



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Doug Myers

518 242-2222

dmyers@albanyairport.com

ALBANY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PRESENTS *Staying Power*

Albany, NY (May 27, 2016) - - - The Albany International Airport Art & Culture Program will present *Staying Power*, an exhibition that considers the vitality and endurance of artists who have devoted decades to their craft. The exhibition will run from June 17, 2016 through January 2, 2017. A public reception will be held on June 17, from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

This exhibition is produced in tribute to Art & Culture Program founding director, Sharon Bates, who this year after 18 years of dedication to Albany International Airport and the cultural community of our region. It is the 37th exhibition she has curated for the Airport's third floor Gallery. Sharon's tireless commitment to the presentation of public art has rewarded the Art & Culture Program with national recognition, and regional acclaim. Through her efforts, the Albany International Airport has become a place where visitors can be transported by art, as well as by air.

What compels a person to make art their life's work? In *Staying Power*, 11 artists reflect on their commitment to their practice through recognition and obscurity, doubt and devotion, stunning breakthrough and abject failure. Visitors to the exhibition can glean the artists' stories through their artwork, but also, importantly, can see and hear them speaking first-hand about such things as their earliest memories of making art, how their careers and family impacted their creative process, and how the inevitable factors of aging have influenced their work.

The passage of time is central to **Edward Mayer's** site-specific installation that meanders for 30' along one of the Gallery's expansive glass walls. It incorporates materials and forms that Mayer has utilized throughout the course of his career as a sculptor. Among some artists, their medium and process have evolved to favor more ease of manipulation and flexibility. For **Bruno LaVerdiere**, that means making special adaptations to his kiln which allow him to continue building with clay. While he's known for monolithic sculptures that resemble dwellings, the work in this exhibition reflects his current exploration of 'spirit houses,' a Native Alaskan burial tradition in which small, ornamented shelters are placed atop graves to

Albany International Airport | Albany County Airport Authority | Administration Building, Suite 200 Albany, NY 12211 | Telephone: 518.242.2222

w w w . a l b a n y a i r p o r t . c o m

harbor the souls of the dead. **Susan Spencer Crowe** traded her welding gear and steel for cardboard and encaustic. Her recent work retains the voluptuous, colorful qualities of the large-scale metal pieces, but is more easily shaped and managed. Crowe's work has also evolved into smaller, more modular units that allow for observation of them as singular sculptures or larger installations.

In this exhibition, visitors view artists not just through the objects they make, but are given intimate access to their studio practice through video interviews in which they reflect on what it's taken to stay the course. Among many artists, teaching becomes not only a source of revenue, but one that yields discovery and valuable relationships as well. For all the individuals we interviewed, though, the studio has always been the hub of their activity – the place where all the spokes of their lives extend from and return to; where the true, essential work gets done.

Artists: Benigna Chilla, Susan Spencer Crowe, Jeanne Flanagan, Walter Hatke, Paul Katz, Bruno LaVerdiere, Edward Mayer, Margo Mensing, Thom O'Connor, Harry Orlyk, Barbara Takenaga

Public reception: Friday June 17, 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the Albany International Airport Gallery, located on the third floor of the Airport terminal, before the security checkpoint. Acknowledgements at 7:00 p.m. Parking will be validated for the reception. Airport Gallery hours are 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. daily.

For more information please contact Sharon Bates, Director of the Art & Culture Program, at 518.242-2243 or arts@albanyairport.com.