Philbrook Museum Curator to Discuss Art in Native Collection Oct. 18 at OU Art Museum

NORMAN – Christina E. Burke, curator of Native American Art and Non-Western Art at the Philbrook Museum of Art, will present a complimentary guest lecture at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18. The lecture, Outside the Frame: Three-Dimensional Art in the James T. Bialac Native American Art Collection, surveys selections from the nearly 600 three-dimensional Native works of art in the Bialac Collection.

Burke will discuss the large and diverse array of ceramics, sculpture and cultural arts such as rattles, baskets and textiles. Using examples from the collection, she will explore the connections between pieces of contemporary art and the cultural traditions of their communities.

The lecture is being presented in conjunction with two new exhibitions at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. The James T. Bialac Native American Art Collection: Selected Works and Indigenous Aesthetics: Selections from the James T. Bialac Native American Art Collection opened Sept. 27 and are on display through Dec. 30.

OU President David L. Boren announced in March 2010 that the university had received one of the most important private collections of Native American art in the country. The gift came to OU from the private collection of James T. Bialac of Arizona. The multimillion-dollar collection of more than 4,000 works represents indigenous cultures across North America, especially the Pueblos of the Southwest, the Navajo, the Hopi, many of the tribes of the Northern and Southern Plains and the Southeastern tribes.

Burke is a cultural anthropologist with degrees from the University of Rochester in New York and Indiana University. Her research focuses on Native North America, particularly art and material culture of the past and present. She has collaborated on a variety of endeavors with American Indian people, including
collections research and exhibitions, as well as the development of Native language curriculum materials.

Much of Burke’s work focuses on Indian history, particularly how Native people record and remember important events in oral, pictographic and textual traditions. She also works with Native artists by exploring creative traditions and their contemporary expressions.

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 OU students with a current student ID and all museum association members, $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $3 for children 6 to 17 years of age, and $2 for OU faculty/staff. Admission also is complimentary for military veterans with proof and children 5 and under. The museum is closed on Mondays and admission is free on Tuesdays. The museum’s website is www.ou.edu/fjjma. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938.

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