

DULUTH. . . Slide talks, smelt fries and coffee breaks are figuring in a unique late-afternoon seminar at UMD.

The seminar -- a sort of organized coffee klatsch -- was launched in January by art students who wanted an informal means of learning and sharing ideas. They meet from 4:30 to 6:30 every other Monday in the Humanities building Art Department.

The smelt fry topped off a program Jan. 23 by ceramist Glenn Nelson, associate professor, just back from Scandinavia. The students watched slides of European craftsmanship, broke for discussion, then adjourned to the ceramics lab for supper.

A need for informality and freedom of expression led student Charles Gustafson, Hibbing, and members of the Art Students Guild to formulate the seminar.

"It's around the potter's wheel after class, or during a painting break that we can talk freely about our own ideas," Duluthian Ken Johnson, another of the motivators said. "Yet we want to hear more -- off the cuff -- from the pros. We've tried to establish this situation through the seminar idea."

Subject of the initial program Jan. 9 was "The Validity of Contemporary Art in Today's Society." Arthur Smith, professor and head of art, and William G. Boyce, associate professor, spoke to an audience of 30. At the discussion session it was concluded that the present generation has already accepted modern art, but wants substantiation for its beliefs.

At the third meeting this week (Monday, Feb. 6) Humanities professors Ralph Miller, Albert Tezla and Robert W. House discussed the interrelationship of art, music and literature. On Feb. 20 Grazio Fumagalli, assistant professor of art, will describe the controversial Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

The public is invited to attend the seminars.