

SUU COLLEGE of PERFORMING
and VISUAL ARTS

BRAITHWAITE

FINE ARTS GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 01/5/15

Michael French
Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator
College of Performing and Visual Arts
Southern Utah University
Office: 435-865-8667
michaelfrench@suu.edu

FRIENDS' SPONSORED EXHIBITION, *50 FROM 6*, AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE RESULTS IN ACQUISITIONS FOR SUU'S SOUTHERN UTAH MUSEUM OF ART

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: With construction under way for SUU's Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), another aspect under construction is the Museum's permanent collection. After a highly successful fall exhibition, *50 from 6: Contemporary Ceramic Art from Six Rocky Mountain States*, and thanks to a new donor level created by the Board of the Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Reece Summers, Director of the Gallery, and Susan Harris, the exhibition's curator and Professor of Ceramics at SUU, were able to purchase works from the show for the museum's archive.

According to Harris, "The *50 from 6* Exhibition provided the perfect opportunity to examine the actual works in person, making a sound decision of which to purchase for the permanent collection much more reliably. Selecting three-dimensional works from a photograph or two-dimensional image is never as sure. We are delighted to have this occasion to seed the expanding SUMA ceramics collection with carefully accessioned new pieces. We had the additional benefit of public feedback from the show's viewers and our SUU students, so this helped inform our choices. It is our hope that expanded funding for collection development will allow future purchases to enrich these holdings from what is planned to become a biennial ceramics invitational show."

The new additions to the collection are "Tricksters of Triple Butte" by Andy Nassise, "Black Dotted/ Leafy Jar" by Diane Kenney and "Darkness Is a Garden" by Farraday Newsome. These works will be stored in the Gallery's archive and used not only for future exhibitions but for educational study and workshops. These new acquisitions join works donated to the Museum following the acclaimed *Jim Jones: The San Blas Years* in fall 2013 which was also a Friends' sponsored exhibition.

The funds to purchase the ceramic art came from a newly created Friends donation level called the SUMA Charter Circle. This level was set up to include a portion designated for acquisition. The Friends' fall 2014 membership drive met with great success, resulting in an increase in membership with many individuals joining at this new level (\$300).

With the launch of the SUMA Charter Circle membership level, Diane Strachan, co-chair of the Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, is pleased that the Friends were able to fund the ceramic acquisitions. "In 2014, after capping off its \$100,000 gift to SUMA, the Friends wanted to return to raising monies to build the Museum's permanent collection while continuing its support of an annual exhibition and education programs. The success of our fall 2014 membership drive enabled us to purchase these three stunning works from *50 from 6*, which will benefit SUMA patrons and SUU art students for years to come."

The **Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery** is a non-profit group established in 1977. For over 30 years, the Friends of the Gallery have helped to enrich lives by sponsoring outstanding educational programming, art excursions, fundraising, and world-class exhibits.

Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA) is an experiential learning center for future arts leaders who serve the community through exhibitions, collections, preservation, and educational programming. SUMA will become the first nationally accredited art museum operated by graduate and undergraduate students in a shared research, learning and applied environment mentored by the faculty, administration and staff of Southern Utah University. SUMA will be part of SUU's forthcoming Beverley Taylor Sorenson Center for the Arts, expected to be completed in summer 2016.

For more information about joining the Friends or its upcoming 23rd Annual Art Auction on Thursday March 5, 2015, please contact the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery at artgallery@suu.edu or call 435-586-5432. Memberships can be purchased online at www.suu.edu/artgallery through the Store link.