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108 CONTEMPORARY

Art. Craft. Design.

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Beyond Quilts with Joe Cunningham

Tulsa, Oklahoma-February 1, 2016-Located in the Brady Arts District, 108|Contemporary will be showcasing the work of quilter, Joe Cunningham in the exhibition, *Beyond Quilts*, opening April 1st through May 22nd, 2016.

Cunningham began his work as a professional artist in 1979. Inspired by his mentor and renowned quilter, Mary Schaefer, Cunningham creates work using traditional techniques, such as hand-stitching, to create his unique and modern take on quilt making. Rather than planning his quilts, Cunningham starts with a concept and keeps working on it until it feels complete.

“We are excited to bring nationally known contemporary quilter, Joe Cunningham, to Tulsa,” said Krystle Brewer, Interim Executive Director of 108|Contemporary. “Showing the variation and complexities of quilting is something we are looking forward to showing our patrons. Joe’s work is able to push the envelope of what a traditionally made quilt can look like.”

Along with creating work, Cunningham is a published author, writing on the subject of his medium. In 2010, he published a book entitled *Men and the Art of Quilting*, an anthology of interviews of thirty contemporary male quilters. Along with the anthology, Cunningham has written publications on quilting patterns, trends, and his interest in quilting in Amish communities. You can also read his column “Biased and Edgy” in the magazine *The Quilt Life*. In addition, Cunningham has been featured on multiple PBS and HGTV series.

“Along with the exhibition, 108|Contemporary is joining forces with the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa to host a three day quilt making workshop,” said Brewer. “We hope Tulsans take advantage of the opportunity to meet, learn from, and work alongside one of today’s greats.”

108|Contemporary is a non-profit organization specializing in supporting Oklahoma fine craft artists. Our goal is to highlight the outstanding work being made right here in Oklahoma and to bring in artists from around the world, connecting them with the public and our fine craft artists.

If you are interested in learning more about the exhibition, please visit the 108 Contemporary website at www.108contemporary.org.

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