OU Art Museum Hosts Los Alamos Lecture Dec. 4

NORMAN, OKLA. – The pivotal role of Los Alamos, New Mexico, in the development of the atomic bomb during World War II and how memories of this history have been mediated in visual culture is the topic of a public lecture at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in December. The talk is in conjunction with a new exhibition about Southwest Abstract Expressionist art.

Alison Fields, the Mary Lou Milner Carver Professor of Art of the American West at the University of Oklahoma School of Art and Art History, will present Los Alamos in History, Memory, and Visual Culture at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4, in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium. Admission is complimentary.

“The establishment of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico in 1943 was a pivotal moment in American history, and coincided with the rise of Abstract Expressionism,” Fields said. “My talk will explore how memories of Los Alamos have been expressed visually over time – through art exhibits, science museums, films and public sculptures.”

The lecture is the final program offered as part of Macrocosm/Microcosm: Abstract Expressionism in the American Southwest, an exhibition that opened in October.

Abstract Expressionists Elaine de Kooning, Richard Diebenkorn and other East and West Coast artists found inspiration in the expansive land and sky of the American Southwest, using gestural brushwork and veils of color to depict the vast spaces and distinctive coloring of the landscape. They joined with local artists in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas to create a distinctly modern view of the Southwest that expressed the aesthetic and cultural concerns of postwar America.

With more than 60 works representing nearly 40 American painters and sculptors, Macrocosm/Microcosm not only documents the spread of Abstract Expressionism from major urban centers to other parts of the country but also
how artists of the Southwest adapted the techniques of the style to interpret the region.

*Macrosom/Microcosm: Abstract Expressionism in the American Southwest* is on display through Jan. 4, 2015.

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. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting [www.ou.edu/fjjma](http://www.ou.edu/fjjma).

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