



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
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SUU ART PROFESSOR ANDREW MARVICK HAS PAINTINGS SHOWCASED AT CEDAR CITY'S GALLERY GALA

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: An exploration of the concept of abstract art using color and complex technical skills are at the very heart of *Ancient Hues*, a vibrant series of paintings by SUU Professor of Art **Andrew Marvick**. The work is currently on exhibition at Cedar City's newest visual art venue, **gallery GALA**, Fine Arts Gallery, own and operated by **Dries Bredenkamp**, and runs through **Wednesday, September 24, 2014**. The gallery is located at **63 West Center Street in Cedar City**, just a few blocks from Southern Utah University. Marvick's art is featured with *Life of Color*, new work by painter **Aimee Bonham**. The gallery's hours are Tuesday through Friday 11am-7pm and Saturday noon-7pm, closed Sunday and Monday. **Admission is free and the general public is encouraged to attend.**

In *Ancient Hues*, Andrew Marvick explores the fictional idea that abstract art developed centuries earlier than we know it did. What if formal abstraction and non-objective art had grown organically alongside classical naturalism beginning with the early Renaissance at the start of the 15th century? Imagined this way, he argues, the stigmas of empty innovation for modernism's sake might never have materialized, allowing instead for the gestation of a rich amalgam of these two strains of European art. Drawing stylistic and formal parallels between the earlier masters and their "modern-art" counterparts, Marvick starts with the language of form, then places it in the visual context of time. His paintings are a way of reconstructing the history of modern art as if it were, in fact, the history of art. The new paintings in *Ancient Hues* form part of the imaginary art history that he is building: "They are my way of keeping the legacy of our visual-cultural past alive". Created specifically for gallery GALA, the exhibition reflects Marvick's cultivation of complex techniques combining oil, watercolor, acrylic, plaster and resin on canvas or paper.

Andrew Marvick is both a professor of art history at Southern Utah University and a practicing abstract painter. He grew up mainly in Los Angeles, California, but has also lived at various times in Sierra Leone,

West Africa; London, England; Paris, France; Bonn, Germany; Vienna, Austria; and Florence, Italy. Marvick received his BA from Harvard University, his MA from UCLA and his PhD from Columbia University in New York. At the same time he also followed a course of training in painting at Harvard and at UCLA, and at the Accademia N. Simi in Florence, Italy, where he received his *Credenziale* in figure drawing in 1978. Marvick went on to teach art history at UCLA Extension and at various California State University campuses before taking a tenured position at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1997. In 2005 he migrated back west, happily settled in Cedar City as Southern Utah University's Professor of Art History and, in 2011, belatedly but blissfully married a brilliant and beautiful nurse, and took on fatherhood to two talented and charming children.

Marvick has published a dozen or so papers on aspects of the transition from traditional to modern art in Europe and America between 1880 and 1920. In 2011 he presented a paper at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign which was subsequently selected for publication in an Ashgate UK collection entitled *The Symbolist Roots of Modernism*, slated for publication in 2016. In the spring of 2013 he published an article on the American still-life painter Luigi Lucioni for the *The Journal of the Cincinnati Museum of Art*; that summer he was invited to join the editorial board of the journal of ALMSD, an international scholarly association focusing on Symbolist art, literature and music. Later that year he was invited to mount an exhibition of his paintings at The People's School of Art in Beijing, China, where he also gave a lecture on Whistler and China. In the spring of 2014 he presented a new paper, "The Sisters of Atalanta: Distortions of the Classical Ideal in Fin-de-Siècle Art," at the annual International Conference of the College Art Association in Chicago. As a painter Marvick has been working to explore the ideas and expressive properties of 20th-century art through the development of a highly abstract or non-objective style. In one recent exhibition Marvick reverse-engineered, so to speak, a synaesthetic experience by setting bottles filled with scent-infused gels in front of color- and form-related paintings. Marvick has had solo exhibitions in Utah, Wyoming, Oklahoma, California and Minnesota. He is represented by gallery GALA in Cedar City.

Gallery GALA's primary focus is contemporary abstract and nonrepresentational art. It is an exhibition based gallery featuring select artists through either solo or group exhibitions. Working collaboratively with curators, critics, other local galleries, art councils, and educational institutions, the gallery is committed to cultivating emerging talent and supporting established artists.

"After introducing three new and emerging artists with our inaugural exhibition, I wanted to focus on established artists for this exhibition as part of our overall artist portfolio strategy", says Bredenkamp. Selecting artists to represent in a commercial fine art gallery is a critical step. The artist and his or her art needs to be a total match with the criteria set by the gallery. This includes the quality of the art, the artist's resume, reputation, accomplishments, profile and standing in the art community, to mention a few.

“Andrew met all our criteria and I completely connected with the subject, form, and content of Andrew’s work”, says Bredenkamp, “but most importantly, he had a vision for *Ancient Hues* that we fully wanted to support at gallery GALA.”

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- WHEN:** Now through September 24, 2014
- TIME:** Tue-Fri 11am-7pm, Sat noon-7pm, closed Sun-Mon
- WHERE:** gallery GALA, 63 West Center St., Cedar City, UT
- INFO:** www.gallerygala.com
- PRICES:** Free and the General Public is encouraged to attend.

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