

## Media Release

January 26, 2016

### **St. Thomas University and the Beaverbrook Art Gallery to Kick Off New Partnership with Exhibition at the Yellow Box Gallery Opening Jan. 28**

St. Thomas University has appointed Beaverbrook Art Gallery's senior curator Jeffrey Spalding to serve concurrently as director of its Yellow Box Gallery, located on the third floor of McCain Hall.

"We are very excited to bring someone as distinguished and productive as Jeffrey Spalding to the team, in his dual role as director of the Yellow Box Gallery and senior curator of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery," said Professor Martin Kutnowski, director of the Fine Arts program. "Jeffrey will facilitate a strong exchange between the artists' exhibits down the hill at the Beaverbrook and our students and faculty here on campus. It's a win-win for everyone, especially the City of Fredericton."

As the official art gallery of New Brunswick and one of Canada's leading art galleries, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery's mission is to "bring art and community together in a dynamic cultural environment dedicated to the highest standards in acquisitions, exhibitions, programming, education and stewardship."

Spalding welcomes the new partnership with STU as a privileged opportunity to bring the two institutions closer together. "We envisage creating a series of exhibitions to showcase exciting new acquisitions to the Beaverbrook collection while working with students at STU to provide a unique practicum in applied art history and museum studies. We hope that the result will create inspiring exhibitions for the enjoyment of the public, as well as a rewarding opportunity for students."

The first outcome from this partnership is a new exhibition *Living Landscapes* which will open January 28 with a reception at 4 pm at the Yellow Box Gallery, third floor of Margaret Norrie McCain Hall. All members of the public are cordially welcome to attend this free event.

*Living Landscapes: Recent Colour Drypoints by John Hartman from the Permanent Collection of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery* presents fifteen colour drypoint prints by a prominent Canadian artist. They were selected by Meredith Briden, curatorial assistant at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery from a recent gift of 27 works given by the artist. This grouping is illustrative of two important facets of Hartman's career, namely his evolving unique treatment of landscape and his employment of drypoint as an artistic technique. This exhibition marks Briden's curatorial debut.

Born in 1950, John Hartman is a celebrated contemporary Canadian artist. He grew up in Midland, Ontario, and later moved to Hamilton, Ontario, where he studied Fine Arts at McMaster University in the early 1970s. Since that time, Hartman has established himself as one of Canada's most prevalent contemporary artists. For more than 35 years, the work of John Hartman has been highlighted in countless solo and group exhibitions, included in important public collections, and featured in many of Canada's leading art galleries. Hartman lives and works in Tiny, Ontario.

Spalding is an artist, author and has served as director at major art museums. He was president of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, recipient of the Alberta College of Art and Design Board of Governors Award of Excellence (1992) awarded the Order of Canada (2007), Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2013), Adjunct professor, University of Calgary and Consulting Editor Galleries West Magazine.

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