AMES, IA – The exhibition **COHERENCE: An Immersive Laser Installation by Dan Corson** will open Thursday, March 5. Dan Corson will speak about his past, present and upcoming projects during his **artist lecture** at 7:00 pm on March 5 in the Morrill Hall auditorium, followed by a special exhibition viewing at 8:00 pm with the artist. This free exhibition will run through May 29, 2015 at the Christian Petersen Art Museum, 1017 Morrill Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

**About the Exhibition**
The term "laser" originated as an acronym for "Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation." A laser differs from other sources of light because it emits light coherently. Spatial coherence allows a laser to be focused to a tight spot, enabling laser cutting. Spatial coherence also allows a laser beam to stay narrow over long distances, enabling applications such as laser pointers.

"The exhibition COHERENCE, is the culmination of a series of laser-focused experiments and art installations that I have been working on for the last 10 years. For the exhibition, I have sought to create luminous atmospheric spaces that conjure the infinite and touch our ancient reptilian brain stem in a visceral and phenomenological shared moment." -Dan Corson

COHERENCE, the main room installation, utilizes the special inherent quality of spatial coherence to create the illusion of infinite spaces and provides the magic that will illuminate one filament and not the one next to it. Exploiting this special and unique nature of lasers elevates this environment to more than just a science experiment by creating the appearance of internal illumination where there is none, motion where there is none and with the addition of a mirrored floor, produces a subtle perceptive disorientation while defining and marking space in infinite and mesmerizing ways.

"I see these pieces as exploring the very act of seeing- as it relates how light enters our eyes and produces the experiences we perceive and feel. The kinetic manipulation of laser beams through the vibrationally calibrated scanners and pea-sized mirrors, creates a perception of movement and allows for the project to change and evolve marking both time and space. Aesthetically, there is a formal
quality to the work that through a minimalist vocabulary allows the viewer/participants to personally engage the work through their subjective sensorial experiences and corporeal movement through the gallery.”
- Dan Corson

A full color gallery guide for the exhibition will be available in late March.

**About the Artist**

Dan Corson is an award winning public artist from Seattle, WA. He attended the University of Washington where he received his Masters in Art, and received his BA in Theatrical Design from San Diego State University. His light-inspired installations have since received numerous awards. He has been honored with 8 Public Art Network Year-in-Review National Awards. Corson has received the NIAUSI prize, the NW Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies fellowship in Italy. He has partnered with architects on projects and in turn been listed by *Seattle Homes and Lifestyle* as a definition of “Seattle Design.” Through collaborations, he has also received three awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects and four from American Institute of Architects.

Corson’s artwork blurs the boundaries of art, theatrical design, architecture, landscape architecture and sometimes even magic. Projects of his have ranged from complex rail stations and busy public intersections to quiet interpretive buildings, meditation chambers and galleries. His installations often use and engage the viewers as co-creators. The viewer/participant gives the environments an added layer connecting the audience to Corson’s work. More: dancorson.com

**Artist Lecture & Opening Reception**

Please join us Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm for a lecture with the public artist, Dan Corson. The lecture will be followed by the *COHERENCE* exhibition reception at 8:00 pm for an opportunity to meet the artist and tour the exhibition in the Christian Petersen Art Museum, 1017 Morrill Hall. Light refreshments will be provided. This event is free and no RSVP is required.

“This exhibition will show visitors how art, science, and technology are constantly influencing and impacting each other and the most spectacular results come from the combination of all three.” - Nancy Gebhart, University Museums’ Educator of Visual Literacy and Learning

This exhibition is organized by University Museums as part of its 40th anniversary, and the Iowa West Foundation with support from the Neva M. Petersen Endowment for the Christian Petersen Art Museum, the estate of Shirley Held, Kathy and John Howell, Peter and Rae Reilly, the College of Engineering, Country Plastics, The ARK Pet Shop, the College of Design, and the University Museums Membership.

**Admission and Hours**

The **Christian Petersen Art Museum** is located at 1017 Morrill Hall at Iowa State University. Admission is free, however there is a suggested donation of $3 per visitor. The Christian Petersen Art Museums’s regular hours are as follows: Monday through Friday from 11:00am to 4:00pm. The Christian Petersen Art Museum is closed on weekends and University holidays. There is minimal paid meter parking on Morrill Road. There is paid ramp parking at the Memorial Union Ramp (aprox. 2-4 minute walk from Morrill Hall). There is paid parking at the Armory (aprox. 2-4 minute walk from Morrill Hall).
Special Hours for this Exhibition: The Christian Petersen Art Museum will be open the week of Spring Break (March 16 - 20, 2015) for regular hours, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. The museum will also be open to the public on Saturday, May 9, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, for Graduation Open House.

Media Information
To schedule interviews and/or to photograph events, please contact Allison Sheridan (515-294-3342 aclone@iastate.edu). Images available upon request.

For more information on University Museums, call 515-294-9500 or visit our web site at www.museums.iastate.edu.

Additional images available upon request.

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