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### John Stuart Ingles Paintings

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MORRIS (2/4/76) — There's more than meets the eye to the exhibition of paintings, drawings and photographs by John Stuart Ingle currently on exhibition at the University of Minnesota, Morris Humanities Fine Arts Center Gallery, although what does meet the eye is certainly a positive expression of beauty.

Titled "Surfaces" by the artist, a UMM art faculty member, the exhibition includes still lifes, figures and landscapes that are very recognizably reflective of this region of the state. Although his subjects are not uncommon or exotic Ingle's vision and technical mastery make them compelling.

The artist explains the title, "Surfaces."

"When we look at a thing our eyes respond to rays of light reflected from the surface of that thing. In my paintings, drawings and photographs I have been concerned with this light reflected from the surface of a thing more than I have been concerned with the thing itself. 'Surfaces' sums this up as clearly for me as any single word I can think of.

"I also would like to suggest that our contact with the world is a surface affair. Whether we touch with our hands or with our eyes, what we touch is always the surface of a thing, not the thing itself," he continues. "The thing, its names and its associated meanings exist in our mind as an idea.

"All too often in responding to the things of this world (events as well as objects) we respond too much to the idea which is inside us and, therefore, not new, and not enough to the surfaces which are new to our experience..

"An example of this is the person who knows he had dinner because he is full, but who doesn't really know what the meal tasted like because his mind was on something other than the food he ate. At best he has missed what pleasure the meal might have afforded and he may have gotten indigestion or worse. It would be better to pay more attention to the food we ingest, food for thought as well as for the belly. It would be better to be more aware.

"The pictures in this exhibit celebrate the mystery and wonder of familiar things. They make no grand promises of a magic reality and they do not flatter. I have tried to record what seemed indispensable in my awareness of very specific things. The

(continued)

-2- Ingle

subject is not the thing, it is the awareness."

Even to the casual observer Ingle's work exudes this celebration of wonder. One wants to somehow reach out and touch it, to feel the grain of the wood, to inhale the scent of the flower, to merge with the floating apple.

The exhibition continues through Feb. 20 with gallery hours from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

-UMM-

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