

WHERE TO GO/WHAT TO SEE/WHAT TO DO

OMAHA ENTERTAINMENT



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- **DINING**
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- **NIGHT LIFE**
- **SPECIAL EVENTS**

March 29, 1979

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Art beat

At a cocktail party held over the Christmas holidays, a young man home on vacation from classes at UCLA filled me in on a new art form.

"Performance art," he said, "is really taking hold on the West Coast. I imagine you know all about it."

Not really. I had some vague idea that it was something like a happening. You know, one of those impromptu street corner concerts staged by dancers or musicians.

I was half right. "Performance art" may be done by performing artists, but it's the child of the visual artist. My friend enlightened me:

"The visual artist constructs a performance very much as he'd put paint on canvas. But what you see — instead of a static painting — is very much alive."

My friend gave me several examples. Here's one: An artist slathers a girl's body with peanut butter, sticks on some pieces of fruit, and sends her walking through the galleries of a museum.

Fascinating! Enough so that I plan to see some performance art for myself. And you can, too, if you're among the first 100. That's the number the Joslyn will accept for Tuesday evening's Guy de Cointet production.

Cointet, a Paris-born artist who moved to the West Coast in 1968, will present his performance work as part of the Joslyn's "Los Angeles in the Seventies" exhibit.

It will star actress Mary Ann Duganne, who, according to a press release, will "talk gibberish as she explains the props created by the artist."

Cointet, an assistant to the noted American artist Larry Bell, will supervise. The 7:30 p.m. event is free, but you should make reservations by calling Joslyn at 342-3300.

Alan Garfield, assistant professor of art history at Creighton University, is a strong supporter of women artists. He's done a number of illustrated lectures on the subject and offers a course at Creighton entitled "Women in Art: Fifth Century to the Present."

Now, with the help of students from that class, Garfield has put together a book. "Conversations with Nebraska Women Artists" is hot off the press, runs 56 pages, and is yours for \$1.

Garfield says the book is the result of an extensive survey his class conducted. More than 450 women artists from Nebraska were contacted; out of this group, about 150 submitted slides and resumes.

"Then we began the laborious task," says Garfield, "of finally choosing 12 women artists to represent statewide creative production."

Garfield says the job seemed almost impossible. "None of us anticipated such a strong show of enthusiasm. After 23 hours of meetings over a three-week period, the artists had been selected."

Each of the final 12 was then interviewed by a student, and that interview was recorded in the book.

Women artists selected include Hettie-Marie Andrews, Bobbi Baltzer, Karen Dienstbier, Evelyn Garfinkel, Joan Hall, Carol Jensen-Schooley and Barbara Kendrick.

Also included: Mary Jane Krance, Jean Schafer-Albers, Nancy Stillmock, Betty Wallace and Judith Welk.

Only a limited number of copies of the book are available. To order, send your \$1 check to "Conversations with Nebraska Women Artists," University Art Gallery, Creighton University, Omaha, Neb. 68178.

Garfield is also involved in the "Women in Photography" symposium scheduled Saturday and Sunday at the Western Heritage Museum.

The symposium is part of the "Nebraska Women Photographers" exhibit running Saturday through April 27. The juried show has been organized by "The Woman's Eye," a group composed of photographers Lillian Caruana Shapiro, Lorraine Jensen, Carol McCabe and Monica Dunlap.

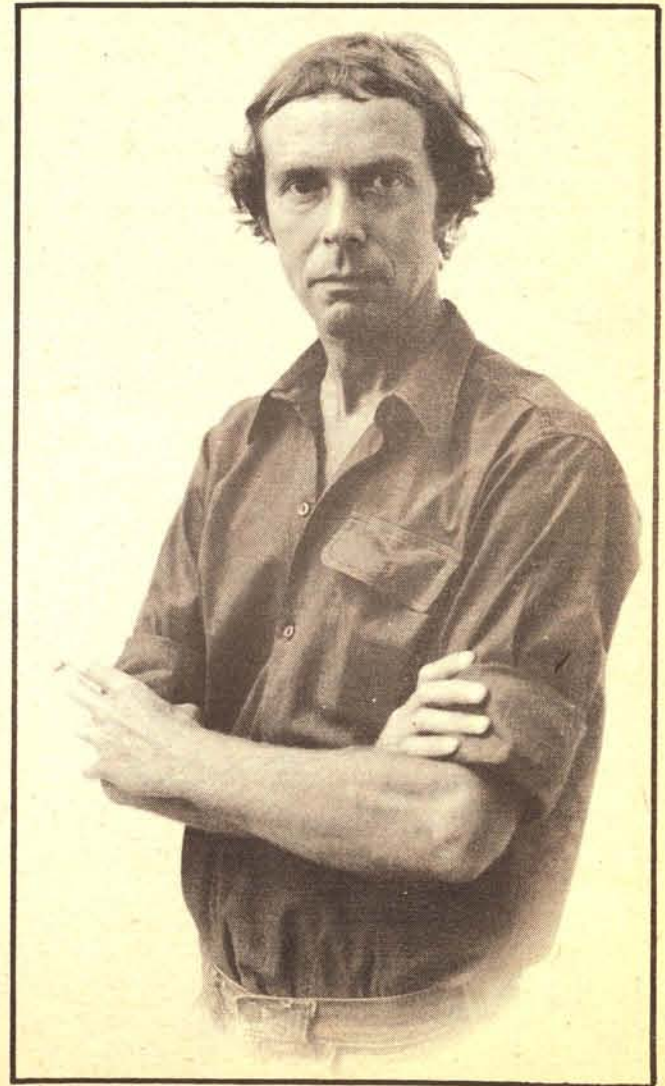
It's an ambitious project. In addition to the four-week show, the women have booked weekend exhibits of the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery's "Photographs by Women" — displaying works from the mid-1800s to the present time.

The symposium will begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday with slide lectures by Shapiro and Margaret Anna MacKichan. Garfield will speak at 2 p.m., presenting a slide lecture entitled "Photography and Feminist Imagery."

Then at 4 p.m. Saturday, Virginia Woolf's play, "Freshwater," will be performed. A satire on the times of the 19th century photographer Julie Margaret Cameron, it will be staged by M. Michelle Phillips.

Her cast includes David K. Johnson, Joe Kelley, Sue Mullin, and Sharon A. Phillips.

Sunday's events: an experimental film by Diane Degan at 1 p.m.; discussion of selections for the exhibits by juror Larry S. Ferguson at 1:45 p.m.; and a series of documentary films on women photographers at 2:15 p.m. — Mary Treynor Smith.



Guy de Cointet, performance artist, will stage a production at Joslyn Tuesday night.

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