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World-renowned Andy Nasisse Comes to SUMA

Written by Lola Taylor

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: The Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA) is excited to announce the Andy Nasisse *Badlands* exhibit, which will be on display from September 23 to October 31, 2016, with an artist talk on October 19 at 6:00 pm. This exhibit is a creative collection of sculptures and photographs that explore the arid environment in Utah.

Colorado born, Andy Nasisse had his first ceramics class at the age of 21 at the Instituto Allende in San Miguel De Allende, Mexico. In 1973, he studied photography and completed his MFA in Ceramics at the University of Colorado. Nasisse went on to become a full-time professor of ceramics at the University of Georgia for thirty years, where he also served as the gallery director for ten years. He owned and served as a gallery director for Trace Gallery in Athens, Georgia. Nasisse currently lives in Salt Lake City, Utah and works as an independent studio artist.

Through many years of working with clay, Nasisse was able to develop a method of working with the material that enhances its natural qualities. Nasisse said, "By multiple firing, and layering of slips and glazes, I try to make objects that have stratified active surfaces [which] snap and crackle with energy. I am looking for meaning and content in the dynamics of the process and trying to apply this to my general aesthetic or world view."

Nasisse uses figures, vessels, and landscapes to explore the tension between opposites in his work. Some of his topics of exploration include light and dark, male and female, reason and intuition, night and day, and matter and spirit. He said, "The notion that our lives are bound by a mythic drama that unfolds spontaneously, and that there is an underlying geometry, hidden patterns, and layered meanings to all we see, is a preoccupation that informs much more than just my work."

When asked about his *Badlands* exhibit, Nasisse said, "The essence of this exhibition is to present an aesthetic approach to making art that emerges in two rather different media, but that shares a common vision. When I choose to make a photograph, I look for aspects in the

landscape that suggest faces and figures that are hidden in the natural forms. Likewise, when I create a piece of sculpture, I work in a way that allows me to find similar images in the clay. I think most of your viewers will see and enjoy the relationship between the photographs and sculpture. I also think they will enjoy the individual pieces and understand the relationship to the land and spirit of the great western landscape.”

Andy Nasisse has received numerous awards for his art and has been published in multiple books and magazines. This world-renowned artist’s work will be on display in the Southern Utah Museum of Art, on 13 S 300 W in Cedar City, from September 23 to October 31. The Friends of SUMA invite you to a reception and artist talk by Andy Nasisse on October 19, 2016, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at SUMA. There will be an opportunity to win an Andy Nasisse pot for those renewing their Friends of SUMA membership or joining for the first time. Everyone attending the event will have an opportunity to win one of Susan Harris’ ceramic pieces. Susan Harris is a Professor of Art at Southern Utah University, specializing in ceramics. Come enjoy an evening with great friends, beautiful art, and delicious refreshments.

For Calendar Editors: World-renowned Andy Nasisse Comes to SUMA

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- Who:** Southern Utah Museum of Art
- When:** September 23 - October 31, 2016
- Where:** Southern Utah Museum of Art, 13 S 300 W, Cedar City, Utah
- Tickets:** Free admission, General Public invited to attend
- Info:** Visit www.suu.edu/pva/suma for more information

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