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**SUU's ART INSIGHTS TO HOST
EARNEST WARD, ARTIST & JOURNALIST
A ZION NATIONAL PARK ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE
OCTOBER 22, 2015**

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT: Describing himself as “an inveterate explorer and unrepentant adventurer,” artist, naturalist, traveler and calligrapher, Earnest Ward explores the planet’s natural wonders in his art. Selected as a Zion National Park Artist-in-Residence, he captured the beauty of the Park’s landscape in his art. At his upcoming **Art Insights** appearance, Ward will be spotlighting his work from Zion National Park. The presentation will take place in **Gilbert Great Hall** within SUU’s **Hunter Conference Center** on **Thursday, October 22, 2015, at 7pm. Admission is free and the general public is invited to attend.**

Earnest Ward holds a BFA from California College of Arts & Crafts, and an MFA from The University of Texas at San Antonio. He has 20 years of experience as a teacher at the secondary and college and university levels. More recently, he has spent two months “slow traveling” with his family across Europe, 10 weeks as a wilderness artist-in-residence with the National Park Service (“50 miles from the nearest grocery store”), and 12 months observing and recording the seasonal life-cycles of flora and fauna on a stretch of the Trinity River that “runs through our back yard”.

Today Earnest splits his time between his family’s travel adventures, producing his art (large and small), and sharing his passion for place-based sketching and journaling with educators and the general public through exhibitions, workshops, and his personal website (<http://www.earnestward.com>). Mr. Ward collaborated with author, Danny Gregory, in 2013 on the creation of the book *An Illustrated Journey*, and a video conversation entitled *Earnest Ward: An Illustrated Journey* (<http://vimeo.com/59202312>). In 2014 Earnest published four media-rich, interactive ebooks distributed by the Apple iBookstore: *The Clear Fork* (the illustrated record of a year spent observing and recording the seasons and life cycles of the Clear Fork of the Trinity River with his son and daughter), *Inspiritus* (a collection of calligraphic quotes from Mr. Ward’s sketchbooks and journals, with pen and ink portraits of the men and women her said or wrote

them), *Drawn to Adventure (Ireland)* (the first of four volumes about the author's "slow travel" adventure across Europe with his family), and *The North Cascades: A Tale of Two Seasons (Spring)* (the first of two volumes about Mr. Ward's experiences as both spring and autumn artist-in-residence in the wilderness community of Stehekin, Washington). Earnest also writes his own weekly series of blog articles on art, nature and travel adventure (<http://earnestward.blogspot.com>).

Art Insights is a weekly program hosted during the fall and spring semesters by SUU's Art and Design faculty. Students and community members meet to experience presentations and discussions by visiting artists and art educators from around the nation who share their work and insights and attend gallery openings. Admission is free, and the general public is invited to attend.

The Zion National Park Artist-in-Residence program offers professional artists the opportunity to live and work in the majestic desert environment of southern Utah. The works completed under this program will contribute to the public understanding and appreciation of Zion National Park and reflect the National Park Service's mission to the preservation and protection of the park's cultural and natural resources.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Southern Utah University's College of Performing and Visual Arts is home to nationally-accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts, and Dance. The College offers 17 degrees, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, professional Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre, and Arts Administration Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts. It houses the Center for Shakespeare Studies, which offers a degree minor. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff teach and mentor over 550 arts majors. Over 1100 students enroll each year in more than 195 arts classes. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions annually. Its affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: SUU's ART INSIGHTS EARNEST WARD, ARTIST & JOURNALIST

WHAT: Describing himself as "an inveterate explorer and unrepentant adventurer," artist, naturalist, traveler and calligrapher, Earnest Ward explores the planet's natural wonders in his art. Selected as a Zion National Park Artist-in-Residence, Ward will be spotlighting his work from Zion.

WHO: Art Insights, Southern Utah University, Department of Art and Design

WHEN: Thursday, October 22, 2015 @ 7pm

WHERE: Gilbert Great Hall, Hunter Conference Center, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT

INFORMATION: Visit: www.suu.edu/pva/arts

PRICES: Free Admission and the General Public is encouraged to attend.