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Contact: Lisa Craig Morton
Home Office: 614-294-2849
Mobile: 614-309-0191
lisa@ohio-statefacultyclub.com

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY CLUB
and
SHARON WEISS GALLERY
present
A Series of Accumulations ~ Surface and Underlayer
New Works by Brian Ballenger
February 24, 2020 – April 24, 2020

Columbus artist Brian Ballenger will present a collection of abstract paintings titled *A Series of Accumulations ~ Surface and Underlayer* at The Ohio State University Faculty Club. The solo exhibition will be on display from February 24 through April 24, 2020. An opening reception in Mr. Ballenger's honor will be held on Friday, February 28, 2020 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The opening reception is free and open to the public – all are welcome! Please call 614-292-2262 or email the club at facultyclubosu@yahoo.com if you would like more information.

Artist Brian Ballenger has always been drawn to the abstract and his painting approach has grown from this perspective into his own distinct view of the world. His painting subject has evolved to focus on brushstrokes, working wet on wet with oil paints applied in individual brushstrokes on top of differing backgrounds, some purely abstract, others inspired by the paintings of other artists, such as Pierre Bonnard and Marsden Hartley. A series of smaller painting studies works with areas of "fade" that contrast with the surrounding geography of the painting. Another work featured in this exhibition was inspired by one of his great grandmother's rag rugs. The technique of material capture as brushstrokes are dragged through the wet oil paint underneath figures prominently and communicates depth and light that shifts with the viewer's perspective.

Ballenger grew up in London, Ohio, and was first exposed to art in high school. He started painting with oils while attending Wittenberg University in Springfield, where he graduated with majors in Art and Psychology. He holds a Master's degree in Expressive Therapies from Lesley University, Cambridge, MA and took additional courses in Social Work at The Ohio State University to fulfill requirements for his LSW. Brian currently works as a hospice Bereavement Counselor and finds that these two pursuits – painting and grief support – compliment and influence each other in creative ways. Both address "a series of accumulations," whether on the canvas or in life, and our responses to them.

Brian Ballenger is represented by Sharon Weiss Gallery, in Columbus' Short North Arts District. He has exhibited in the 2018 Midyear Exhibition at The Butler Institute of Art in Youngstown, the 2018 and 2019 Fine Arts Exhibitions at the Ohio State Fair, and the Toledo Area Artists Exhibition at The Toledo Museum of Art. He has had solo exhibitions at Sharon Weiss Gallery in Columbus and the Ann Miller Gallery at Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, both in 2017. Brian's most recent exhibition was in the group exhibition, "Ohio Paint/Print/Photo" at the Dairy Barn Arts Center, Athens, Ohio in fall of 2019.

Established in 1923, The Ohio State University Faculty Club is located at 181 South Oval Drive on the Columbus campus of the university. The art exhibition program features the work of selected Ohio State University faculty, staff, students, alumni and other artists with connections to the university. Exhibitions are held throughout the year. All exhibitions are free and open to the public are on view during the Club's regular business hours. For more information, please call the Faculty Club at 614-292-2262 or Art Coordinator Lisa Craig Morton at 614-309-0191. For images of Brian Ballenger's artwork featured in the current exhibition or a photo of the artist, please contact lisa@ohio-statefacultyclub.com.