Gonzalez joins other artists for exhibit

Never forgetting that photography is an art has attributed much to the success of Jimmy Gonzalez. The Jeanerette photographer is preparing for a special exhibit which he is very enthusiastic about.

Gonzalez will be joining 60 other artist for an exhibit sponsored by the Artist's Alliance at the Jefferson St. Cafe in Lafayette. A reception honoring Gonzalez and other members of the Artist's Alliance will be held Thursday evening in the renovated Lafayette Hardware Store.

The exhibit which will run from May 9 through May 23 has created much interest since an exhibit of this type has not been in this area before. "This is the first time for this area that so many professional young artist join together to promote their work," said Gonzalez. Joining together for the exhibit will be sculptors, painters, mixed media, artist, musicians and photographers. Many of the artist are internationally known and have exhibited in some of the most famous galleries in the nation including Mexico, Belgium, France and England.

Along with Gonzalez, Danny Girouard, well know sculptor, will be exhibiting his work. Girouard previously exhibited his work in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. The work of the well known photographer and painter, Elemore Morgan Jr. will also be featured along with many others.

The Artist's Alliance was formed late last year by a group effort. "It was sort of a joining of spirits," said Gonzalez. "Through the exhibit, it is hoped to promote the culture of the area as well as to help understand and promote the appreciation for fine arts in general."

Gonzalez's love for photography goes back to an early age. "I was always interested in art, particular photography," said Gonzalez. He first remembers picking up a camera at the age of 12. His interest in photography never left him but only continued to develop into a career.

Gonzalez's first formal art and photography began in Mexico when he was still in high school.

Although Gonzalez graduated from USL in fine arts and studied photography in Denmark, he still admits much of his knowledge was acquired by being self taught. "In later years I really read a great deal and learned a lot on my own," said Gonzalez.

His love for travel has brought him all over the world. Each place has its own beauty and Gonzalez takes advantage of this in finding that certain beauty of each individual place. Each has its own mood, with unique people and culture which creates a challenge for him.

Gonzalez's work will soon be featured in the "Best of Lafayette", a new publication headquarted in Lafayette.

"This will be my first serious attempt to photo journalism. I've always liked the idea of a variety of writing and visual imagery," said Gonzalez.

Although Gonzalez's work has been exhibited in many areas, his enthusiasm still runs high for the new undertaking this month by he and the other members of the Artist's Alliance to promote the appreciation of fine arts.