Gallery Talk, Lecture, Exhibit of Works by Distinguished Visiting Artist Set

Members of the university and Norman communities are invited to meet Jim Waid, distinguished visiting artist in the School of Art, at a gallery talk and lecture this month. Waid, described as "a desert dweller who paints big, bold, imaginary landscapes filled with verdant vegetation in desert hues," will present a gallery talk from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art and a slide lecture of his work from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, in 203 Fred Jones Center.


Waid said the forms in his work are always organic, with a geometry that is abstracted from nature rather than copied. "I'm not copying what I'm seeing in nature, but trying to understand the processes to see if they can be put to a painterly use," he said. An Oklahoma native born in Elgin, Waid attended the OU Laboratory School in Norman before moving to Carlsbad, N.M. Since 1980, he has lived and worked in Tucson, Ariz., exhibiting nationally and internationally in group and solo exhibitions. He is represented by the Riva Yares Gallery in Scottsdale, Ariz., the Jean Albano Gallery in Chicago and the Morgan Gallery in Kansas City, Mo.

The Distinguished Visiting Artist program is intended to introduce OU art students to top professional artists who can serve as role models.

For more information and accommodations on the basis of disability, call the OU School of Art at 325-2691.

Russell Center to Present Lecture on Western Painter Karl Bodmer

Ron Tyler, professor of art history at the University of Texas, Austin, will present a slide lecture titled "Why Bodmer? A Scientific Illustrator in the American West" on Thursday, Oct. 24.

Tyler's lecture, scheduled for 7 p.m. in Catlett Music Center's Morris R. Pitman Recital Hall, is the first of two in the Distinguished Lecture Series sponsored by the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West and the School of Art.

Following the lecture, the public is invited to a reception at the Russell Center. Both events are free and open to the public.

Swiss artist Johann Karl Bodmer (1809-1893) accompanied Prince Alexander Philip Maximilian on an anthropological expedition across America to the Dakotas and Montana between 1832 and 1834. Along the way, Bodmer produced landscapes and a stunning record of the Plains Indians. Maximilian subsequently published an account of the expedition, with a separate volume of engravings after Bodmer's original watercolors.

Tyler is executive director of the Texas State Historical Association and has been a curator and an assistant director at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. He has published widely and has organized numerous exhibitions in the field of Western American art.

On Thursday, Nov. 14, Joan Troccoli, director of the Institute of Western American Art at the Denver Museum of Art, will present a second slide lecture, "George Catlin in Indian Territory."

For more information and accommodations on the basis of disability, call the Russell Center at 325-5937.

Glass Artist John Pierce Exhibits Work

John Pierce, an artist who creates complex sculptures in glass, will show recent works in an exhibition, "Progressive Movements," at the OU School of Art. The exhibition will be on view Monday, Oct. 21, through Thursday, Oct. 31, in the Lightwell Gallery.

The public is invited to a reception for the artist at the gallery from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26. The artist will talk about his work at 2:30 p.m.

Pierce, who holds a master's degree in fine arts from Ohio State University, teaches sculpture and ceramics at McKinney High School in Plano, Texas. He spends evenings and weekends making glassworks.

In a statement about this exhibition, Pierce says, "I have always been concerned with the issues of structure, scale and rhythm in my work. Glass has many inherent qualities such as fragility, translucency and fluidity. I used these concepts to create glass structures, some of substantial scale, that demonstrate rhythm, repetition and balance."

Pierce applies a variety of surface treatments after the glass-blowing process. He says he is influenced by the elements of structure, rhythm and improvisation in music: "This body of work is focused on designing visual music using glass-blown parts to create the whole," he said.

Andrew Phelan, director of the School of Art, said, "The School of Art is delighted to be able to present the work of such a dynamic young artist."