

# Thinking & Making

ART, ART HISTORY & DESIGN at the UNIVERSITY of NOTRE DAME

Winter 2015, Issue 1

A|AH|D  
artdept.nd.edu



## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings alumni, parents, and friends of the Department of Art, Art History Design. Welcome to the launch of AAHD's first e-newsletter. The newsletter features short summaries about student, faculty, and alumni news, including special events taking place in the department. The text links provide expanded information. The newsletter will be issued three times a year— fall, winter, and spring. We hope you find this to be an informative and beneficial way to stay in touch with some of the exciting things taking place in Art, Art History & Design at Notre Dame. Please visit our website at [artdept.nd.edu](http://artdept.nd.edu) for a complete listing of news and events.

— Richard Gray

## DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

A question often asked of the Department's studio art faculty is, "What do graduates of your program do for a living? ND Alumni: Sculptors and Professors features the work of sculptors— alumni of the Department over the past 20 years—who are both professional artists and university professors.

The exhibition presents an exciting variety of sculptural forms, including figuration, abstraction, installation art, and earth works. Materials used in the pieces range from the traditional (bronze, steel and ceramics) to the unexpected (paper, soap, coal, and grass). This variety showcases contemporary sculptural practices and the exciting strategies that sculptors are utilizing to address themes and issues through three-dimensional forms.

The South Bend Museum of Art; the Notre Dame Department of Art, History and Design; and the Snite Museum of Art have collaborated to present this exhibition, which took place in galleries at both the South Bend Museum of Art and Snite Museum of Art from August 3, to November, 30, 2014. The guest curator is UND Professor of Art, the Rev. Austin I. Collins, C.S.C.



The exhibition is detailed on the Snite Museum [website](#).

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

2015 WRAPPE MEMORIAL AWARD

## WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Judith A. Wrappe Memorial Prize, established in 1989 by Sue and Jerry Wrappe, honors the memory of their daughter Judith, a BFA major in painting and 1988 graduate of our department. The annual prize awards \$3,000 each, to two outstanding seniors in the department. The award is given for creative and academic excellence in the major, and is awarded by the entire faculty in studio art and design.

This year's recipients are Dominick Padovano (BFA, Industrial Design) and Lauren Miller (BFA, Photography).



## THE BELLMAKER: BENJAMIN SUNDERLIN

Nearly lost to history, the traditional craft of bellmaking in the United States is being reborn in the basement of Notre Dame's Riley Hall. Benjamin Sunderlin, an MFA student in sculpture, holds the distinction of being the only American practitioner of an art that first emerged in the Middle Ages and is kept alive only at a few overseas foundries today. Bells mark time, Sunderlin says, "but they're also made in a certain time, and they represent the ideals and considerations of that culture."

Sunderlin is teaching himself the thousand-year-old art of bellmaking. So he's added classes in church architecture and medieval history to his studio courses, and he values Notre Dame as the kind of place that will support his quest. Father Martin Nguyen, CSC, '88M.Div., a painter and art professor, says Sunderlin is the kind of student who seeks insight from the outside, the kind of American who needs to go to England or France to appreciate his own country. "It's very personal and vast," he says of Sunderlin's work.



This [story](#) first appeared in Notre Dame Magazine, Autumn, 2014

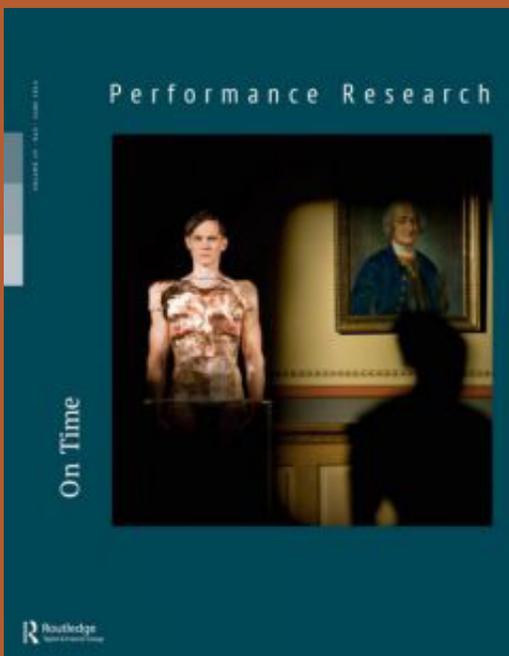


## ANNE BERRY AND PENI ACAYO DISPLAY SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS WORKS AND COLLECTIONS AT GOSHEN COLLEGE

Anne Berry is a professor of visual communication design. Berry's works consist of a series of colorful panels that tell the story of the desegregation of South Bend's Engman Public Natatorium, a public swimming pool. The facility, which opened in 1922, denied full access to the city's growing African American population for 38 years. Penina Acayo, originally from Kampala, Uganda, is a research associate in visual communication design. Acayo's collection consists of informational materials that explain how to prevent and treat malaria and ways to improve sanitation habits in the region of Kibera, Kenya. The work includes artistically designed leaflets, dosage instruction handouts and a series of symptom cards. Relying primarily on images and minimal text in both English and Swahili, Acayo designed the pieces with the intent to improve healthcare education.

This exhibition was at the Hershberger Art Gallery at Goshen College

Their [full story](#) appears in the Fall 2014 Kent State University VCD Alumni Magazine



## NICOLE WOODS PUBLISHED IN PERFORMANCE RESEARCH: A JOURNAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

Art History Professor Nicole L. Woods recently published "Taste Economies: Alison Knowles, Gordon Matta-Clark and the Intersection of Food, Time and Performance," in *Performance Research: A Journal of Performing Arts*. The essay reconsiders two performance-based artworks in the late-1960s/early 1970s that explore food as a medium of contemplation, consumption, and display: Alison Knowles's *The Identical Lunch* (1969-75) and Gordon Matta-Clark's *Food Restaurant* (1971). It argues that in making, distributing, and highlighting food itself as an object-experience outside the boundaries of the traditional gallery and market systems, these artists ultimately question the very organization of cultural capital, revealing the political effects of art that move beyond mere sustenance and conviviality into a realm of perceptual generosity.

Additional information can be found on the [Research at Notre Dame](#) website.



### MANSOUR OURSANAH '07 WINS THE CREATIVE PROMISE PRIZE

University of Notre Dame Industrial Design alum Mansour Oursanah has been awarded the Vilcek Foundation's Prize for Creative Promise in Design, recognizing immigrant contributions to the American arts and sciences.

The Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise in Design complement the Vilcek Prize and are awarded to foreign-born individuals who have demonstrated exceptional achievements early in their careers.

Mansour Oursanah, a senior designer for Whirlpool's Advanced Studio in Chicago, where his role is to create innovative user-centric solutions for a new generation of global and hyper-connected consumers. His work focuses on the importance of storytelling in the design of products that address complex emotional and environmental challenges.

His most recent project, LEPSIS: The Art of Growing Grasshoppers — a vessel that can be used to grow insects for food in efforts to promote sustainable meat production and consumption amongst urban populations — is one example of his achievements in the design arena. Oursanah was born in Togo.

Mansour earned his BFA in Industrial Design in 2007.

The Vilcek Foundation website describes [Mansour and his project](#).



**Thinking and Making** is published by the department of Art, Art History & Design. Send comments to Lonnie Atkinson, Staff Assistant, at [Lonnie.Atkinson.16@nd.edu](mailto:Lonnie.Atkinson.16@nd.edu). For more information about the department, visit our web site at [artdept.nd.edu](http://artdept.nd.edu).

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306 Riley Hall of Art & Design, Notre Dame, IN 46556

574.631.7602

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