International Artists Shine at National Weather Center Biennale

NORMAN, OKLA. – Late spring and early summer typically reveal active weather patterns in Oklahoma, and this year will establish a new precedent. However, this particular weather can only be found indoors.

The National Weather Center and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma have teamed up with the Norman Arts Council to present the first international biennale to be held at the National Weather Center Atrium beginning Earth Day, April 22. The National Weather Center Biennale showcases art’s window on the impact of weather on the human experience through three media – painting, works on paper and photography.

“It is easy to see how the weather influences peoples’ daily lives, but art often exerts a more subtle influence,” said Alan Atkinson, exhibition curator and art instructor at OU. “It makes sense to combine them in a venue that will underscore the ways that both art and weather shape our humanity.”

Initial jurors have selected 100 works for display at the exhibition from more than 700 pieces submitted by nearly 400 artists representing all 50 states and multiple countries. A panel of three guest jurors will select a winning piece from each of the three categories as well as name one piece the Best of Show.

“We are very fortunate to have such an amazing response from international artists who entered very intriguing and impressive works,” said Ghislain d’Humières, director of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. “The level of talent represented in this initial biennale is complemented by a truly incredible panel of our guest judges, who will have the difficult task of narrowing down these works to prize winners.”
The final jurors are Christoph Heinrich, the Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the Denver Art Museum; Spencer Finch, an American artist specializing in glass and light installations; and Jacqui Jeras, a broadcast meteorologist with WJLA-TV in Washington, D.C.

“We are honored by the experts who agreed to serve as our three judges,” said Berrien Moore, director of the National Weather Center. “They bring an artistic sensitivity and breadth with an appreciation of the magic of our planet and its weather. Importantly, all three understand the world of communication and the importance of images.”

Moore also is the dean of the OU College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, vice president of Weather and Climate Programs, and Chesapeake Energy Corporation Chair in Climate Studies.

Category winners will receive $5,000 each and the overall Best of Show winner will be awarded $10,000 and a full-page advertisement in an upcoming issue of Southwest Art Magazine. The winners will be announced during the exhibition’s opening.

“We are so fortunate to have both a world renowned art museum and the National Weather Center as part of the University of Oklahoma in Norman,” said Erinn Gavaghan, executive director of the Norman Arts Council. “This is such a wonderful opportunity for the arts community here to work with these two superb institutions which are bringing the worlds of arts and science together for this truly unique biennale exhibition.”

Atkinson, Moore and Gavaghan served as initial judges who were tasked with narrowing the talented pool of entries to the final 100 works that will be on display at the National Weather Center.

The selected works, including the prize winners will be featured in the biennale exhibition, which is open to the public at no cost. The exhibition officially opens on Earth Day, April 22, 2013, and closes June 2, 2013. The exhibition is open 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 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Visitors will need to present a photo ID for entry. Additional information about the exhibition is available at www.nwcbiennale.org and the biennale’s Facebook and Twitter pages.

Completed in 2006, the 244,000-square-foot National Weather Center building 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, Okla. 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.

