



For Immediate Release: 5/14/14

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

SUU's SUMA Community Engagement Committee Offers Summer Art Hike on Photography and Topography Saturday, June 7, 2014

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: The unique landscape of southern Utah offers endless opportunities for depiction as well as discussion, and its geological formations have provided countless artists with creative inspiration. For its summer 2014 Art Hike, the **SUMA Community Engagement Committee** merges science with art for a trek entitled *Lacoliths, Sand Dunes & Silver: Exciting Regional Geology Around Yant Flat*, led by expedition scientist **Andy McCrea** and photographer **Steve Yates**.

Scheduled for **Saturday, June 7th**, this event begins at **7am** on the east side of **Main Street Park in Cedar City** or **8am** at the **Yant Flat location** for hikers from St. George. Yant Flat is located at the Candy Cliffs within the Dixie National Forest. The early start time is due to the chance of high temperatures. Though free, the number of hikers is limited, so a reservation is required. To reserve a place, please contact the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery at gallery@suu.edu or call **435-586-5432, Tue-Sat, noon-7pm**. The **Art Hikes** have been created by the **Southern Utah Museum of Art's (SUMA) Community Engagement Committee** to build public awareness for the museum scheduled to open in 2016.

The theme for the hike is *Lacoliths, Sand Dunes & Silver: Exciting Regional Geology Around Yant Flat*. Andy McCrea provides colorful information about the unique Yant Flat topography and its formation while Steve Yates shows hikers effective techniques for capturing the landscape through a camera lens. Hikers are encouraged to bring their own cameras or other art medium. In addition to art medium and cameras, hikers are encouraged to bring knapsack, water, snacks/lunch, sun block, poncho or plastic to sit on when taking a break, hats and jackets/rain gear for potential weather change. All children must be accompanied by a responsible parent or adult. The hike is open to the community members of all ages.

SUMA Art Hikes have been created to provide an opportunity for the southern Utah community to discover the locales where artists gain inspiration. Participants will hike with the artist as well as a representative from the Public Lands such as the National Park Service, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management or Utah Division of Natural Resources who will educate and enlighten the hikers about these locales.

Andy McCrea works as a Petroleum Engineer in California and dabbles in Utah geology for recreation. He received his engineering degree from Montana Tech in Butte, Montana and did post graduate work in geology at Cal State Bakersfield. Growing up in Las Vegas, Andy was exposed to the geological paradise of Utah. He and his wife Janet purchased a historical home near SUU in 2007 and are enjoying the process of renovating and restoration. They pursue their love of the arts through engaging and participating in the vibrant arts community of Southern Utah. According to McCrea, "Viewing landscapes through the lens of a background in geology makes one appreciate the worlds that existed before the one we see today and how ephemeral we are as humans. One of the real beauties of Utah is that the geology is so accessible. The rocks tell us an astonishing story of what they have witnessed over a timescale that is difficult for humans to grasp. The geology of the earth moves and breathes at a frequency that is undetectable in the span of a single human life. Every place you stand holds an ancient story of a place where the sun, the moon and the sky watched as these rocks recorded the unfolding of an amazing drama of life."

A Colorado transplant, **Steve Yates**, Gallery Director of Artisans Art Gallery, defines Cedar City as home. His connection to the Southern Utah community and the beauty of the landscape that surrounds him provides ample ammunition to inspire his creations. A lover of art from his earliest years, Steve said he could still remember when he was a child and would draw images of spirits, which his parents would dutifully tuck away for safekeeping. Fascinated with the strange and the unexplained Steve said his artistic endeavors have always teetered on the edge of the unusual. His surreal exploitation of canvas through digital media offers an enamored public new material to gobble up beyond that of the typical Southern Utah landscape imagery. It expresses the many layers of reality Steve sees in the world around him. "Sometimes it sort of comes out like a stream of consciousness. Sometimes there is an underlying theme. I have always thought that what we see isn't always what we get when it comes to reality." Though not an original concept, the idea is one that has always captured Steve's attention. The brilliant results have continued to tickle the playful minds of his admirers. Steve hesitates to place specific meaning on a piece he has created as he knows that art is just as personal for the viewer as it is for the creator.

To make a contribution to the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), please contact Donna Law, Director of Development: CPVA, at 435-865-8182 or law@suu.edu. Contributions can be made online at www.suu.edu/pva/suma.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as a graduate program in Arts Administration and the Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's 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, contact the Office of the Dean at (435) 865-8561, or by email at cpvamktg@suu.edu.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: SUMA SUMMER ART HIKE TO YANT FLAT

- WHAT:** The unique landscape of southern Utah offers endless opportunities for depiction and discussion, and its geological formations have provided countless artists with inspiration. The Summer 2014 Art Hike merges science with art for a special trek entitled *Lacoliths, Sand Dunes & Silver: Exciting Regional Geology Around Yant Flat*. The hike will be led by expedition scientist Andy McCrea and photographer Steve Yates.
- WHO:** SUMA, Southern Utah Museum of Art, Community Engagement Committee
- WHEN:** Saturday, June 7, 2014
- TIME:** 7am in Cedar City, UT/8am Yant Flat, Candy Cliffs, Dixie National Forest, Meeting Point
- WHERE:** East Side of Main Street Park, Cedar City, UT
- TICKETS:** Free and open to the public. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Reserve a place by calling the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery at (435) 586-5432 (Tues-Sat, noon-7pm) or send an email to gallery@suu.edu.
- INFO:** For detailed info and requirements, call (435) 586-5432 or visit www.suu.edu/pva/suma