



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM *of* ART
380 South Lamar Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

For Immediate Release
Date: October 20, 2011

Media Contact: Julian Rankin
jrankin@msmuseumart.org
601.960.1515

Mississippi Museum of Art Announces 2011 Hiatt Fellowship Recipient

(Jackson, Miss.) . . . The Mississippi Museum of Art is pleased to announce the 2011 recipient of The Jane Crater Hiatt Artist Fellowship. The grant of \$15,000 was awarded recently to Evert Witte of Bay St. Louis, whose abstract paintings are included in the 2011 *Mississippi Invitational*, on view at the Museum through February 5, 2012.

Administered through the Museum, The Jane Crater Hiatt Artist Fellowship provides a unique study-and-travel scholarship to support an individual artist in the development and creation of art over the course of two years. Artists whose work is selected to be included in the *Mississippi Invitational* biennial exhibition are eligible to apply for the grant in the year that their work is chosen. Witte is one of thirteen artists chosen by Los Angeles-based curator Franklin Sirmans for inclusion in this year's presentation.

"Now with this fourth fellowship, I believe even more in the original idea: to enhance the artist's vision and skill through travel and study," Hiatt stated. "Also, it is my hope that the fellowship benefits the Museum and Mississippi's standing in the visual arts."

The fellowship recipient is determined by a panel of jurors following the selection of artists whose work is to be exhibited in the *Mississippi Invitational*. Past fellows include Kevin Turner in 2005, Norma Sanders Bourdeaux in 2007, and Lee Renniger in 2009. The chosen artist is required to donate one original work of art from at least five created during the grant period to the Museum's permanent collection.

"I am very excited and grateful to Jane Hiatt for her vision and generous support of Mississippi artists," stated Witte. "I know that this opportunity will have a profound effect on my work."

When applying for the grant, artists must demonstrate how the award could influence the development and direction of their work. Artists may use the funds for the following objectives: to study with an individual artist or in a studio, workshop, or residency setting; to pursue projects which further artistic development and support the realization of specific creative ideas; to purchase supplies and equipment; to conduct research; and to travel.

Evert Witte will use the fellowship to live and work in the environments the renaissance artists created in Rome, Florence, and Venice. "After significant shifts and growth in my work over the last three years," Witte said, "this project, at this time, will give me the knowledge and confidence to take my art to the next level and bring it to a larger audience in the United States and abroad."

"The Jane Crater Hiatt Artist Fellowship not only offers incredible opportunities for the individual artist but also for the Museum," said Museum Director Betsy Bradley. "We are the fortunate recipients of artwork made by some of our state's most talented artists."

Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, noon to 5 PM. The Museum is closed Monday. Admission to the 2011 *Mississippi Invitational* is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students; includes admission to *Rembrandt: Beyond the Brush* and *Skating: An Artist's Book* by Jane Kent and Richard Ford. Admission is free for Museum members.

For more information about the Mississippi Museum of Art's exhibitions, programs, and special events, please call 601-960-1515 or 1-866-VIEW ART, or visit www.msmuseumart.org.

The Mississippi Museum of Art and its programs are sponsored in part by the city of Jackson and the Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau. Support is also provided in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.
