BOGART: OU's own on view
OU art professor’s works spotlighted in show

Recent paintings and works on paper by George Bogart, University of Oklahoma professor of art, will be exhibited at the OU’s Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art through May 30 beginning with a public opening reception Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

“George Bogart: New Work” is the artist’s second one-man exhibition at the OU art museum after his first in 1972, and his work has beenregularly included in the Biennial School of Art Faculty Exhibition at the OU museum.

Bogart will also present a gallery talk at 2 p.m. May 2.

“My paintings are about light, energy, color, and space,” Bogart says of his work. “Color is of primary importance and is used to depict form and space in my work. I do not attempt to describe or narrate my paintings but wish for the viewer to experience my art much as one does life. It is my hope to paint the essence of my ideas unencumbered by technical slight-of-hand, nostalgia, or art magazine rhetoric.

“For me, painting is the purest, most difficult, truthful, perplexing, joyous, frustrating, and at times the most rewarding experience I know.”

The artist earned his bachelor’s degree in art from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 1956 and his master’s degree in painting from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1959.

A teacher of art since 1959, Bogart has taught at the universities of Washington, Texas and Penn State before coming to OU in 1970. He also served as a guest faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1978-79.

He has received teaching awards from both OU and the University of Texas.

Tom Toperzer, director of the OU museum and the exhibition’s curator, described Bogart as “truly a painter’s painter” in reference to the “physically present in Bogart’s painting that obviously enhances and emphasizes his joy of art-making.”

“There is no slight-of-hand in Bogart’s work,” Toperzer said. “In fact, one can almost imagine the artist making his pictures. The typically thick and obvious paints are the result of a physical act. The viewer can see how the painting was made because the order of paint application is there before him.”

Toperzer further described Bogart’s style as “pure painting at its best.”

Bogart has been listed in Who’s Who in American Art since 1965 and Outstanding Educators in America since 1972. His work has won numerous awards and has been exhibited and collected throughout the United States.

The museum at 410 W. Boyd is open from noon to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from noon to 9 p.m. Thursdays; and from 1-4:30 p.m. weekends.

For more information, or for accommodations due to disability, call 325-3272.