

NEWS RELEASE

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Catherine Widgery commissioned for Student Innovation Center's Art in State Buildings program

Come provide your thoughts and input at a **Campus Meet and Greet Reception** with artist Catherine Widgery and the Student Innovation Center public art committee. This is a chance for the ISU community to engage with the artist and share their excitement about the project. Light refreshments will be served.

Catherine Widgery's practice of creating site-specific art works for the public realm spans over 30 years. She has built her career around making public art because she is inspired by the richness of new places and meeting the people who will live with the artwork. She believes that giving her viewers something unexpected or intriguing helps awaken them to their surroundings. Visitors are embraced by her artworks that often exist as shimmering light or movement in a shifting environment.

Catherine Widgery and her team have created more than 40 site-specific public art projects across the US and Canada. Her particular interest and strength is working with communities and teams to create environmental sculptural experiences that respond to the unique spirit, shape and function of a place.



In addition to numerous solo and group exhibitions in galleries and museums, her award winning projects have been featured on the covers of *Sculpture*, *Landscape Architecture*, *Espace* and *World Sculpture News* magazines. Her most recent awards include the CODAwards Best Projects of 2015 for both Healthcare and Transportation, First Prize (Tidal Song) in the TGK 2012 International Competition and the PAN/Americans for the Arts selection of *Cloudbreak* outstanding artwork at 2011 conference. (<http://www.widgery.com/>)





In 2020, the landscape on the west side of campus will include the Student Innovation Center. Situated on Bissell Road, south of Sweeney Hall, the eye-catching glass building will be a central hub for multidisciplinary student collaboration. The Iowa Art in State

Buildings legislation passed in 1979, mandating that one-half of one percent of new construction of university or public buildings to be used to acquire public artwork. At Iowa State, decisions regarding public art associated with new buildings are made in conjunction with each of the buildings' public art acquisitions committees. These committees are made up of faculty, staff and student representatives of the buildings' academic units and University Museums, with consultation from the project design team. The awarding of the SIC commission to Widgery's represents the first public art commission of this size to a woman in ISU's history.



Related Upcoming Programs and Events

Wednesday, February 22, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, Christian Petersen Art Museum, Morrill Hall
Campus Meet and Greet Reception with Catherine Widgery and Student Innovation Center public art committee. Come provide your thoughts about the project and welcome the artist to the ISU campus. Light refreshments will be served.