**News Release**

290 Scheman Building, Ames, Iowa 50011

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**Catherine Widgery commissioned for Student Innovation Center’s**

**Art in State Buildings project**

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 on Wednesday, February 22, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, Christian Petersen Art Museum, Morrill Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. This is a chance for the Iowa State University community to engage with the artist and share their excitement about the Student Innovation Center project. Light refreshments will be served.

“The awarding to Widgery’s of the Student Innovation Center commission represents the largest public art project granted to a woman artist in Iowa State University’s history.” – Lynette Pohlman, Director and Chief Curator, University Museums, Iowa State University

**About the Artist**

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 installations that often exist as shimmering light or movement in a shifting environment.

**Forest Lights, 2016, Oregon Zoo, Portland, OR**
Catherine Widgery and her team have created more than 40 site-specific public art projects across the U.S. and Canada. Her particular interest and strength is in 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 Collaboration of Design + Art (CODA) awards Best Projects of 2015 for both Healthcare and Transportation, First Prize (*Tidal Song*) in the TGK 2012 International Competition and the 2011 Public Art Network/Americans for the Arts selection of *Cloudbreak* as outstanding artwork. ([http://www.widgery.com/](http://www.widgery.com/))

### About the Student Innovation Center

In 2020, the landscape on the west side of Iowa State University 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, mandates that one-half of one percent of new construction of university or public buildings be used to acquire public art. At Iowa State University, 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.
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. Free and open to the public. Parking available in the Memorial Union ramp for a nominal fee.

Contact:
For more information about the event or commission contact Erin O’Malley, Art on Campus Outreach Coordinator, University Museums, 515.294.3342, eomalley@iastate.edu or visit www.museums.iastate.edu.

Additional images available upon request.

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