



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
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**SUU's ART INSIGHTS TO HOST
SCULPTOR THADDEUS ERDAHL
OCTOBER 15, 2015**

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT: An artist who examines human myth in the modern age, sculptor **Thaddeus Erdahl** creates art that focuses on the less popular folk who emerge from society's underbelly. Using that perspective to form his art, Erdahl will detail his creative process during his presentation for **SUU's Department of Art and Design's Art Insights** series, which will take place in the **Gilbert Great Hall** within the **Hunter Conference Center** on **Thursday, October 15, 2015, at 7pm.** **Admission is free and the general public is invited to attend.**

Thaddeus Erdahl was born and raised in La Porte City, Iowa. He has exhibited his sculpture and presented workshops regionally and nationally throughout the United States. His art and background in education started at the University of Northern Iowa where he received his BA in Art Education and a BFA in Ceramics. Upon graduation, he substitute taught in the public school system, instructed ceramics courses at a local art center and served as an interim art educator. Thaddeus actively practiced and taught a variety of art media including ceramics, drawing, assemblage, sculpture, painting, and graphic design. Thaddeus received his MFA in Ceramics from the University of Florida where he was a University of Florida Alumni Fellowship recipient during his three years of graduate study, from 2006-2009. In the summer of 2008, he attended Think Tank III, a national arts in higher education symposium, as a Graduate Fellowship Recipient. In 2009 he was selected as one of four Artists-in- Residents at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, for an 11-month residency program. Most recently Thaddeus was recognized as one of four short-listed artist for the inaugural American Craft Council Emerging Voice in Craft Award. Thaddeus moved to the North East in 2010 and is currently living in Princeton, New Jersey, pursuing his studio art career and acting as the head of the Lower School Arts program at Princeton Day School.

Reflecting on his art, Erdahl states, "ceramic sculpture and portraiture, in particular, are forms of a visual narration that I use to satisfy my urge for documenting what I see in human nature. Evocative of well-

loved toys and obsolete artifacts, I use the implied history of these objects to encourage the viewer to disconnect from the present situation and conjure their own individual narratives from my sculptures. Working with concepts that are personal and sometimes narcissistic perceptions of the gloomy side of life, dark humor is my buffer. Dry or irreverent, it is humor that mystifies the tragic.”

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.

Explore the unique creative process of sculptor Thaddeus Erdahl by attending his Art Insights presentation. For more information, visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

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, visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: SUU's *ART INSIGHTS* THADDEUS ERDAHL, SCULPTOR

- WHAT:** An artist who examines human myth in the modern age, sculptor Thaddeus Erdahl creates art that focuses on the less popular folk who emerge from society's underbelly. Using that perspective that forms his art, Erdahl will detail his creative process during his presentation for SUU's Art Insights series.
- WHO:** Art Insights, Southern Utah University, Department of Art and Design
- WHEN:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 @ 7pm
- WHERE:** Gilbert Great Hall, Hunter Confernce Center, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT
- INFORMATION:** Visit: www.suu.edu/pva/arts
- PRICES:** Free Admission and the General Public is encouraged to attend.