

## Fiona Phillips: Passage: New Painting & Photography

November 6-December 6, 2008

With the beaches of Southern California as inspiration, Fiona Phillips presents a glimpse at the microcosm of civilization that gathers there. Through her paintings and photographs, Phillips focuses on the figure offering a creative perspective of beach society - people of all ages and sizes, families and isolated individuals, lovers and friends.

### “Reconstructed Memory”

Author Fiona Phillips

My recent work is an exploration into the place of memory in regards to identity within the family, and the “snapshot” photograph as a mediator, linking past and present. In particular, I have been examining my relationship with the photographs and the handmade objects my mother left behind. For me, these objects--embroidered tablecloths and doilies, crewel embroidered pillows, little dresses, doll clothes, knitted sweaters and assorted handmade dolls--which I can physically hold, still contain a remnant of my mother’s presence. Preconceptions of what we believe to be “good pictures” raise standards that can be simultaneously artificial and unrealistic. It is this concept that intrigues me in looking at our family pictures. I especially like it when I find an un-posed picture that gives me a glimpse of what I conjecture is the “real” you or the “real” me. But my question is often, what is real? And can we

really know that from a single split-second image? Even in the family pictures where everyone is “smiling for the camera” there are subtle psychological spaces and differences that are compelling to me. The memory that is recollected from the photograph is colored and dimmed with time, but without that image, would I lose the memory completely? These are all questions that I have been considering in my recent paintings. I believe they are questions that will continue to occupy my work for some time.



[Family Outing]

### “Ordinary Hope”

This series of work revolves around the expression of hope and faith in an uncertain world. There are many people I know who struggle with life altering difficulties, but continue to live their lives in positive ways – continuing to work, play, dream, and find as much joy as they can in everyday living. It is easy to become disillusioned and pessimistic, but the people I admire are those who fight those feelings and become empowered by their faith. My paintings and photo collages address the desire to live positively despite problems. I am using water as a metaphor for instability or danger in combination with ordinary activities like shopping, walking, and dancing.

### “Conversations”

This series of work began by designing a private alphabet. Each letter is based on a fragment or part of the body. I was thinking about body language and the crucial relationship between body language and interpretation. It is difficult to really know the complete intent of someone’s communication – we are often quite cryptic. I am also very interested in the place of communication within family relationships and how the effectiveness of listening and speaking in conversation affects those relationships. The other component of this body of work revolves around cell phone usage and its effect on our social and cultural behavior. Despite a cell phone’s incredible convenience, it sometimes gets in the way of face to face conversation. There are millions of electromagnetic waves from cell phones in the air all around us – and not just around us but in us and through us. I have to wonder what the long term effects of this on the human body might be.



[Ice Cream Sandwich]

## Zion National Park's 100th Anniversary in 2009

In 2009, Zion National Park will celebrate a "Century Of Sanctuary." Zion was established as Mukuntuweap National Monument by President William Taft on July 31, 1909. Starting soon, the Park plans to have a series of celebrations and events to commemorate this historic milestone.

Through a collaborative and interdisciplinary process between SUU Art and Design faculty and students, an exhibition featuring creative work derived from their experience of Zion National Park will open in the Braithwaite Fine Art Gallery in January 2009.

Zion: A Creative Response  
January 8 – January 31, 2009  
Opening Reception – January 8, 2009  
7:00 PM

### Not a FRIEND yet? Join the Friend of the Braithwaite Gallery Today!

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2008-2009 Membership

Please consider becoming a FRIEND of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery.

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- 2008 -

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On September 11, 2008 Friends of the Braithwaite Gallery hosted the opening reception for this collection of striking color and black-and-white photographs that explore the iconic images of our world.

Each year our FRIENDS raise the money to pay the venue fees, shipping and educational programming for exhibits like *In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits*.

How does this benefit our community and region? In the first month of the In Focus Exhibit:

1453 K-6 grade students participated in organized educational activities in the gallery  
1380 SUU students enjoyed this exhibit as part of their academic collegiate experience  
1853 Residents from the nearby communities and visitors experienced these wonderful photographs.

4500+ total visitors benefited by this exhibit and the efforts of our FRIENDS organization to bring exhibits like this to our community.

