

DULUTH--Among the more avid agate hunters on Lake Superior's rock-strewn shores these days is a young man who is likely to give the familiar stone some exciting new treatments in jewelry design.

Rudolph I. Schauer, newly appointed instructor in art at UMD, painter and silversmith, has personally collected many pounds of Lake Superior agates since coming to Duluth this fall.

"I intend to do a lot with agates and jewelry design employing agates," he explains.. "They are so bountiful and so beautiful, they are ideal material for silver work in this locality."

Schauer currently is exhibiting 14 pieces of his original jewelry at Tweed gallery, 2531 East Seventh street. The jewelry is being shown in conjunction with a group of 22 paintings by Western Hemisphere artists. Regular gallery hours are 1 to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays.

He became interested in silver design in a roundabout way that really goes back to an air force assignment in the Pacific during World War II.

As a technician with some background in architectural drawing, he won an assignment as squadron artist.

He developed an insignia for the half-dozen B-24 bombers that made up his squadron's aerial force. The insignia was a flying elephant, carrying bombs and wearing undersized wings.

After leaving the service, Schauer went to Wisconsin State college in Milwaukee for the B. S. degree. Majoring in art, he became acquainted with a whole range of art media.

"I settled upon painting and silver work as major interests. These media are contrasting in a way. Painting allows perhaps more freedom than does silver craft work, but both stimulate creative expression."

Continuing his studies at the University of Wisconsin, Schauer found his award-winning stride in both painting and silver work.

In 1952 he won the purchase award for painting in the Gimbel Airscape competition; in 1953, the Milwaukee Art Institute awarded him a purchase prize for one of his lithographs.

At the Wisconsin State fair, he received the 1955 first award in silver jewelry and in 1956 added an honorable mention for watercolors to his laurels. He received the M.A. degree from Wisconsin in 1954.

Schauer believes silver work disciplines the young artist as does few other art media.

"Many students who achieve outstandingly in the art field tend to be lax in craftsmanship. They don't think out completely how a work should be done, and the objective too often is not so much doing a good piece of work but fulfilling an assignment.

"Silver work can not only train a person to become a creative artist but a good craftsman. It can also develop taste and perception toward commercially manufactured as well as hand-wrought work."

Schauer, who taught at Stambaugh, Mich., Alpena, Mich., Winneconne, Wis., the Milwaukee Art Institute and Saugatuck Summer School of Painting, hopes to develop adult as well as student interest in silver work.

At Winneconne the new silver shop he established in the high school in its second year produced the only Wisconsin student to win an exhibition place in a national silver show.