbach, the newly appointed director of the Sheldon Memorial Art Museum, her interest in artwork was unknowingly right under her nose.

"I studied political science in college," she said, "but I took so many art history classes as electives, I had enough for a major."

Her continued interest has earned Driesbach the directorship at the museum, which will begin Sept. 1.

Driesbach, who previously served as curator at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, Calif., will replace George Neubert, who left last summer to become director of the San Antonio Museum of Art in Texas. Daniel Siedell, curator of the Sheldon, has been serving as the interim director since.

"Personally, Janice on paper

surfaced as a favorite of mine," Siedell said of Driesbach during the interviewing process. "She continued to distinguish herself. She was very familiar with the Sheldon, its collection, its mission. We wanted someone coming in to hit the ground running, who wouldn't be intimidated or surprised by administrative work.

"The gallery sits on the threshold of the 21st century. We need a director who had a vision of leadership."

The search committee, chaired by Robert Duncan, consisted of university personnel, regional art collectors and other community members, and announced their decision June 28 to appoint Driesbach the position.

Katen Kunc, a UNL art professor and search committee member, said Driesbach would be a great addition to the Lincoln art community for many reasons.

"Janice has outstanding scholarship, an understanding of a museum's needs, and a desire to take on such a role for Sheldon. She's well-connected to the art world."

Driesbach has worked at the Crocker Art Museum since 1985 and was responsible for its collections and exhibitions of 19th and 20th Century American art. She earned her bachelor's degree in art history and political science at Allegheny (Pa.) College, and she received both her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Iowa.

She began her career as an instructor and gallery director at Creighton University in Omaha from 1973 to 1975, and went on to work at the Indiana University Art Museum for the next three years.

Driesbach also has worked for the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, the Oakland Museum in

"I like this part of the world. I like the university community. I appreciate its size, and I have a whole lot to learn about it."

Janice Driesbach
director, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

California and John F. Kennedy University in California before going to the Crocker. There she twice served as interim director, most recently from March 1998 to August 1999.

During her times as interim director, Driesbach said, she exercised administrative skills, and Sheldon offered her an opportunity at it again.

"I'm looking forward to a new challenge," she said. "I like the idea of developing an institution of this scale, which added to my interest. Also, the Sheldon is

affiliated with the university. I like being in the position to have opportunities to teach and mentor."

Siedell said Driesbach had the desire to be actively involved, which the committee was looking for in a new director.

"The director is the human symbol which represents the gallery in public situations. They embody its ideals," he said. "We needed to bring in a director that was hands-on, not the CEO type."

Driesbach said she had many

Women photographers exhibit opens at Lincoln's Haydon Gallery

■ **National invitational exhibition will feature Lincoln artists as well as national photographers.**

By **Jill Zeman**

Staff writer

Starting tomorrow, visitors to the Haydon Gallery will have the chance to experience photography as an art form, as a national invitational exhibition is slated to open.

The display, entitled "By and About Women," features varying styles of photography, all captured by women.

It will showcase three Lincoln photographers, Barbara Hagen, Lisa Bahg Hoffman and Shelley Fuller, as well as seven nationally known artists, Mary Ellen Mark, Flor Garduno, Gabriela Hasbun, Brenda Quan, Lisa Spindler, Joyce Seymore and Beth Yarnelle Edwards, said Alyssa DeFrain, co-curator of the exhibition.

Bahg, Hoffman and Hagen will be on hand to celebrate the opening of the show at a reception held tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. at the gallery, at 12th and R streets, she said.

"Photography doesn't get too much coverage, so we're hoping people will come see it," she said.

DeFrain said she and co-

curator Teliza Rodriguez, looked to recruit a diverse group of artists for the show.

The exhibit will include black-and-white, color, still-life and digital photography, Rodriguez said.

"When people think of photography, they think of Ansel Adams," Rodriguez said.

"We wanted to add another dimension to that."

Rodriguez said the display may not be what viewers expect to see at an art gallery.

"We wanted to bring some work in that would bring questions to people's minds," she said.

"It will be great to hear people's reactions and find out what they think of the content."

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