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## Internationally Acclaimed Fantasy Artist to Speak at Cal Poly Feb. 8

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Renowned fantasy artist James C. Christensen will speak on "Creativity" and give a slide presentation of his work at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, in Philips Hall in the Performing Arts Center at Cal Poly.



Christensen was born and raised in Culver City. He studied painting at Brigham Young University and UCLA before finishing his formal education at BYU. Since then he has held one-man shows in the West and the Northeast and his work is prized in collections throughout the United States and Europe.

His work is described as opulent, colorful, Shakespearean, extraordinary. Christensen's most popular artworks have been described as "creations from the land a little left of reality." He has created a Shakespearean Island, an entire undersea world, and a village of Mother Goose characters. When he isn't giving life to other's worlds, he paints a place of his own, resulting in a

unique kinetic kingdom where recognizable human emotions are often manifested as fish or fowl.

"I don't think of myself as a fantasy artist," Christensen said. "I certainly have an affinity for myths, fables and ancient lore, but I also find time to create landscapes and other subjects." Recent commissions include a mural for a conference center in Nauvoo, Illinois, a poster for the 2001 Utah Shakespearean Festival, and a sculpture for Nu-Skin. "What's truly important to me is that my art is introspective and in turn challenges the mind's eye of those who view it, regardless of the subject matter."

The artist has been commissioned by both Time/Life Books and Omni to create illustrations for their publications and his work has appeared in the prestigious American Illustration Annual and Japan's Outstanding American Illustrators. Christensen has also won numerous honors and awards and is the author of numerous books.

Christensen was recently designated a Utah Art Treasure, one of Utah's Top 100 Artists, by the Springville Museum of Art. He also received the Governor's Award for Art awarded by the Utah Arts Council recognizing the significance of his artwork to Utah's cultural communities. He was inducted into the U.S. Art magazine's Hall of Fame.

The lecture and slide presentation are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Cal Poly's Liberal Studies Department at 756-2935.

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(Note to Editors: For images of Christensen's art work, e-mail Scott Roark in Cal Poly's Public Affairs Office at sroark@calpoly.edu)

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