Exhibitions of the development of the ISU public art collection
and Christian Petersen’s works of art
Opens Jan. 11 at the Christian Petersen Art Museum, ISU

Ames, IA – On Jan. 11, 2016 the Christian Petersen Art Museum, part of University Museums at Iowa State University, is opening the new 2016 exhibitions that takes a lens to the ISU public art collection and it’s democratic development, and an exhibition that showcases the artwork of Christian Petersen, one of the founders of the ISU public art collection.

CAMPUS BEAUTIFUL
Curating a Democratic Public Art Collection for Student Learning
Jan. 11 – July 29, 2016
1017 Morrill Hall, central campus

Creating a beautiful campus that inspired student learning was a practical, educational, aesthetic and founding decision of Iowa State College in the 1860s. Establishing a verdant landscape was the original campus aesthetic expression, with iconic architecture soon to be constructed. In 1927, President Raymond Hughes established a fine art collection to contribute to an aesthetic campus.

Over eight decades later the Art on Campus Collection has grown to become the largest campus public art collection in the nation, with its primary mission to serve as an educational means that inspires learning, and contributes to diversity of thought and expression.

This overview exhibition explores the methods and processes of commissioning and acquiring works of art for the Art on Campus Collection, and how campus participation from thousands of faculty, staff, students and alumni have directed the selection of public art at Iowa State.

This exhibition is organized by the University Museums with support from the Office of the President, Ann and Al Jennings and University Museums Membership.
PROGRAM - Art + Issues
Wednesday, January 27 at 7:00 pm, Christian Petersen Art Museum, 1017 Morrill Hall
This gallery talk will use art as a launching pad for a community discussion on campus issues. The current exhibition is focused on the democratic process of commissioning public art for the Art on Campus Collection and will be the foundation for our discussion. The program will include a guided looking exercise, followed by an open-ended dialogue facilitated by the University Museums’ Educator of Visual Literacy and Learning, which draws upon the art in the exhibition and the issues raised by the attendees.

PROGRAM - CPAM Speaks
Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 pm, Christian Petersen Art Museum, 1017 Morrill Hall
For more than 20 years, University Museums has commissioned and collected poetry inspired by the Art on Campus Collection. CPAM Speaks will present a selection of the Art on Campus Poetry Collection that has been inspired by public art in the current exhibition. Any interested attendees will be invited to share their own art inspired poetry.

Christian Petersen, Sculptor
The Founding Artist of the Art on Campus Collection
Jan. 11 – July 29, 2016
0003 Morrill Hall, central campus
At age 48 Christian Petersen (Danish-American, 1885-1961) came to Iowa State and completed the History of Dairying Mural (1933-34) in the Dairy Industry Courtyard. While Petersen originally was to be on campus for six months and create one campus art project, he remained for 22 years as Iowa State’s sculptor-in-residence and created 12 major public works of art, and over 400 studio sculptures. Petersen was also the nation’s first permanent, university artist-in-residence, a truly remarkable and profound designation at any institution of higher education, but especially on a campus focusing on science, technology and agriculture. Petersen retired from Iowa State in 1955.

In 1982 the University Museums formally established Iowa State’s Art on Campus Program and Collection, and considers Christian Petersen to be the founding artist for this campus public art collection, although Christian Petersen probably would have never claimed the honor for himself. Today, the Art on Campus Collection is the largest such campus collection in the nation. The Art on Campus Collection is a strategic educational and cultural asset for Iowa State students.

This exhibition presents works of art, models and drawings by Christian Petersen from the permanent collections. The exhibition includes works of art before Petersen came to Iowa and also explores the creative processes he used to research, create, site and install the public works of art now in the Art on Campus Collection. After viewing this exhibition, you may wish to tour campus and experience the completed public art projects by Petersen that intellectually and aesthetically enrich Iowa State’s campus.

This exhibition is organized by the University Museums with support from the University Museums Membership.

Admission and Hours
The Christian Petersen Art Museum is located on the ground and first floors of Morrill Hall on central campus. Admission is free, however there is a suggested donation of $3 per visitor. The Christian Petersen Art Museum regular hours are as follows: Monday through Friday from 11:00am to 4:00pm. The Christian Petersen Art Museum is closed weekends and during University breaks and holidays. Parking available at the Memorial Union Ramp (fees apply).
**Media Information**
To schedule interviews and/or to photograph exhibitions or events, please contact Allison Sheridan (515-294-3342 aclone@iastate.edu).

*For more information on University Museums, call 515-294-9500 or visit our web site at [www.museums.iastate.edu](http://www.museums.iastate.edu).*

*Additional images available upon request.*

###

Follow us online and be social @