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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."

