



Iona Florea and his exhibit, "Axis Mundi", "center of the earth"



One of the wide variety of bone displays in Iona Florea's exhibit.

During the month of February, the Museum hosted a most unusual art exhibit consisting of a large variety of animal bones assembled artfully by graduate student Iona Florea. Florea is a native of Roumania and is currently working on his Master's Degree in Art. In his exhibit, "Axis Mundi", that is, "center of the earth", the shapes of the bones and their arrangement represents a symbolic message. Florea pointed out that from the earliest historic times, mankind hunted animals and used their skeletons for a variety of purposes, such as tools, weapons, ornaments, toys, ritual objects and a means of communication. Iona believes that the shape of bones had a direct connection to the first alphabet. Walking into this exhibit was truly a unique experience. Appreciating the mystical meaning of the numerous arrangements of bones was a real challenge.

SLETWOLD HALL SHOWS IN 2000

January-February 1

Curtis Fallon exhibit of Western Art

February 1-March 3

"Axis Mundi" by Ione Florea,

USD graduate Student in the College of Fine Arts.

March 3-21

"Spencer" by photographer, Cedric Chatterley

April 3-May 15

"Hartland", artist Gary Hartenhoff

May 15-July 15

Tools and Trinkets of the last century,

a show from the Over collection

July 18-September 10

Curtis Fallon exhibit of Western Art in conjunction with Native American materials.

A second very challenging but quite different exhibit is the recent one provided by Sioux Falls photographer, Cedric N. Chatterley (photo, right). This is an exhibit of a wide variety of photographs taken after the May 30, 1998 tornado that destroyed the town of Spencer, SD. This exhibit is not simply a group of artistic photographs depicting the aftermath of the storm. It has a second and very important purpose, namely, a spiritual one. In this purpose Chatterley establishes not only his personal relationship with his subjects, but he views the human aftermath to probe deeply into the human response to the disaster and into how people responded and made every effort to help reestablish the community. Visitors to Sletwold Hall obtained a brochure showing many of the pictures and including an essay written by SDSU Professor, John E. Miller.



"Flag attached to a splintered tree, May 31, 1998"



"St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Spencer, South Dakota"