

SUU COLLEGE of PERFORMING  
and VISUAL ARTS

## BRAITHWAITE

FINE ARTS GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 2, 2015

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

### **Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery Features Photographic Retrospective of New Zealand At the Hunter Conference Center April 16-May 29, 2015**

**Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah:** A unique journey through the culture and landscape of New Zealand is showcased in a remarkable photographic exhibition titled ***Wāna haereinga paraketu Aotearoa, A Swan's Journey through the Island of the Long White Cloud*** (title is Māori). The Swan of the title is **Asher J. Swan**, an SUU graduating senior, whose vivid photography captures the rich atmosphere of New Zealand and its native peoples. Opening at **6pm on Thursday, April 16** at SUU's **Hunter Conference Center** and running through **May 29**, this exhibition is **free** and is open to the public **Monday through Friday, 10am-5pm.**

In May 2014, SUU sponsored a study abroad program titled *Art, English & Geology in New Zealand*, which was supervised by SUU faculty members Deborah K. Snider (Art), Dr. Kyle Bishop and Toanui Tawa (English) and Dr. Johnny MacLean (Geology). Among the participants was SUU photographer Asher J. Swan who in ten days took thousands of images of the program's travels through the island nation. Working through his photographs, Swan selected the more than 30 images that featured in the show which vividly capture the SUU troupe's remarkable journey.

For Asher, the trek to New Zealand broadened his artistic perspective and sensibility. "I paint with light, I am constantly keeping my eyes open to the possibilities of a moment that could be held so I, nor other people have to remember so hard. I want to relate, and be relatable, though my medium of photography."

**Asher J. Swan** was born in and raised in Southern California. He moved from Santa Rosa, California, to the Southwest in 2008 to pursue his college degree. In the past seven years he has worked for the local newspaper and has had several news stories using his photographs published nationally. Swan works

currently for Southern Utah University as the University Photographer, working within several different departments, ranging from Athletics Department to the College of Performing & Visual Arts. As an artist, Swan has had his work exhibited at SUU's Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery and Cedar City's Artisans' Art Gallery as well as contributing to supporting the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery's Annual Art Auction. A graduating senior from Southern Utah University, Swan recently opened The Studio, Photography Gallery & More, in Cedar City, [thestudiocedar@outlook.com](mailto:thestudiocedar@outlook.com).

In addition to Asher Swan's exhibition, the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery is showcasing student art in two other exhibitions on SUU's upper campus. In the Gallery itself, the *Senior BFA Portfolio Exhibition* continues in its second installment. Regular gallery hours are **Tuesday–Saturday, noon to 7 pm**.

**Admission is free** and the **general public is encouraged to attend**. In South Hall art enthusiasts can 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 illustrations themselves are on exhibition through Friday, May 1. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10am-5pm and the show is free and open to the public.

Experience the wonders of New Zealand through the camera lens of Asher J. Swan. Don't miss this remarkable exhibition and the other two student exhibitions celebrating the creativity of SUU's Department of Art and Design students. Information about these shows can be obtained by calling the Gallery at **435-586-5432** (Tue-Sat, noon-7pm) or visiting [www.suu.edu/pva/artgallery](http://www.suu.edu/pva/artgallery).

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: *Wāna haere nga paraketu Aotearoa, A Swan's Journey through the Island of the Long White Cloud, Images from New Zealand***

- WHAT:** A unique journey through the culture and landscape of New Zealand is showcased in a photographic exhibition titled *Wāna haere nga paraketu Aotearoa, A Swan's Journey through the Island of the Long White Cloud* (title is Māori). Asher J. Swan, an SUU graduating senior, captures the rich atmosphere of New Zealand and its native peoples through his lens.
- WHO:** Southern Utah University, Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery
- WHEN:** April 16– May 29, 2015
- TIME:** Mon–Fri, 10am-5pm, except holidays, school breaks  
Opening presentation and reception: Thu, Apr. 16 @ 6pm
- WHERE:** SUU's Hunter Conference Center, Second Floor
- PRICES:** Free and the General Public is encouraged to attend.
- MORE INFO:** <http://www.suu.edu/pva/artgallery/>