NEW Fall Exhibitions Open

Aug. 21nd at the Brunnier Art Museum, Iowa State University

Ames, IA – The Fall 2017 exhibitions begin for University Museums, including an opening reception for *Faces of Iowa State*, hosted by the Iowa State Deans in support of *Faces of Iowa State*, with the Vice President for Research, Vice President for Extension and Outreach, and University Museums. The free event takes place Monday, August 21 from 4:30–6PM at the Brunnier Art Museum.

*Faces of Iowa State: A Portrait Series by Rose Frantzen*

August 21 – January 8, 2017

Beginning in the 1930s, at the height of the Great Depression, Iowa State University (ISU) made it a priority to commission and paint portraits. The commemoration of presidents, deans, accomplished faculty and heralded alumni strove to honor the college's heritage and legacies. This tradition continues today with the active commissioning of portraits by departments and colleges all across ISU and was furthered at the 2016 Iowa State Fair.

Painted on site *Faces of Iowa State* features the 39 portraits painted by Maquoketa artist Rose Frantzen. Frantzen's art has been featured nationally, including an exhibit of her Portrait of Maquoketa project at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. The exhibition subjects were chosen by Iowa State University's colleges and select units. Portrait sitters included students, faculty, staff, alumni and individuals with close ties to the university.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response the ISU portraits received during the State Fair *Faces of Iowa State* is a touring exhibition that seeks to share these magnificent paintings to sites across the state. The focus of *Faces of Iowa State* is to celebrate not only the tradition and the impact of portraiture at ISU, but also show
the development of ISU as a story of democracy where the vision, dreams, and actions of individual people play a vital role in how our collective identity is shaped.

This exhibition is curated and organized by University Museums with significant support from Roberta and Howard Ahmanson; Ray and Susan Johnson; Barb and Bill Clark; Denise and Jay Hartz, Hotel Pattee; and University Museums. Additional generous support has also been provided by Roger and Barbara Bruene; Michael A. Caufield; City of Perry; College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Iowa State University; Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau; Mark and Anne Honeyman; Al and Ann Jennings; Jan and Steve Kaiser; Gerald and Karen Kolschowsky; Ladies of LaPoste: Colleen Eckhoff, Jenny Eklund, and Mary Nichols; Vicki and Jerry Lage; Lions Club of Perry; Perry Chamber of Commerce; Perry Rotary Club; Betsy and Eric Peterson; Raccoon Valley Banks; Trustees of Hometown Heritage; and the University Museums Membership.

The art in the exhibition is generously lent from the collections of Howard and Roberta Ahmanson, Raymond and Susan Johnson of Minneapolis, MN, and Fullhart/Carnegie Charitable Trust doing business as Hometown Heritage in Perry, IA.

Amy N. Worthen: The World in Perspective
August 22 – December 17, 2017

Amy Worthen’s first prints were made as a high school student in New York City. She studied with the renowned printmaker Leonard Baskin at Smith College, who pushed her to be both an artist and connoisseur. As a graduate student at the University of Iowa, studying under Mauricio Lasansky and others, Worthen began working with the burin which is the engraving tool needed to cut lines into the metal plate used in intaglio engraving, and refined her knowledge and skills. Worthen moved to Des Moines in 1970 and while teaching art classes at the Des Moines Art Center, her extensive knowledge about the history of printmaking was noted by then director Jim Demetrion and allowed Worthen her first forays into curation.

During the past 40 years, Worthen has successfully bridged two careers, as an artist and art historian. Over her career as a printmaker, Worthen has examined fantasy, the landscape, architecture and space throughout the world, calligraphy, and the history of printmaking, along with numerous prints of her two homes, Iowa and Venice, Italy. Her series of seventeen prints accurately and whimsically depicting the ornate interior of the Iowa State Capitol Building have become emblematic of her art inspired by Iowa. In Venice, she examined the many small and intimate passageways or sotoportego that connect the city, which have become distinctive of her prints of Italy and were published in a limited edition book. Both series are illustrative of her affection for her two homes, along with her exemplary skill in depicting architectural space and perspective.
As an art historian, Worthen has been an important collaborator with University Museums. Her research on the collection of etchings by Jay N. “Ding” Darling at University Museums was originally published in a 1984 catalogue and republished in a third edition in 2014. Her work as a curator and art historian has also often informed her art, which can be seen in the exhibition in her print of engraving tools, created to illustrate her entry on printmaking for the Grove Dictionary of Art.

