Richard Ross has managed to take very expressive pictures of these very unexpressive places. It’s obvious this … is a labor of love.” — Ira Glass, host and producer, “This American Life,” Juvenile in Justice exhibition catalog.

On any given day, approximately 70,000 young people in the United States are in juvenile detention or correctional facilities. Though violent crime arrest rates for juveniles are only marginally higher than in many other nations, the U.S. detains and commits children at close to five times the rate of its nearest successor, South Africa.

California photographer Richard Ross turns his lens on this socially relevant topic. Culled from nearly 1,000 images of juveniles at more than 300 juvenile detention facilities in 31 states, including Kansas, this exhibition examines the lives of children behind bars.

Richard Ross’ works have been exhibited in museums worldwide. He has won Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships, and received grants from the National Education Association, Center for Cultural Innovation, and Annie E. Casey Foundation. Currently he is a professor of art at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

“This is beautiful photography… Yet to see it as photography is to miss the point. This is sociology, and psychology and criminology and public policy, but it is also about man’s capacity to do evil to his fellow man, or in this case, the children of men.” — John Fleming, editor, Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Extended gallery hours, free group tours, and bus reimbursement are provided by a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation. To book a group tour, contact Linda Doll at linda.doll@wichita.edu or (316) 978-6417.