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ART INSIGHTS: GARY ERNEST SMITH: PASSIONATE PAINTER

(Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah) The SUU Department of Art and Design will feature Gary Ernest Smith, a passionate painter, in this week's *Art Insights*, Thursday, September 25th at 7:00pm in the Centrum Arena. Because of his deep faith, Gary Ernest Smith juxtaposes humility with expression in his rural and religious paintings. He depicts the value of hard work in a rural lifestyle and the symbolic beauty of Mother Earth.

Gary Ernest Smith began painting as a young child. As he matured in his artwork, he faced personal dissatisfaction in his career which led to a unique development in his portrayal of subject matter. This change led to a more inward reflection on his personal life and therefore he used art as a vehicle to uplift the human spirit. Gary Ernest Smith uses bold colors and forms to portray a symbolic minimalistic subject. He uses universal images, a single bale of hay, a row of plowed field, a solitary cowboy, a lonely school house to show that everything beautiful comes from Mother Earth.

Art Insights is a weekly program hosted during the Fall and Spring semesters by the Art and Design faculty. In *Art Insights* students and community members meet weekly to attend gallery openings and experience presentations and discussions by visiting artists and art educators from around the nation who share their work and insights. Admission is free, and the general public is invited to attend. Admission is free, and the general public is invited to attend. For more information on SUU College of

Performing and Visual Arts events, please call the Arts Hotline at 435.865.8800 or visit

www.suu.edu/arts

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ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of the departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, and a graduate program in Arts Administration. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, American Folk Ballet, Utah Shakespearean Festival, the performance group Acclamation, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. Over 550 students are majoring in 16 different degree areas in the arts. Both liberal arts B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, as well four professional degrees: Bachelor of Music (B.M.); Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Studio Art, Graphic Design, and Arts Education; and the B.F.A. in Theatre. The College's Art and Design, Music, and Dance programs are nationally accredited. More than 60 full and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring students in their pursuit of a degree in the arts. The College regularly enrolls 1100 students each semester in over 195 classes on the SUU campus. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean 435-865-8561 or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.