SELECTED ARTISTS

Matthew Albanese, *Tornado*, Color Photography
Matthew Albanese, *Wildfire*, Color Photography
M.J. Alexander, *Cloud Cabin*, B&W Photography
Jason Amster, *In Fear of the Sky - Ippongi*, Oil on Media
Daven Anderson, *Last Light*, Paper - Wet Media
Jeanne Apelseth, *Looks Like Rain*, Color Photography
David Bayazed, *Faire Skies*, Paper - Dry Media
Carol Beesley, *The Painted Desert*, Oil on Media
Tom Berenz, *Flooded Car Lot*, Oil on Media
Jess Beyler, Kelvin-Helholtz Cloud, Paper - Wet Media
Harriet Bigham, *Rainy Night Kansas City*, Oil on Media
Judith Brandon, *Tsunami*, Paper - Wet Media
Patti Bray, *Batten Down the Hatches*, Acrylic on Media
Louise Britton, *Pale Twister*, Oil on Media
Sarah Bush, *Snow Will Continue*, Paper - Wet Media
Edward Corkery, *Night at the Opera*, Oil on Media
Don Cornelius, *Losing Battle*, Oil on Media
Rebecca Dierickx-Taylor, *Oklahoma Afternoon*, Oil on Media
Mitch Dobrowner, *Jupiter*, B&W Photography
Mitch Dobrowner, *Rope Out*, B&W Photography
Michael Duane, *Flint Hills Spectacular*, Paper - Dry Media
Roger Edwards, *Lightning on the Cheyenne Ridge*, Color Photography
Buff Elting, *Big Storm*, Paper - Dry Media
Sarah Engel-Barnett, *Selections from the City of Cyclone, 2378*, Color Photography
Alison Fleming, *5 am Commuter*, Oil on Media
Linda Foley, *Northern Lights 01*, Paper - Wet Media
Randolph Fritz, *Exposed*, Color Photography
Rivka Fuchs, *Evening Rain*, Color Photography
Joseph Fucigna, *scape_1_2012*, Paper - Wet Media
Pat Gabriel, *Bright sky - Isolation*, Oil on Media
Raymond Gaddy, *The Incident*, Oil on Media
Lorraine Glessner, *Sun Storm*, Oil on Media
Kristin Goering, *Storm, Night*, Acrylic on Media
Scott Goldsmith, *Walking with Snowboard*, Color Photography
Eleanor Goldstein, *Wind, Bay*, Oil on Media
Ronald Gosses, *Tsunami*, Acrylic on Media
Sarah Hearn, *Nimbus Cloud Study: Absent*, Paper - Dry Media
Tom Heflin, *APPROACHING STORM*, Paper - Dry Media
Ralph Henzler, *Waterproof*, B&W Photography
Richard Hoff, *Downpour*, Paper - Dry Media
Don Holladay, *Midnight at the Outer Banks*, Paper - Print Making
Cecil Houser, *Soothing*, Color Photography
John Hulsey, *After the Deluge II*, Paper - Dry Media
Jane Iverson, *Flooding of the Irrawaddy*, Color Photography
Debby Kaspari, *Rise*, Acrylic on Media
Kirby Kendrick, *Trouble Cometh*, Acrylic on Media
Toni Klemm, *Misty Mirror*, Color Photography
Tamara Kontrimas, *Humandex*, Paper - Wet Media
Jane Lawson, *Gritstones in the Mist*, Acrylic on Media
Trent Lawson, *Gary England, He'll Keep You Advised*, Acrylic on Media
Ira Lee, *Storm on the Hudson*, Color Photography
Ralph Levinson, *Lord of the Air*, Oil on Media
Carol Lukitsch, *Heatwave*, Oil on Media
Steven Maciejewski, *ATREX Mission*, Color Photography
David Mayhew, *Dust Dance*, Color Photography
Lucy Mink, *Up and Under*, Oil on Media
Carolyn Monastra, *Riverboat on Rio Negro dwarfed by approaching storm*, Color Photography
Miles Morgan, *3*, Color Photography
Jim Nawara, *Buena Vista - High Winds*, Oil on Media
Hunter Neal, *Solitude*, Color Photography
Peter Nisbet, *Composition for Cloud in Pewter*, Oil on Media
Doug Oliver, *Out of the East*, Acrylic on Media
Doug Osa, *South Lawrence Fields*, Oil on Media
Elizabeth Patterson, *Pershing Square, Los Angeles*, Paper - Dry Media
Elizabeth Patterson, *Golden Chain Highway, Jackson*, Paper - Dry Media
Darby Perrin, *Majesty of the Day*, Oil on Media
Jean Plough, *New Orleans 8/29 - Isaac*, Acrylic on Media
Jeff Potter, *Mount Cochetopa Storm*, Paper - Dry Media
Peter Ramon, *Thaw*, Acrylic on Media
Laurel Redefer, *As Soon as the Storm is Over*, Oil on Media
Linda Tuma Robertson, *Storm Watch on the South Canadian River*, Oil on Media
Jason Sacran, *The Rains*, Oil on Media
Irene Santoli, *Drought*, Acrylic on Media
Sue Schofield, *Rain*, Acrylic on Media
Chris Segre-Lewis, *High Plains Tempest*, Oil on Media
Alexandra Sherman, *You and I*, Paper - Wet Media
Brad Stevens, *Updraft (Pattern Series #3)*, Acrylic on Media
Peter Stilton, *Meeting at Frenchman’s Bay*, Acrylic on Media
Serena Supplee, *Touch & Go!*, Oil on Media
Kate Temple, *Water no.2 from Deluge series*, Paper - Print Making
Sherwin Tibayan, *_cloud_*, B&W Photography
Shira Toren, *Nebula, again*, Acrylic on Media
Noel Torrey, *Skinner's Wheat*, Oil on Media
Patricia Vivian, *A Dry Wind Beyond*, Acrylic on Media
Dawn Waters Baker, *Downburst*, Oil on Media
Stephen Webber, *Homage to Rothko*, Color Photography
Jean Wetta, *Weather Permitting*, Oil on Media
Mike Whiteley, *Rain, Waldo Canyon Fire, Colorado Springs Colorado*, Acrylic on Media
Nancy Wickum, *Aftermath No. 5*, Oil on Media
Erin Wiersma, *2.20.12 9PM*, Acrylic on Media
Sherre Wilson-Liljegren, *Copman's Tomb*, Oil on Media
John Wolfe, *Before the Snow*, Acrylic on Media
Suze Woolf, *Fire Scar*, Paper - Wet Media
Becky Yazdan, *Squall*, Oil on Media
Judy Youngblood, *The Big Rain*, Paper - Print Making

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**IMAGE CUTLINES**

One hundred selected works have been announced for exhibition at the National Weather Center Biennale, which opens to the public in April. A total of $25,000 in prizes will be awarded in three categories, plus a Best of Show.

Tony Abeyta (Navajo, b. 1965)
*Storm from the South*, 2011
Oil on canvas, 36 x 48 in.
On loan from a private collector.