NEWS RELEASE

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New Perspectives in Native American Art and Art of the American West

NORMAN, OKLA. (August 12, 2014) – “New Perspectives in Native American Art and Art of the American West,” the University of Oklahoma School of Art and Art History Graduate Student Symposium in Art History, will take place on Friday, September 5, in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 555 Elm Ave., in the OU Arts District.

The symposium will begin with a reception and keynote address by Emily B. Neff, Ph.D, on Thursday, Sept. 4 at 6 p.m. Neff is the Wylodean and Bill Saxon Director and Chief Curator of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Two panels of presentations, including talks by eight visiting art history graduate students, are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 5. This daylong event is free and open to the public.

Eight graduate student speakers have been invited from prestigious programs in the US and Canada, including The Art Institute of Chicago and the City University of New York, to present new
research on Native American Art and Art of the American West. Topics include the exploration and exploitation of land in the 19th century and contemporary Native American art.

Symposium speakers include:

- Hilary R. Fleck, Indiana University, who will discuss “‘To Know America is to Love It’… Late Nineteenth Century Promotion of the American West and the Work of Thomas Moran.”

- Spencer Wigmore, University of Delaware, who will discuss “Crowded Deserts and Empty Gardens: Custer’s Black Hills Expedition, William Henry Illingworth’s Stereographs, and the Questions of Federal Oversight.”

- Matthew Coleman, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, who will discuss “Remoteness as Primitivism: Spiral Jetty and The American West.”

- Christopher Green, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, will discuss “Got Land?: The Problematic Exhibition of a Geographic Essentialism in Contemporary Native American Art.”

- Kristine Ronan, University of Michigan, will discuss “‘Mandan Buffalo Dancer’: Shifting the Encounter Paradigm.”

- Bridget K. Johnson, University of Washington, will discuss “Columbia River Style Mountain Sheep Horn Bowls and Ladles: An Historical, Stylistic and Functional Analysis.”
• Elizabeth Murphy, University of Southern California, will discuss “Crafting Modern Indian Art.”

• Charlotte Hoelke, Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, will discuss "OMG!! Did she just say NDN penis? Sovereign Erotics in the Artwork of Dionne Paul".

“This event underscores the healthy working relationship between the School of Art and Art History and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art,” says Dr. W. Jackson Rushing, III, Adkins Presidential Professor of Art History and Mary Lou Milner Carver Chair in Native American Art. “The two subjects of the graduate student presentations, Native American Art and Art of the American West, are the twin tracks of the OU doctoral program in art history.”

For more information on the OU School of Art and Art History and the Charles M. Russell Center visit art.ou.edu. For more information on the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art visit ou.edu/fjjma. For accommodations on the basis of disability at the symposium, call (405) 325-2691. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located at 555 Elm Ave., in the OU Arts District.

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