



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
351 West University Boulevard | Cedar City, UT 84720

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**SUU's ART INSIGHTS TO HOST
BENJAMIN RUSNAK, PHOTOGRAPHER
A ZION NATIONAL PARK ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY, Cedar City, UT: Leaving behind a successful career as a newspaper photojournalist, **Benjamin Rusnak** has gone on to become a distinguished editorial and commercial photographer. In the past decade, Rusnak has found solace and strength in the canyons and deserts of Utah. Selected as a Zion National Park Artist-in-Residence, he captured the wonders of the Park's landscape with a panoramic camera. At his upcoming **Art Insights** appearance, Rusnak will be spotlighting his work from Zion National Park. The presentation will take place in SUU's **Auditorium Theatre** on **Thursday, September 10, 2015, at 7pm. Admission is free and the general public is invited to attend.**

Benjamin Rusnak is a South Florida editorial and commercial photographer, specializing in food. For 14 years he documented poverty in the Caribbean and Latin America for Food For The Poor, Inc., an international relief and development agency. Prior to that, he was a newspaper photojournalist for nearly 10 years. Rusnak's award-winning work has been recognized and exhibited internationally and he has won the prestigious Gordon Parks Award in 2008 and received InterAction's Effective Assistance Humanitarian Photography Award in 2010, among many other honors. His work is represented by ZUMA PRESS.

Rusnak grew up in suburban Washington, D.C., where he developed an interest in topics beyond American borders and a passion for the plight of those less fortunate. He graduated from George Mason University in 1992, with a degree in communication. He lives in Boca Raton, Florida, with his wife and fellow newspaper refugee, Susan Bryant. For a detailed overview of Rusnak's career, please visit his website www.benjaminrusnak.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, contact the Office of the Dean (435) 865-8561, or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: SUU's *ART INSIGHTS* BENJAMIN RUSNAK, PHOTOGRAPHER

- WHAT:** Selected as a Zion National Park Artist-in-Residence, photographer Benjamin Rusnak captured the wonders of the Park's landscape with a panoramic camera. At his upcoming Art Insights appearance, Rusnak will be presenting his work from Zion National Park.
- WHO:** Art Insights, Southern Utah University, Department of Art and Design
- WHEN:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 @ 7pm
- WHERE:** Auditorium Theatre, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT
- INFORMATION:** Visit: www.suu.edu/pva/arts
- PRICES:** Free Admission and the General Public is encouraged to attend.