



SOUTHERN UTAH MUSEUM of ART

SOUTHERN UTAH MUSEUM OF ART REOPENS WITH NEW GUIDELINES IN PLACE

*SUMA Creates a Phased Plan to Put Health and Safety of Visitors and
Staff First*

CEDAR CITY, Utah – May 29, 2020 — **Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA)**, on the campus of Southern Utah University (SUU), will reopen its doors to the public on **Monday, June 1** with additional precautions and guidelines for visitors and staff based on state and local health authority recommendations.

“It is in times like these that we need museums,” said Jessica Kinsey, SUMA director/curator. “SUMA has become a cultural community center, offering an artistic retreat for its visitors. I’m thrilled that we can safely reopen for our community.”

To ensure the safety of visitors and staff, SUMA employees are following procedures that include daily temperature checks upon arrival, wearing face masks and gloves when working in the gallery or classroom and disinfecting work stations at the start and end of each shift. SUMA staff have been trained on strict cleaning procedures to keep frequently touched surfaces disinfected on a regular basis. Any employee showing symptoms of COVID-19 or another illness, or has been in contact with someone known to be sick, will be working from home.

The reopening of the museum comes with a new set of hours, Monday - Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in addition to health guidelines for visitors. Some cautionary measures will include:

- Based on square footage, a total of 60 people are permitted in the gallery at one time, including staff
- SUMA will be open from 10-11 a.m. for high-risk groups – those 65 or older or with health complications
- Visitors should keep a distance of six feet between other visitors and museum staff
- The gallery will be marked with designated pathways to assist with visitors in maintaining proper social distancing between others
- Face masks are recommended for all visitors, especially those in the high risk category
- The SUMA Shop will have limited merchandise available for purchase and patrons are asked to not handle merchandise – visitors should ask museum staff for assistance
- No cash will be accepted, but visitors may purchase merchandise with debit or credit cards, Apple Pay or Google Pay

The plan and procedures outlined here are part of a phased plan put together by SUMA leadership to reopen with both visitors and staff in mind. The SUMA leadership team is continually monitoring the situation surrounding COVID-19 to guide changes to guidelines, procedures and the phased reopening plan. Any updates will be communicated via social media, email, and the SUMA website. The plan can be read on SUMA's [website](#).

At this time, SUMA will not be offering in-person programming and events. Family Day and Create Playdate will continue to be offered virtually through September. People wishing to participate can follow along on [SUMA's Facebook page](#) or the [SUMA at Home](#) webpage.

Currently on display is the *2020 Senior BFA Exhibition*, featuring the work of 31 graduated students from the SUU Art & Design program, *Leviathan: Elegy for Ice*, a transformative space examining the themes of climate change, moral and political philosophy, philosophical aesthetics and demonology, and *Our Natural World*, a collection of photographs by Brett Weston and students in the SUU Jumpstart program reflecting on the National Parks in the area. The *2020 Senior BFA Exhibition* will be on display through Saturday, June 27. *Leviathan: Elegy for Ice* and *Our Natural World* will be on display through Saturday, August 29.

More information about the exhibitions and virtual programs can be found on SUMA's website at www.suu.edu/suma. Admission to the museum is free and open to the public thanks to the above sponsors and by Cedar City RAP Tax, Utah Division of Arts and Museums and Zions Bank.

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About Southern Utah Museum of Art

Southern Utah Museum of Art, on the campus of Southern Utah University, features the artwork of regional artists known for their landscapes, faculty and student artists from the SUU Department of Art & Design, as well as emerging and distinguished artists from around the country. Strengths of the nearly 2,000-object permanent collection include the body of work by Jimmie Jones that exemplifies his notable career in the regions, as well as a robust collection of prints featuring well-known artists such as Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Salvador Dalí, Katsushika Hokusai, Thomas Hart Benton, and others. Part of the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Center for the Arts, which also includes the Utah Shakespeare Festival, SUMA is free and open to the public.

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