



**For immediate release  
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### **USI Art Department to offer tour of new art installations**

The University of Southern Indiana Art Department will conduct tours of four new art installations beginning at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 24. The tours will originate from the Art Studio located south of the campus next to the Technology Center. A reception will be open to participants.

"As the University grows, we are continuing our tradition of exhibiting faculty and student art across campus, both indoors and out," said Dr. Margaret Skoglund, chair of the Art Department. "We also will exhibit private collections on loan or donated to the University's permanent collection. As a thriving University, we are acquiring some very important art and feel it is our responsibility to make these wonderful exhibits available to the community. We plan to do more of this in the future."

The tours include a textile exhibit in the Kenneth McCutchan Gallery located in the Wright Administration Building, a digital photo exhibit in the Galleria located on the first floor of the University Center, a geometric sculpture in front of Governors Hall, and an outdoor sculpture south of the Technology Center.

The textile exhibition covers the textile tradition of Guatemala and Mexico as well as ancient paper makers of the state of Veracruz. The works, from the USI collection and the private collection of Michael and Patricia Aakhus, are part of the ritual paper cut images of the Otomi Indians and represent seed, bird, and other spirits. This tradition began in 1,000 B.C. and continued into the classical period (250-850 A.D.) where it was used again in rituals and book-making. The textiles include examples of traditional huipils (women's blouses) from Oaxaca, Mexico; Nahuala, San Juan Scatepequez, Chajul, and Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. The work is done on back strap looms and traditional European floor looms. The huipils in some cases take as long as six months to make and are noted for their fine craftsmanship and remarkable color.

The digital photo exhibition records a spring educational tour of Guatemala led by Michael Aakhus, professor of art, and John Gibson, lecturer in English. The black and white and color photographs document the colorful highlands with the indigenous people in their towns and markets. They also include the colonial capital of Guatemala, Antigua, a remarkable town known for its architecture. It is surrounded by towering volcanic peaks, some of which are still active. The tour continued to the ancient archeological sites of Copan, Honduras, and Tikal in the Peten region of Guatemala.

The student-designed geometric sculpture that welcomes students to Governors Hall was installed on August 26. A 10' sculpture of cor-ten steel alloy and mild steel, it was designed during a summer workshop by USI students Damon Dawson, Peter Fehrenbacher, Jon Hittner, and Brandon Kight. The project was supervised by Mr. John McNaughton, professor of art. *Processing Component* is the name of the sculpture, which consists of a bundle of individual square tubes. The sculpture sits at a 45-degree angle on its point on a three foot steel cube.

The outdoor sculpture at the southeast corner of the Technology Center is being relocated from inside the Technology Center. "Untitled" by Eric Nelson was made between 1976 and 1977. Nelson was the first art workshop supervisor at USI. The sculpture is 9' tall x 5' wide x 4' deep and constructed primarily of structural steel elements.