This exhibition is an opportunity to explore and celebrate the artist Amy Worthen and her impact on the cultural landscape of Iowa and abroad. From her collection of almost 300 prints, Worthen has generously lent 110 prints, 10 sketchbooks, and several printing plates for the exhibition, along with 26 prints already held in the University Museums permanent collection and a few additional select loans. Also on exhibit are several rare books from the 17th and 18th centuries, borrowed from Special Collections at the Iowa State University Library, chosen by the artist to depict the great influence that her studies into the history of printmaking have had upon her artistic and curatorial career.

Amy Worthen has had a significant impact on the arts in Iowa and beyond. This exhibition examines her unique perspective as an artist and scholar. A perspective that has viewed the world, by studying the past and constantly drawing in the present, bringing that accumulated knowledge and inspiration into her exceptionally detailed and personal works of art.

This exhibition is curated and organized by University Museums. The exhibition is supported, in part, by the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Generous support was also given by Mary Bucksbaum Scanlan and Patrick Scanlan, the Ellen and Jim Hubbell Charitable Foundation, Robert Josten and Susan Judkins, RDG Planning & Design, an Anonymous donor, the Ralph and Sylvia G. Green Charitable Foundation, Riley Resource Group-Feed Energ, Greater Iowa Credit Union, Timothy and Rosemary Rahm, and the Mannheimer Family Foundation Fund.

Many of the words of art in the exhibition were kindly loaned by the artist, Amy N. Worthen. Several works of art were also loaned to the exhibition by Olson-Larsen Galleries and Lois and Louis Fingerman.

**GAME ART VS. ART GAME**
August 21 – December 17, 2017

A Pew research study reported that 65% of college students identified as regular video, computer, or online game players. When it comes to video games, students find a way to integrate gaming into their day, whether it’s taking time between classes (or sometimes during class – tsk tsk), while hanging out with friends, or as a distraction from paper writing or other course work. Not only will this exhibition appeal to gamers, but it’s interdisciplinary content successfully blends the social sciences with disciplines like engineering and computer science through art.
This interactive exhibition explores the boundary breaking world of independent game design and includes 15 games for visitors to play, along with prints of various game scenes that emphasize the artistic excellence in the design. Game art and game artists alike are coming to the forefront of contemporary new media art and this exhibition challenges the audience to experience art specifically through video game play that explores social issues including gender, sexuality, race, and politics, questioning what we know and how we learn it. Some games incorporate humor to ease the conversation while some are serious and focused.

Interacting with the game art in the exhibition will offer visitors an understanding of different ways to deal with grief, personal struggles with identity, and how we talk and learn about sex, among other things. This exhibition breaks through the typical art museum display while still providing aesthetic visual art content that is both abstract and representational.

This exhibition was curated by Video Game Art (VGA) Gallery in Chicago and is presented by University Museums with support from Global Reach Internet Productions, Workiva, ISU Surplus, Clifford E. Smith, David Faux, and the University Museums Membership.

FOR A FULL LISTING OF EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH FALL 2017 EXHIBITIONS, VISIT MUSEUMS.IASTATE.EDU/CALENDAR

Admission and Hours
The Brunnier Art Museum is located on the second floor of the Scheman Building, 1805 Center Dr.. Admission is free, however there is a suggested donation of $3 per visitor. The Brunnier Art Museum’s regular hours are as follows: Tuesday through Friday from 11:00am to 4:00pm, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. The Brunnier Art Museum is closed on Mondays and University holidays. Parking available for free north and south of the Scheman Building in the Iowa State Center parking lots.

Media Information
To schedule interviews and/or to photograph exhibitions or events, please contact Jami Milne, 515-294-3342, jmilne@iastate.edu.

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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