

Former dean to exhibit work at Fosdick-Nelson Gallery

9/02/04

Paintings and works on paper by Richard Thompson, professor of painting and former dean of the School of Art and Design at Alfred University, will be featured in a solo exhibition at the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery in Harder Hall from Sept. 10 to Oct. 8. The exhibition will include new works from Thompson's series "My Nature." A reception for the artist will be held in the gallery from 7-9 pm on Sept. 10. The reception and exhibition are open to the public, free of charge. "I am a painter who grew up on farm," Thompson told Dr. Mary Drach McInnes, associate professor of art history at AU, when she interviewed him about his new work. "What I get excited about is finding ways to bring that experience into art, finding ways to bring legitimate form to an essentially 'visually illiterate' youth. My body of work is that story of moving from complete innocence to knowledge then working back to find the innocence - a recurring modernist theme. It is the story of a lot of other American artists who come from childhood experiences without much exposure to art, and yet spend their whole lives making art. That's a big, exciting story for all of us." Thompson was dean of the acclaimed School of Art & Design at Alfred University from 1997 to 2004. Prior to coming to AU, he was head of the Studio Division, College of Fine Arts, at the University of Texas in Austin. A native of Oregon, Thompson earned his BFA degree in painting and an MFA degree from the University of New Mexico, where he began his teaching career in 1972. Thompson's work has been exhibited throughout the U.S. and abroad, and is included in the permanent collections of the Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth, TX; the Barrett Collection, Dallas; the J. Goode Collection, Washington, DC; and the Edinburgh School of Modern Art in Scotland. The gallery is located on the third floor of Harder Hall on the AU campus. Gallery hours are 11 am -4 pm Mondays through Fridays and 1-3 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Sharon McConnell, director of the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery at 607-871-2149.