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AS220 exhibit displays photos produced in University darkrooms

BY STEFAN TALMAN

"Photographic Memory," the work of AS220's Broad Street Studio Program now being displayed in the Blue Room Gallery, contains the work of no Brown students. The Broad Street Studio program contains the photographic work of around 10 disadvantaged high school students from the greater Providence area.

The photographs displayed were produced in the Faunce House and Sarah Doyle Women's Center darkrooms, using film and chemicals supplied externally. When AS220's basement darkrooms flooded, the program was unable to continue.

The Brown Photo Club came to the rescue, allowing the program's participants to use its darkrooms two to three times a week. Sherri Newton, a high-school junior at the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, has worked in the program for over two years and wants to continue with photography in college.

"It's an opportunity for young people to express themselves," she said.

"Photographic Memory" enters the Blue Room after an exhibit of Brown students' artwork, which has already brightened the walls of public spaces thanks to the Brown Student Art Forum.

The BSAF was started by Lucas Foglia '05, Elizabeth Klein '05 and Leksi Weldon-Linne '05 in the spring of 2002 and is now run by Jessica Gordon '06. The BSAF serves as a middleman between student artists and administrators to provide public forums for the display of student artwork.

The introduction of student shows in the Blue Room is the BSAF's most visible and central achievement: student work now rotates through one of the most heavily

trafficked spaces on campus.

Recently granted Category III status by the Undergraduate Council of Students, BSAF now has funding and plans to expand its displays to the Verney-Woolley Dining Hall and the Gate.

Two years ago Brown offered two photography classes, for which students could use darkrooms in List Art Building. There were darkrooms in the old women's center on Meeting Street and in Faunce, but equipment and space were inadequate, Foglia said.

Now, thanks to a grant from the Undergraduate Finance Board, Brown students have the facilities to make professional-quality photographs: darkrooms, studio lights, cameras — everything a student would need, as well as a photography e-mail list to build an artistic community around the new resources. This summer the Photo Club hopes to complete the final construction, renovating the Faunce darkroom — the end of a three-year project.

Any student interested in photography now has high-quality facilities in the Sarah Doyle Women's Center and Faunce House in which to develop his or her work.

View "Photographic Memory" not simply as photos, but rather as a triumph of the Brown student artistic community — it is at once a reach into the Providence youth and artistic communities, a new public forum for student artwork and the presence of facilities for all students to develop artistically.

The Blue Room Gallery's next show, "Tropical Reflections," in collaboration with Caribbean Heritage Week, opens March 13.

Herald staff writer Stefan Talman '05 can be reached at stalman@browndailyherald.com.