



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
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**SUU VISUAL ART STUDENTS PUBLISH
SPIRIT OF THE FOREST
JANUARY 29, 2015**

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: Take a stunning and colorful journey into a realm of illustration created by nine SUU senior Art and Design students. *Spirit of the Forest* is a vibrant exploration that uses the book's title as its theme. The contributing artists will be part of a special **Art Insights** presentation, SUU's weekly art series, on **Thursday, January 29, 2015, at 7pm** in the **Auditorium Theatre**. The illustrations themselves go on exhibition in SUU's South Hall beginning Monday, February 2 running through Friday, May 1. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10am-5pm and the show is free and open to the public.

Taking their inspiration from the phrase "Spirit of the Forest," these nine illustrators broke their own creative boundaries to depict a realm that is stylistically distinctive to each artist. Mentored by Ron Spears, former SUU Art and Design Assistant Professor and now Chair of Illustration of Sequential Art at Savannah College of Art and Design, the students created the project in Fall 2014 with of them contributing three illustrations to the book. With assistance from the Cedar City Arts Council, the students were able to have the book published. The 58-page book is available online through Amazon in either a hardcover or trade paperback format.

Spirit of the Forest features original art created by **Shelby Crockett, Sarah Denny, Robert Ennis, Brice Gielgens, Brian Heritage, McKenna Horman, Ann Middleton, Zakery Mitchell** and **Vachelle Thomas**. Middleton and Heritage headed up *Spirit of the Forest* as Art Director and Producer.

This is the second year that SUU Art and Design students have created and produced a book. In 2014, a number of students contributed to *Moon Goddess* which Ann Middleton was a contributor. In reflection of the overall process, Middleton observed, "I'm very happy with this project. We were able to learn a lot from the mistakes and trials of the *Moon Goddess* project and use that to make *Spirit of the Forest* better.

We have better print quality for the books, we have amazing artwork for our portfolios, and a venue to speak to the public about what we did.”

Take the opportunity to experience these emerging artists and the fruition of their labors by attending this special Art Insights. For more information on the SUU College of Performing and Visual Arts events, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

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 Center for Shakespeare Studies and a graduate program in Arts Administration. 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. The Center for Shakespeare Studies offers a minor in Shakespeare Studies. 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 (435) 865-8561, or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: *ART INSIGHTS, SPIRIT OF THE FOREST*

- WHAT:** Take a stunning and colorful journey into a realm of illustration created by nine SUU senior Art and Design students. *Spirit of the Forest* is a vibrant exploration that uses the book's title as its theme. The contributing artists will be part of a special Art Insights presentation.
- WHO:** *Art Insights*, Southern Utah University, Department of Art and Design
- WHEN:** Art Insights: Thursday, January 29, 2015
Exhibition: February 2-May 1, 2015
- TIME:** Art Insights: 7pm
Exhibition: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm
- WHERE:** Art Insights: Auditorium Theatre
South Hall
- INFO:** www.suu.edu/pva/arts
- PRICES:** Free and the General Public is encouraged to attend.