OU Art Museum Opens 103rd Annual Student Exhibition April 20

NORMAN, OKLA. – An annual tradition at the University of Oklahoma has returned in the form of an exhibition showcasing student artwork. The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art opens the 103rd Annual School of Visual Arts Student Exhibition with a complimentary public reception at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 20. The exhibition remains on display through Sunday, May 14, in the Nancy Johnston Records Gallery.

Visitors to the guest-juried show can expect to see dozens of student works in multiple mediums, including photography, drawing, video, sculpture and painting.

“The annual student exhibition is one of the most exciting events of the academic year,” said Bette Talvacchia, director of the OU School of Visual Arts. “It allows us to maintain our practice of collaborating with the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, which is always an important and enriching experience. The exhibition gives SoVA, along with the entire OU community, the opportunity to recognize the impressive talents of the students who study and major in the visual arts. We are delighted to give them the chance to display their work in a professional environment and publicly award the very best of our students’ creative production.”

Contemporary artist and OU alum Joe Andoe serves as this year’s guest juror.
Andoe was born and came of age in Tulsa, surrounded by churches, trees, highways and horses, motifs that recur in his paintings and prints. At OU, where he completed a master of fine arts degree in 1981, he eschewed the colorful, vertical abstractions popular in the art department at the time.

To honor his role in this year’s student exhibition, the museum has organized a mini-exhibition of Andoe’s works from its permanent collection. *Joe Andoe: Horizons* will open in the museum’s Ellen and Richard L. Sandor Gallery adjacent to the student exhibition the same evening and remain on display through Sept. 10.

*Joe Andoe: Horizons* features 30 works from the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art’s permanent collection. The exhibition considers the artist’s use of horizons that recur in his landscape paintings and roadside photographs.

As part of the reception, an awards ceremony is scheduled for 8 p.m., during which students will be honored with prizes, including the top award, the T.G. Mays Purchase Award, which is offered to a student whose artwork becomes a part of the museum’s permanent collection.

“In addition to honoring student achievement, this exhibition serves as a reminder of the history of the university’s art museum and its generous benefactors,” said Mark White, the Wylodean and Bill Saxon Director of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art.

“The T.G. Mays Purchase Award and the Oscar Jacobson Award, which was endowed by Dr. Mark Allen Everett, honor longtime supporters of the University of Oklahoma and its art museum. The annual student exhibition reminds us of these and other donors whose decades-long legacies continue in the form of student distinction.”

The opening reception will feature live music by Oklahoma City-based band Judith, a photo booth and complimentary hors d’oeuvers provided by OU Housing and Food.

A public event geared at student artists is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 27, during which emerging arts professionals can meet 10 established local artists in a speed-interview format. Fast Friends offers artists the opportunity to make new connections in the Oklahoma arts community while enjoying complimentary light refreshments. The event is co-hosted by Current Studio.

Additional information about these exhibitions and events is available on the museum’s website at www.ou.edu/fjjma. The OU SoVA’s website is www.art.ou.edu.
The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. Admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors, thanks to a generous gift from the OU Athletics Department. The museum is closed on Mondays. Information and accommodations are available by calling (405) 325-4938.

###

**IMAGE CREDIT**

The annual OU student art exhibition returns to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art with a public, complimentary opening reception Thursday, April 20. The 103rd Annual School of Visual Arts Student Exhibition features dozens of works in multiple mediums by students from the OU School of Visual Arts, several of whom will receive awards during the opening reception. Logo designed by OU visual communication junior Nate Wiewel.