

Exhibition at Fosdick-Nelson Gallery features works by a trio of Alfred University alumni
10/23/19



ALFRED, NY – The Fosdick-Nelson Gallery of Alfred University is pleased to present *Measured Space*, an ambitious exhibition featuring the collaborative and sculptural works of Alfred University alumni Brian Caponi, Shawn Murrey, and Thomas Schmidt.

The exhibition will be on view from Nov. 1 through Dec. 6. Caponi, Murrey and Schmidt will present an artists' talk at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1, in Binns-Merrill Hall, Room 106-C. The lecture is sponsored by the Alfred University School of Art and Design's Division of Ceramic Art. An opening reception with the artists will be held Friday, Nov. 1, from 6-8 p.m. in the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery.

Caponi (MFA '13), Schmidt (MFA '09), and Murrey (BFA '04, MFA '08), who is currently the senior kiln specialist for the Division of Ceramic Art and a ceramics instructor, return to Alfred to install new work in the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery. Brought together initially by Murrey for a 2016 exhibition at the Kansas City Public Library, *Measured Space* is on its third iteration of the collaborative; a recent project finished at the historic Scarab Club in Detroit, MI, in January.

The trio's working philosophy revolves around researching and excavating site-specific content and materials to open a dialogue towards how past and present intersect within the cultural fabric of a place. For *Measured Space*, the artists have been working individually in their own studios; discussing work/and ideas via conference calls, as well as meeting in Alfred for four days this past July for an intensive research trip with local historians and geologists from Alfred University.

Specific landmarks of deep time and geological transitions in the region of Alfred were discussed with Otto Muller, professor of geology at Alfred University. Mined fossils and other raw materials were collected at these sites for further investigations and research into objects for the exhibition. Laurie Lounsberry Meehan, Alfred University archivist, scholar and local historian, shared and discussed detailed maps and documents of Alfred held in the Archives of Alfred University's Herrick Library. This collection of historical data and source material, along with other research, and personal reflections, informs the work in the exhibition.

The artists are excited at the opportunity to return to Alfred and share their work and research with the community, “to reconnect with Alfred through this exhibition has reframed the relationship in such a wonderful and enriching way,” said Caponi.

Murrey added, “As alumni, Alfred and the University are incredibly significant to all three of us in our development as artists and educators, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to revisit and reflect on those experiences through this project.”

Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday-Sunday 1-3 p.m. For more information, please contact Sharon McConnell, Fosdick-Nelson Gallery director at, mcconnells@alfred.edu