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Houston Artist Richard Stout to Address FJJMA Oct. 16

NORMAN, OKLA. – The 1950s American Southwest became a crossroads for Abstract Expressionist artists, not only from New York and the San Francisco Bay Area, but also from the Midwest. Richard Stout, one of the foremost modern painters in Houston, will discuss the artistic climate of the city in the 1950s and ’60s during a public lecture at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art.

The complimentary lecture is offered in conjunction with the museum’s new exhibition, Macrocosm/Microcosm: Abstract Expressionism in the American Southwest, which opened Oct. 3.

“Mr. Stout was one of the most important Modernists working in Houston at mid-century,” said Mark White, the Eugene B. Adkins Senior Curator and Curator of Collections at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. “His influence looms large in the art history of that city, and we are pleased to host him for a guest lecture at the University of Oklahoma.”

During his lecture, The Shape of Art in Houston, Stout will speak about the opportunities that cities have to shape their cultural future while using Houston as a specific example.

Born in Beaumont, Texas, Stout earned his bachelor of fine arts degree from the School of Art Institute of Chicago and his master of fine arts degree from the University of Texas in Austin.
His works are included in multiple museums and organizations across Houston, as well as the Dallas Museum of Art; the Butler Institute of Art in Youngstown, Ohio; and the Kupferstichkabinett in Dresden, Germany. Over the past 60 years, Stout’s works have been displayed in nearly 100 exhibitions across the globe, including solo and group exhibitions in New Orleans, Dallas, New York, Kansas City and Houston, as well as Norway, Italy, Iran and Germany.

Recent exhibitions include paintings and sculpture at William Reaves Fine Art in Houston and the UAC Gallery at Houston Baptist University. Stout’s website is www.rstoutart.com.

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.

More information about the exhibition and programs is available on the museum’s website at www.ou.edu/fjjma.

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 the generosity of the OU Office of the President and the OU Athletics Department. The museum is closed on Mondays. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting www.ou.edu/fjjma.

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**IMAGE CREDIT**

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Macrocosm/Microcosm: Abstract Expressionism in the American Southwest, which opened Oct. 3.

Richard Stout (U.S., b. 1934)
*Landscape with White Sky*, 1956
Oil on Masonite, 23 1/2 x 34 7/8 in.
The Hallmark Art Collection, Kansas City, Missouri.