Faculty Fellow Awarded Art Fellowship | CPD

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Rep. Ed Redd listens as CPD Faculty Fellow Christopher Gauthier talks about his "Evidence and Artifacts" exhibit in this file photo from a legislative reception last month.

Utah State University’s Christopher Gauthier has been awarded one of two Visual Arts Fellowships by the Utah Division of Arts & Museums. Gauthier is an assistant professor of art and a faculty fellow at the Center for Persons with Disabilities. Gauthier’s most recent project, “Evidence and Artifacts,” has stimulated dialogue about the impact of environmental insults on human health and development. Selections from “Evidence and Artifacts: Facing Autism” have been exhibited at Johns Hopkins University and for two consecutive years at the U.S. Autism and Asperger Association World Conference. “I am honored to receive the Utah Visual Arts Fellowship,” said Gauthier. “This amazing funding support will open so many new opportunities to create and exhibit, ultimately giving this project wings. My hope is that the portraits will convey a sense of urgency about understanding what is causing the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder to rise so rapidly, and will humanize the statistics in a way that will move people to action.”

This year’s juror, Richard Roth, an artist and faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University, said “Gauthier’s exquisite portraits of autistic individuals serve to personalize those too often seen as statistics.” Gauthier will receive a $10,000 award, and a short documentary featuring the artist will be co-produced through a partnership with Utah Arts & Museums and the visual arts magazine 15Bytes.com. For more information, see the Division of Arts & Museums press release and Gauthier’s blog.