AWARDS ANNOUNCED
AT THE FRED JONES JR. MUSEUM OF ART

FOR RELEASE March 27, 1996

NORMAN - The public was invited to the annual awards presentation at the "82ND ANNUAL SCHOOL OF ART STUDENTS' EXHIBITION" on the evening of March 26th at The University of Oklahoma's Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 410 W. Boyd St. This year the exhibition's reception and award presentation co-incided with the completion of the first phase of renovation and the public re-opening of the Museum of Art.

All OU School of Art students enrolled in the 95/96 academic year were eligible to submit work in a wide range of media such as paintings, drawings, prints, photography, ceramics, mixed-media, videos and visual communications.

Associate Professor of Art History and Head, Department of Art Dr. Nancy Wilkinson from Oklahoma State University served as juror of the exhibition. Director Thomas R. Toperzer announced awards for outstanding works of art recommended by Dr. Wilkinson and selected by the Museum of Art staff.

Winners of the T. G. Mays Purchase Awards of $250 each, were Craig Hitchcock, for an untitled silver-gelatin print; Craig Smith, for "Emmerson '95," an ink/acrylic on photograph; and Michael Swanson, for "Missing in Action," a stoneware/raku sculpture.

School of Art Director Andrew Phelan announced that Melanie Jackson's mixed media sculpture titled, "Mystic Visions," received the new annual John Potts Sculpture Award of $500. The Award was established by Jeanne Steele Potts in an honor of her husband, John Potts.

Jackson explained that the work was a result of an earlier mask-making class assignment. Inspired by a children's story and a unique Native Indian card interpretation which combined the Raven and the Bear, she noted that the award was particularly

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encouraging since this piece was the most experimental work of art she had ever attempted. As a fiber artist, she hopes to apply the prize to a summer-study program in Navajo weaving which will be offered in Arizona.

During the opening reception, Associate Professor of Art V'lou Oliveira, also announced a series of awards selected by The Red Clay Faction. “Missing in Action” by Michael Swanson was chosen again for an award of $100 as “Best Ceramic Piece.” Two students were recognized with Runner-up awards of $50 each - Kim Winkle for a ceramic and wire work of art titled “Enclosed” and Jean Keil for a coil-constructed stoneware with gold luster titled “Vessel I.”

Another entry by Kim Winkle of ceramic, wood and rope titled “Solitude” was selected for a Museum of Art Purchase Award of $250. Two students each received a $100 Museum of Art Association Awards: Stephanie Allemen, for an oil and mixed-media work of art titled “Finding the Answer” and Jeff Prime, for a catalogue design titled “Sacred and Cool.”

The Campus Art Supply Award of a $50 gift certificate was given to Lisa de Shan, for a linoleum block, etching and hand coloring print titled “Hank Runs Away to Become an Astronaut on the Moon.”

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The exhibition is free and open to the public and will run through April 14, 1996. The Museum of Art is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free parking passes, usable in the reserved spaces on the north ends of the Parrington (north) Oval, can be obtained at the Museum of Art’s security desk. For further information, to make arrangements for group tours or accommodation on the basis of disability, please call (405) 325-3272.

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