

Drawing Exhibit Showcases Talent of Collegians

By JEAN REEVES
News Art Critic

If you're jittery about the future of today's youth, try the Burchfield Center to see what some of it is up to.

"What" is drawing — some of the most splendid examples you'll encounter in many a weekday or Sunday. (Hours: weekdays 10-5 and Sundays 1-5; closed Saturday.)

The Center in Rockwell Hall, 1300 Elmwood Ave., has teamed up with the United Student Government and the Fine Arts Board of Buffalo State University College to sponsor the Western New York Purchase Award Collegiate Drawing Exhibition.

THE SHOW — and let us hope it becomes an annual event — is to be open through April 29. Represented are budding draftsmen from Buffalo State, the State University of Buffalo, Rosary Hill College, Alfred University and Niagara County Community College, according to the catalog.

The prizes, both purchase awards, were put up by the two student organizations, a gesture rare and exemplary.

Drawing is an intimate form of expression, one that reveals the personality of the artist.

So drawings are always diverse, and this gathering of more than 70 offers a range of expression, from the merest jottings to the concretion of myriad details.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, the works on display live up to the "less is more" dictum that governs fine drawing — to make a maximum statement through minimum means.

Because it embodies this ideal so succinctly, Leslie A. Thornton's exquisite small pencil drawing, "Four Squares,"

is a fine representative drawing of the 20th Century.

Thornton's is abstract in tenor, but its sensitivity is ageless.

Thornton, who attends State University of Buffalo, gives us a gentle exercise in grays, a subtle disquisition on four squares and on light and shade.

The second purchase award, \$150, was won by a more ambitious work, and one that struck me as remarkably individual — translate that to "original." This was UB student Terence Kemp's untitled pencil drawing, a work that combines straight lines placed horizontally at different intervals with more lyrical passages, suggestive of evanescent landscape, cloud or seashore. The color is gray, the entire work exuding the silvery look of dulled pewter — a drawing worthy of hanging in any national exhibition.

THE FIRST prize, a \$250 purchase award, went to a Buffalo State student, Paul B. Turecki, for a pen and ink drawing, "Thou Turnest Man Back to the Dust."

Turecki is a draftsman of dazzling skill. At a distance I would have sworn his view of pebble-strewn ground and leafless trees was a photograph. It is only as the viewer comes within arm's reach that he appreciates the marvelously delicate touch of the young artist.

Honorable mentions were awarded to three other excellent drawings: Robert W. Curr, Buffalo State student, for an

untitled pen and ink of an open clothes closet; Anne E. Richmond, Buffalo State student, for a powerful, spare figure drawing in litho pencil, and Anna Kuo, Rosary Hill student, for a pencil drawing, "On Verge of Extinction."

MISS KUO, a daughter of the well known artist James Kuo, reveals an unconventional mind in her choice of subject matter — female undergarments — and the surreal way in which she treats it, and her drawing hand is indeed gifted.

Some of the other artists whose drawings were especially vivacious or assured were Kenneth Richardson, (UB), color wash drawings; David Meinzer, (Buffalo State) a sketch of a guitarist in which repeated images suggest the pulsating beat of the music; Pam Mack, (Alfred), gray brush strokes floating in white space.

Robert Senkpiel (UB), sensitive pencil drawings on themes of Napoleon and Josephine, in brilliantly-conceived formats, one of windows, the other, a panel suggestive of an ancient Egyptian tomb artifact; Richard A. White, (UB), fragmented narrative in pencil; Jennifer Wildman (Alfred), powdered graphite drawing on a heart theme, both orderly and poetic; a color exercise in circles by Maria Karras, (UB), Denise Griffin, (Buffalo State), an extremely fine self-portrait in conte crayon.

And works of Donna M. Cook, (UB) and Terry Demaline, George William Humphreys Jr., John Brach and Cheryl Battaglia, all of Buffalo State.

despite the fact that some of the drawings are too obviously influenced by the styles of other artists, the quality is startlingly good.

Perhaps next year the competition might be extended also to the print medium.

Meantime, the drawings are highly recommended and no concessions made because of age.

THESE ARE by no means all. This is a juried show, and