Faculty Exhibition Closing With Public Reception Sept. 1

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA — After a nearly three-month run, the School of Art and Art History Faculty Exhibition at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is coming to a close. The public is invited to a reception at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, at the museum on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus.

The faculty exhibition, the first in 12 years at the art museum, features recent works by 26 faculty members in a broad spectrum of styles and media that are indicative of the range of the current faculty’s art. The exhibition is designed to showcase the results of their research and creativity.

“There is an unexpected aspect for the public to enjoy if you’ve already been to see the exhibition,” said Bette Talvacchia, director of the OU School of Visual Arts. “In the three months since this show began, the school has acquired a new name. We are now the School of Visual Arts, and there is a fun new graphic to depict that.”

Mark White, the Wylodean and Bill Saxon Director of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, said the public has enjoyed the summer exhibition.

“The School of Art and Art History Faculty Exhibition has returned to the museum for the first time in more than a decade, and we are pleased with the positive response,” he said. “It is an honor to exhibit the innovative work of our distinguished faculty, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in years to come.”
Rather than open with a public reception, the faculty will offer a pair of gallery talks and the closing reception near the end of the exhibition. A talk within the Nancy Johnston Records Gallery is scheduled for 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, with Robert Bailey, Alison Fields and Allison Palmer, followed by a second gallery talk and closing reception at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, with Jackson Rushing, Mary Jo Watson, and Byron Price. All events are complimentary and open to the public. The exhibition closes Sept. 4.

In addition to traditional mediums such as ceramics, painting, video, photography and sculpture, the exhibition includes new media, 3-D printed works and explorations in scents and sound. Art history and visual communication faculty have contributed design and research publications for visitors to peruse.

“It is exciting for the School of Art and Art History to participate in this important revival of a rich tradition from the past,” said Talvacchia. “The museum has re-opened its space to showcase the talent of the school’s faculty, which I think will be especially impressive for the variety and high level of art on display.”

Talvacchia emphasized the importance of the exhibition as a renewed commitment for collaboration between the school and the museum.

“This renewal also contains an innovative element, since Mark White opened his invitation to the art historians as well as to the artists,” she said. “It is an obvious, but unexpected, way to show the close integration of our programs, and it will result in a few surprises both in the exhibition itself and the events that will take place around it.”

Additional information about the OU School of Art and Art History is available online at www.art.ou.edu. The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art’s website is 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 a generous gift from 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.

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IMAGE CREDIT
A summer faculty exhibition closes with a public reception Thursday, Sept. 1, at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. The *School of Art and Art History Faculty Exhibition* features recent works by current OU faculty in a variety of mediums, including this 12-paneled 2016 laser-etched wax piece by contemporary sculpture associate professor Jonathan Hils titled *Ether*.

Jonathan Hils
*Ether*, 2016
Laser-etched wax on wood panel