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NEWS

For Immediate Release

Ouachita faculty member Donnie Copeland's artwork on exhibit in Hot Springs

By McKenzie Cranford

February 19, 2015

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University associate professor Donnie Copeland, chair of OBU's Department of Visual Arts, currently has three compositions on display as part of the Justus Fine Art Gallery's *Pattern and Form* exhibition in Hot Springs. The show opened earlier this month and runs through the end of February.

"Professor Copeland's artwork has been exhibited throughout the region," noted Dr. Scott Holsclaw, dean of the School of Fine Arts. "His exhibit at the Justus Fine Art Gallery is just another example of the professionalism and expertise our faculty bring to their teaching. As always, we are proud of Professor Copeland and his continued recognition as an Arkansas artist."

The *Pattern and Form* exhibition highlights work by artists who incorporate the use of pattern and/or form as a primary focus of their work. Along with Copeland, work by artists Dustyn Bork, Carly Dahl, Robert Fogel, Tony Saladino and Dan Thornhill is also on display in the exhibition.

"I am pleased to be showing my work along with that of several other artists from Arkansas and beyond," Copeland said. "The show includes a few of my most recent artworks, and it has been great to get the public's response to those pieces."

Copeland uses painted paper on canvas to create patterned compositions. According to Copeland, the patterns in each artwork are intended to suggest the idea of a pulse, whether that of an individual or the give and take of a relationship between people. This could also be the pulse of a pattern seen in a planted field or tree rings in layered rock formations.

"The experience of travel and exchange with people and places" is also of significance in Copeland's work, he said. Landscape, local and distant, continues to be an important stimulus. Much of his childhood was spent in West Africa, a place filled with music, color and rich culture. "The pulse of music in a church service, a parade or the texture and smell of a market" have had as much influence on his artwork as the great paintings and buildings of Europe, he added.

After graduating from Ouachita in 2000, Copeland earned Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees from the University of Dallas. His work has been included in solo and group exhibitions in Houston, Kansas City and throughout the southeastern United States, including *the 2011 Delta Exhibit* at the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock and a 2012 exhibition entitled *Boundary Hunters* at the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery at Alfred University in New York.

Hours of the Justus Fine Art Gallery are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, or by appointment. For more information, contact Donnie Copeland at copelandd@obu.edu or (870) 245-5559.

PHOTO OF COPELAND AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

AT <http://www.obu.edu/news/2015/02/19/ouachita-faculty-member-donnie-copelands-artwork-on-exhibit-in-hot-springs>