NEWS RELEASE March 31, 2015

NATIONAL WEATHER CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA - NORMAN

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WITH IMAGE (additional images available)

National Weather Center Biennale Returns April 19

NORMAN, OKLA. – Oklahomans are accustomed to rapid weather changes, but this spring, the public is invited to experience tornadoes, thunderstorms, blizzards and wildfires—all in one place.

Two years ago, the National Weather Center and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma collaborated with the Norman Arts Council to present the first National Weather Center Biennale, which showcases artwork with weather as its central theme. The tradition will be continued with a new international exhibition opening at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 19, in the National Weather Center atrium. The exhibition is open to the public, and admission is complimentary with a valid ID.

“Artists reveal the essence of the object,” said Berrien Moore, director of the National Weather Center. “Cézanne and his apples or his Mont Sainte-Victoire—when we have viewed his pictures, we then see freshly the world and ourselves. So it is with the artistic works in this exhibit. Our familiar experiences with weather are refreshed, and new insights and emotions become part of us and extend our vision. The artist opens a window on our world, and our horizons deepen.”

Renowned conceptual artist Mel Chin of Houston serves as the guest juror for the 2015 biennale. Chin has been recognized with awards and grants from numerous organizations, including the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council for the Arts, Art Matters, Creative Capital and many others.
His work will be featured in upcoming exhibitions at the New Orleans Museum of Art, Blaffer Art Museum and Contemporary Art Museum in Houston, and the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis.

Chin has selected 88 works by artists from around the world for display at this year’s biennale, which runs through June 14. Entries are categorized into three mediums: painting, photography and works on paper. The selected winners in each category will receive cash prizes in recognition of their accomplishment, all of which will be selected and announced at the public opening April 19. Best in Show will take home $10,000, and the winner of each individual category will receive $5,000.

“Those of us involved in the National Weather Center Biennale are all so pleased to see the final selections for the exhibit,” said Erinn Gavaghan, executive director of the Norman Arts Council. “This is truly a show for any artist who works within the subject of weather. From minimalism through abstract through traditional landscapes, the interpretations of the human experience with weather are represented in 88 unique and exciting works of art.”

“The breadth and depth of the artwork selected for the 2015 biennale is simply remarkable,” said Tim Stark, exhibition manager for the National Weather Center Biennale. “From abstracted forms to finely detailed photographs, the biennale is a true and diverse sample of how artists are calling on the weather and climate for inspiration and responding to both with creativity and ingenuity. Drawing artwork from across the country and beyond, the biennale is poised to be a very special exhibition.”

The winning entries from the 2013 National Weather Center Biennale can be viewed at www.nwcbiennale.org. The exhibition will be open to the public with complimentary admission from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Visitors are asked to provide a photo ID for entry.

Completed in 2006, the 244,000-square-foot National Weather Center is the anchor of a unique research and learning community that includes the nation’s largest academic meteorology program; five National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research, operations and support organizations; and more than a half dozen private weather and weather technology-related companies – all located within a few hundred yards of each other on the OU Research Campus in Norman, Oklahoma. The central space for the exhibition will be the 9,600-square-foot atrium with gallery lighting and full security.

The National Weather Center’s website is www.nwcnorman.org, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art’s website is www.ou.edu/fjjma and the Norman Arts Council’s website is www.normanarts.org.
For accommodations on the basis of disability, call 405-325-3095.

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**IMAGE CREDIT**

Weather takes the spotlight as the National Weather Center Biennale returns to the University of Oklahoma. A collaboration between the National Weather Center, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art and the Norman Arts Council, the international juried art show features nearly 90 works by artists throughout the United States and overseas. The public is invited to a complimentary opening reception at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 19, at the National Weather Center. Shown here is the 2013 Best of Show award winning work, *Pershing Square, Los Angeles*, by Elizabeth Patterson.