

Images depict unique approaches to photography

by Deborah Perlman

Diversity is the unifying element within the 11 Las Vegas photographers who currently have their photographs on display in the "Las Vegas Photographers" exhibition, on the second level of the Richard Tam Alumni Center.

The artists represented, which include UNLV faculty and graduates, are Gary Adams, Catherine Angel, Don Ginthner, Kathleen Nathan, Charles Morgan, Joy Prendergast, Pasha Rafat, Fred Sigman, Christopher Tsouras, Sarah Vinci and Allen Williams.



photo by Rob Weidenfeld

Untitled, 1985. by Allen Williams.

According to art historian and curator Libby Lumpkin, "For teaching purposes, photographic images were chosen to illustrate the diverse ap-

proaches, technical aspects and conceptual meanings used by each photographer."

Lumpkin adds, "This exhibition serves all kinds of students who are interested in the way artists in our culture utilize the photographic image to different ends."

Intrigued by visual properties of the photograph, assistant professor of art, Pasha Rafat, places elementary objects of different natures together haphazardly. His photo, "Untitled," is a humorous commentary on an obvious faux pas in architectural design.

The photos of UNLV fine arts graduate Joy Prendergast contain her own everyday surroundings (backyard, furniture) but are transformed into quirky scenes that interplay with past memories.

In contrast, artist Gary Adams (no relation to Ansel Adams, but did work with him) is concerned with the technical aspects of representation. Adams, a traditionalist, provides the viewer with the feeling that he/she is actually experiencing the imagery within each work.


Don Ginthner's images detail nature's geological processes and how the earth's transformation is a metaphor for life and evolution. Both of his color prints titled, "West Fork, Oak Creek Canyon" appear as delicate watercolor paintings.

Charles Morgan, a UNLV master's of fine arts graduate and part-time instructor, raises a cultural consciousness within his work simultaneously depicting motifs from diametrically opposing cultures. In his "David at the Riv," he superimposes banal images of Las Vegas tourists within the same pictorial space as classical statues found at Caesar's.

Regardless of viewer response, these Las Vegas photographers depict such subjects as nature, the human body, life experiences, cultural consciousness and psychic states of mind.

The body of work presented in the alumni center is a visual smorgasbord for those interested in expanding their "way of seeing" photographic imagery. The exhibition is open to the public, free of charge, through October 16.

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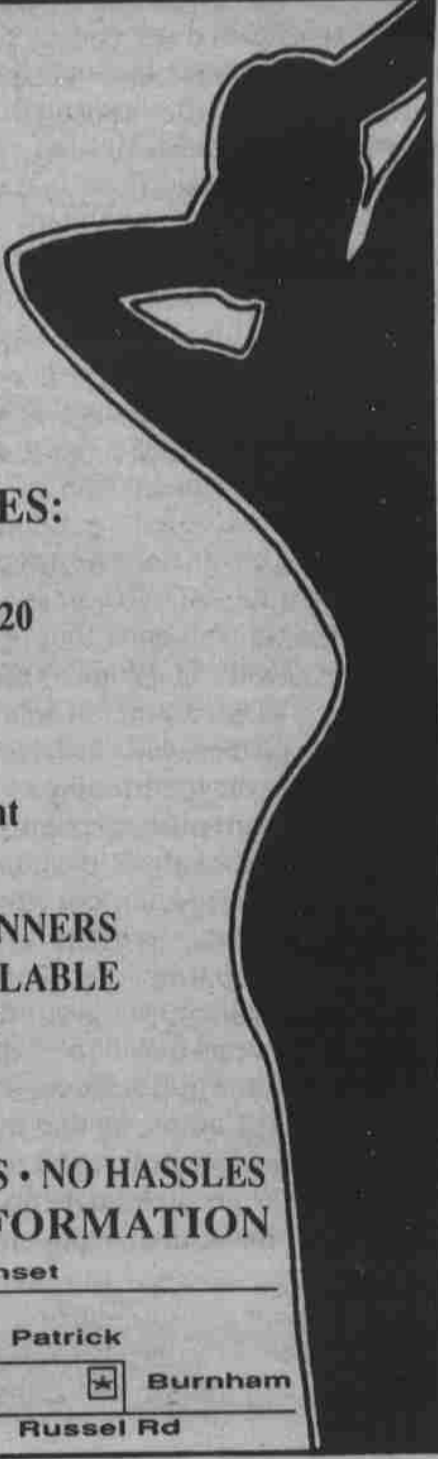
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