



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Eastern Art Department Hosts Katrina Relief Auction**

Willimantic – Eastern Connecticut State University’s Visual Arts Department will host an auction to benefit the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Nov. 19. Works are being donated by Eastern faculty as well as local and national artists. The auction will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Paul E. Johnson, Sr. Community Room located in Eastern’s J. Eugene Smith Library on Eastern’s north campus. This event is open to the public and admission is free.

“In the midst of human tragedy, the faculty decided that using our art as a healing vehicle in light of such horrific events would be the greatest relief we could provide,” said Claudia Widdiss, associate professor of art.

The faculty of the art department opened their exhibit in the Akus Gallery just a few days before Hurricane Katrina hit. According to Widdis, they are getting “more and more” donations every day from locally and nationally acclaimed artists. Art from a variety of genres will be up for auction including contemporary, cultural and ethnographic art.

Auction events kick off on Nov. 18 from 1:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with an auction preview. Previewing will also take place on Nov. 19 from 1:30 p.m. until the musical stylings of Professors Juan Bisantz-Evans and Anthony Cornicello open the event at 6

p.m. followed by bidding starting at 7 p.m. All events will take place in the Paul E. Johnson, Sr. Community Room.

For more information or to donate to the auction, contact Marion Callis, director of the Akus Gallery, by calling 860-465-4647 or emailing [callism@easternct.edu](mailto:callism@easternct.edu).

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.