Nationally Known Mother Daughter Artists Exhibit at South Dakota Art Museum

BROOKINGS, S.D. – Nationally-known Judy Onofrio’s “Earth Bound” and Jennifer Onofrio Fornes’ “Traces” exhibits are on display at the South Dakota Art Museum. Both mother and daughter have exhibited their work across the nation. Onofrio’s sculptures incorporate animal bones, whereas daughter Fornes uses herself as a model in her photographs to develop mystical images.

In the first three decades of Onofrio’s 50-year career, she worked with clay and mosaic to develop vibrant, colorful pieces. Then in 2008, she was diagnosed with cancer and everything changed. As a result, her artwork moved into muted colors and incorporated animal bones.

“I love the color and flowing linear relationships of the bones,” said Onofrio, of her work. “To me, they feel like prayers.”

Fornes’ “Traces” exhibit includes silver prints that seek to make the invisible visible. She wraps herself in gauze and then photographs herself while moving in strained positions to create the images. The photographs represent the spiritual being after the physical body disappears.

“I gravitate toward materials that address my conceptual concerns,” Fornes said. “The fraction of a second that is captured in a photograph not only speaks to the specific moment that the event took place but to the past and the understanding that there could be great gaps between the two.”

The mother/daughter exhibit is on display at the South Dakota Art Museum until Jan. 6, 2013. A public reception with the artists is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 19, 2012 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a panel discussion at 5:30 p.m.

About South Dakota Art Museum
Since 1970, the South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings has been a place for people around the world to enjoy the artistic legacy of South Dakota in all its diversity. Rotating exhibits feature Harvey Dunn, Native American art, Marghab Linens and Paul Goble; as well as exhibits curated from regional, national and international artists. The Museum has more than 7,000 objects in its collection including paintings, drawings, photographs, sculpture, textiles, and ceramics. The Museum Store features jewelry, pottery and original works of art by local and regional artists in addition to books on Native American art and South Dakota history and culture.

The Museum’s hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Museum is closed Sundays, January-March and all state holidays. For more information, visit www.southdakotaartmuseum.com or call 605-688-5423, toll free 866-805-7590.
Jennifer Onofrio Fornes (left) and Judy Onofrio (right)