

Fourth annual drawing exhibition opens at USU

By Patrick Williams
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Drawing is the medium next featured in an exhibition organized by the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art (NEH) at Utah State University.

According to exhibit organizers, the exhibition provides new ways of viewing and defining drawing. Some images border on painting while others include photographs that have been drawn upon, introducing color.

"We want viewers to really consider and evaluate what a drawing is," said Rose Milovich, associate curator at the NEH museum.

Viewers will have a wide range of drawings to survey in the "4th Biennial Drawing Exhibition," featuring works selected from 12 states. The show runs through March 20 in the museum's Upper Gallery.

Guest juror Selma Holo was at USU for three days in early December selecting the works shown. She worked closely with museum intern Jeannie Ingram at that time, reviewing slides of more than 300 entries.

That field was finally narrowed to the 49 works that are shown. Ingram is responsible for assembling the show and coordinating installation efforts at the museum.

Holo is director of the Fisher Gallery at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She has directed the development of numerous nation-

al and international exhibitions including "Sense of Place," "Contemporary Prints, Contemporary Visions," "California Sculpture Show" and "French Spirit Today."

Holo's objective in assembling works for the "4th Biennial Drawing Exhibition" was to choose a broad spectrum of works, making the show varied and different, Ingram said.

"Modes of representation in the show range from works removed from reality to the narrative," she said. "Quality and variety were also important considerations. The final selection shows a broad spectrum of what's going on in drawing."

High contrast black and white images are shown. Pencil, charcoal and pastel works are included. Color is used in a limited number of works, adding vivid contrast to the black and white works. Other drawings decidedly lean toward illustration.

Since all works were initially reviewed on slides, Ingram has enjoyed receiving the actual works. One of the surprises is that many of the works are quite large, including one work that approaches six feet.

"It has been important for me to try to capture and understand what the artist is saying," Ingram said. "Viewers should consider this as well. We should all explore and discover the subtleties of the images."

The "4th Biennial Drawing Exhibition" was open to artists currently living in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Texas, Washington and Wyoming.

All 12 states are represented in the final exhibition. One or more works may receive purchase awards and become part of the NEH museum's permanent collection.

The Biennial has undergone several changes since first appearing at USU eight years ago. Prior to 1991 the show included works on paper — illustrations, drawings, paintings, photographs, prints and etchings — and only from the Mountain States.

The show was expanded to include work from six additional states but the field of submissions was narrowed to just drawing.

Milovich discusses the exhibition Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 3:30 p.m. A reception follows and the public is invited.

The Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekends 2-5 p.m. The museum is closed Monday and holidays.