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Exhibits focus in on photographs

Saturday, August 14, 2004
BY JOHN CARLOS CANTU
News Special Writer

This has been a photogenic summer.

Ann Arborites Matt Callow and Cynthia Davis led the way last month with their exhibits at the Ann Arbor District Library and Washington Street Gallery. Between Callow's web site (www.mattcallow.com) featuring his "Urban Textures of Ann Arbor" and Davis' recently published University of Michigan Press book "Ann Arbor: Hand-Altered Photographs," they've had Tree Town covered.

Meanwhile, the U-M Museum of Art has mounted one of the most impressive photo exhibits to be mounted regionally in quite some time. The emphasis on their "Georgia O'Keeffe and the Sublime Landscape" is certainly well placed, but also on display in this exhibit are photographs by O'Keeffe's husband, Alfred Steiglitz.

Steiglitz (1864-1946), is not only one of American's foremost photographers of the 20th century, but he also he helped establish the famed New York City Photo-Secession group of 1902 and he publishing the famed photo quarterly Camera Work. His images of O'Keeffe - like those of Todd Webb in the Southwest through the 1950s-60s - are an invaluable asset to the UMMA display.

For another photographic adjunct to the O'Keeffe exhibit is "Searching for the Photographic Sublime." This UMMA exhibit features 20 of the museum's most prized nature photographs by Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, and Edward Weston. Both UMMA exhibits continue though Sept. 26 at 525 S. State St. For information, call (734) 764-0395.

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Elsewhere, William Pelletier's "Photographs" at the Kerrytown Concert House are a remarkable three-decade documentation of art photography that falls somewhere between surreal and abstract art. The exhibit continues through Aug. 31, 415 N. Fourth St. For information, call (734) 2999.

Finally, one of our region's best nature photographers, Monte Nagler, will be giving a talk, "Journey through Photographic History," on Sept. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Ann Arbor Art Center, that's promising to be one of the more interesting conversations on the history of art photography we'll hear this season.

As a part of its focus on photography for the month of September, The Ann Arbor Art Center will present Nagler hosting his photography collection, which includes photographs by Adams, Yousuf Karsh, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Dorothea Lange, Stieglitz, and Weston. In addition, his own photographic work will be exhibited in the Art Center Gallery Shop through the month. There's no admission to attend the lecture at 117. W. Liberty St. For more information, call (734) 994-8004.

Sept. 6 will be Labor Day, but it's also going to be a bit "Off the Wall" locally as well. This innovative Ann Arbor Art Center community project created by local teens will be installed in downtown on this date. Fifty 28x48 inch banners crafted by the Art Center's ArtMakers Teen group will grace the vicinity of Main, Ashley, Fourth, Washington, and Liberty streets.

These "Off the Wall" banners - each one handmade as an original work of art - will be on display though December, when a new exhibition of banners will be installed.

Be sure to circle Oct. 8 on you calendar. The "Off the Wall" exhibit will host a reception from 6-8 p.m. at the Art Center, 117. W. Liberty St. For more information, call (734) 994-8004.

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