



Photo by Ed Qiantz

"After," a disco abstract, is one of the works of James McMullan on display in Zoller Gallery. McMullan explores contemporary values in his art.

Viewer may see himself in this exhibit

# Artist explores society's themes in Zoller

By PAM MEDVE  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The human being is so puzzling that he is a constant source of fascination.

Artists try to open our minds to different perceptions about ourselves. James McMullan's work, titled "Socio-Journalism," now on display in Zoller Gallery, provokes us to ponder American people and their way of life.

The way that McMullan does this is interesting. He takes a series of photographs and expands upon several by doing either a sketch or a painting of the photographs. Often he does both.

Therefore, the viewer is able to perceive the same subject in various mediums.

Anyone who asks, "Why do we still have paintings when we can just take photographs?" will find an answer in this exhibition. The photographs are moments of captured reality. The paintings bring out meanings and qualities of the reality which are not visible in the photographs.

For example, one looks at a photograph and says, "That's just a girl sitting in a booth." Looking at the painting, one feels the girl's loneliness and isolation.

Colors are important indicators of meaning in McMullan's paintings. The predominant use of blue in a painting of a man shooting a drug into his arm affects the viewer in a thematically vital way.

The photographs are black and white, so the colors are sheer fantasy. Though the paintings depict the photographs accurately, the colors make the paintings look plastic, dreamlike. Is this in itself a comment on American life and its people?

A group of the photographs, pictures and sketches are from McMullan's "Brooklyn Disco" article from "New York" magazine. Interesting ideas about baseball are presented with a series of baseball pictures, soon to be published with an article on baseball spring training in "Sports Illustrated."

Several other pictures fit into neither of the above categories. While being deceptively pleasing to the eye, these all have strong social meanings.

These works are particularly relevant to us since they say something about now, about ourselves and what we are familiar with. They provide insights which one may never have thought of. The exhibit ends October 24.



Photo by Ed Qiantz

James McMullan's "Before," on display in Zoller is a proof sheet of photographs of disco dancers and musicians. McMullan's style is not limited to one medium: he paints, sketches and photographs.

## Favorite standard 'Our Town' to open next week

"Our Town," Thornton Wilder's old standard about the residents of a small New Hampshire town in the early part of this century, will be presented starting next week in the Playhouse Theater.

Tickets can be purchased at the Playhouse box office from 1 to 5 p.m., and from 1 to 9 p.m. on days the play is to be presented.

Tickets are 75 cents for the student preview, \$1.25 for weekday performances, and \$1.75 on weekends.

The student preview will be presented on Wednesday, Oct. 25, and the play will open the following evening. It will continue each evening through Oct. 27. It will also be shown from Oct. 31 through Nov. 4. Curtain time is 8 p.m. There will be no matinees.

"Our Town" gives an under-glass view of the lives of small town people — and all people. It concerns the courtships, marriages, births and deaths of two families, and attaches a value to the unimportant, seemingly tedious events of everyday life.

This production is directed by Brian Morgan, a faculty member.

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