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Located on the campus of Southern Utah University 351 W. University Blvd Cedar City, UT 84720 435.586.5432

### Shakespeare Inspires High School Fine Artists

Elizabeth Van Vleck,  
USF Education Assistant

The hoots, hollers and deafening applause made it feel more like a sporting event or a popular concert; yet the fans were screaming adulations for, none other than, William Shakespeare. This year, fine art became part of the mix with the addition of SUU Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery's annual High School Fine Art Competition. Fittingly themed, *To Thine Own Self Be True: Reflections from My Personal Portfolio*, the High School Fine Art Competition attracted over 80 entries.

Reece Summers, Director of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, plans to accept many more artists into the High School Fine Art Competition in 2009. Next year, the entire gallery will be dedicated to the High School Fine Art Competition, displaying more artist's entries.

The High School Fine Art Competition is currently accepting work for next year's competition. All entries are due by April 15, 2009. The High School Fine Art Competition will be displayed September 10-October 10, 2009. Artwork selected for the exhibition will be eligible for cash awards, special recognition, and potential scholarships. These awards will be presented at the High School Shakespeare Competition evening awards ceremony on Saturday, October 10, 2009.



Jocelyn Larsen: Pine View High School, "Cross Roads"



Michael Jensen: Canyon View High School, "Old Friends"



Shelby Crockett: Tiacahn High School, "Solitary Miming"

*The Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery received a \$2,500 grant from Cedar City's Recreation, Arts, Parks (RAP) tax grant program to support the educational programs in the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery.*

### CALENDAR of EVENTS

**November 6-December 6, 2008**  
Fiona Phillips:  
Passage: New Painting  
and Photography

**January 8-31, 2009**  
Zion: A Creative Response

**February 5-March 14, 2009**  
Art and Design Faculty Exhibit

**April 2-May 2, 2009**  
Senior BFA Portfolio Show

The Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 7:00 p.m. The Gallery is located on the ground floor of the Braithwaite Liberal Arts Center building, at the east end of the beautiful SUU campus. Admission is free. For more information, please contact the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery at 435.586.5432, or visit the Gallery website [www.suu.edu/pva/artgallery](http://www.suu.edu/pva/artgallery)

### Evening for Educators

Karen Gale  
Director of Education

Each year teachers from all over southern Utah gather to participate in an instructional education workshop—the Evening for Educators. The event gives teachers an opportunity to not only view world-class art in the current Braithwaite exhibit, but to also learn new creative techniques and methods they can share with their students when they return to the classroom.

National Geographic photojournalist, Steve McCurry was the keynote speaker for this year's event on October 8, 2008. McCurry's popular photograph, *Afghan Girl*, was featured on the cover of the National Geographic Magazine in 1985. It was one of the striking images on display in the *In Focus: National Geographic's Greatest Portraits* exhibit at the Gallery this fall.

The images McCurry captured while in Afghanistan have won him the Robert Capa Gold Medal for Best Photographic Reporting from Abroad, which is given to photographers who show outstanding enterprise and courage. McCurry continues to be recognized globally for his enthralling photographic endeavors. Steve McCurry also presented a Convocation address at SUU, as well as hosted a special private reception for educators. After the event, Ferron Holt, Arts Coordinator for Washington County School District, commented, "I'm still floating on cloud nine."

Following the reception with McCurry, educators participated in a creative workshop, hosted by SUU photography professor, Jeremias Paul. These teachers were able to "see through the eyes of children" as they captured pictures of still life objects which were prepared and placed throughout the Gallery. It was evident that all left the event feeling enriched and motivated to integrate art into their individual classroom experiences.

### Gallery Teaching

Karen Gale  
Director of Education

The Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery hosted 100 school tours with over 2500 students and over 300 adult supervisors. With the help of Carrie Trenholm and the arts Fusion team, educational activities and lesson plans based on *In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits*, were designed for teachers and educators. One teacher commented, "Thanks for helping us take advantage of a wonderful resource."

Karen Gale, Director of Education, scheduled school groups to come to the Gallery and explore the current *In Focus* exhibit. With these groups of school children, Karen and the children discussed the similarities of the eye and the camera. The children learned the difference between old-fashioned cameras and how they worked in comparison to modern cameras. The school children went into the gallery for a scavenger hunt to find images which sparked various emotions. "The 'sad' photos seemed to make the biggest impact- the Peru boy crying over the sheep, the bride-to-be and her miner mother and the veiled Afghan woman," Jeanne Payne from South Elementary fifth grade commented. The students as well as the teachers benefitted from these educational activities and lesson plans.

