DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

Claudia Bernardi, visiting artist and activist

The department recently partnered with Segura Arts Studio to invite accomplished Argentinean artist and activist, Claudia Bernardi to give a lecture on her work in Riley Hall, and conduct critiques with graduate students in studio art and design. Ms. Bernardi was in South Bend last month to oversee the production of her new artwork at Segura Arts, a professional printmaking studio associated with Notre Dame. While in residence, she joined Notre Dame professors in a panel presentation at the Snite Museum of Art titled, "Traversing Latin American Borderlands: Identity, Immigration, Integration, and Human Rights". Ms. Bernardi is internationally known for her work in the fields of studio art, human rights, and social justice. She works in various media including sculpture, painting, printmaking, and installation, recently focusing her art practice in communities that have suffered state terror and violence, as well as with victims of human rights violations.

Ellen and Julia Lupton lecture on November 18

Ellen Lupton and Julia Lupton, leading voices in their respective fields of design practice and Shakespeare studies, will be on campus Friday, November 18 to give a combined lecture titled, "Design, Storytelling, and Performance". Ellen will engage the audience in processes of perception and cognition, and Julia will discuss how Shakespearean drama draws on physical sensation and spatial awareness in order to build virtues such as trust, courage, and respect. This event is part of the department's lecture series, "Art, Vision, Agency," organized by Professor Nicole Woods. Ellen Lupton is a writer, curator, educator, and designer. She is Senior Curator of Contemporary Design at Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York City. Ellen also serves as director of the Graphic Design MFA
Program at MICA (Maryland Institute College of Art) in Baltimore. Julia Reinhard Lupton is Professor of English and Associate Dean for Research in the School of Humanities at UC Irvine. She is the author & co-author of four books on Shakespeare, and she also co-authored two books on design with Ellen Lupton: DIY Kids and Design Your Life.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Gero Family Travel Grants awarded

The Gero Family Endowment for Excellence in Art History and Studio Art began awarding travel grants this past summer 2016, for students to study and conduct research outside the United States. The grant supports the costs associated with preparatory work towards the completion of a research paper, senior thesis, or capstone studio project in pursuit of a B.A. or B.F.A. degree. The Endowment was established in 2014, by Notre Dame alumna Deborah Gero.

Mary McGraw photographs in Ireland

Mary McGraw (BFA ‘17) was awarded a Gero travel grant to fund her summer trip to County Galway, Ireland, where she researched and photographed women and their Catholic vocation at Kylemore Abbey. McGraw plans to make a return visit in December to the Abbey and will utilize her experiences and research from these two trips to further develop her senior thesis project in photography.

Abigail Wilson studies in Italy

Abigail Wilson (BFA ‘17) was also awarded a Gero travel grant to attend a five-week program at Studio Art Center International (SACI) in Florence, Italy. During that time, she worked on restoring antique artworks owned by the Italian State. Wilson also studied images of women in art during the Renaissance and Baroque periods, to support the theme of her senior thesis project in painting.

FACULTY NEWS

Professors Brian Edlefson, Scott Shim & Neeta Verma join Design Faculty

Brian Edlefson

Designer Brian Edlefson joins the faculty as an assistant professor in visual communication design. Edlefson is a graphic designer who influences
organizations to leverage design’s ability to communicate across a variety of surfaces (architecture, environments, products, print and interactive experiences). He has worked with major companies throughout his career, creating award-winning and attention-getting solutions for companies like Whirlpool, Maytag, Kenmore, and Amana. He has also worked with the design team and curatorial staff at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and was a senior graphic designer for Herman Miller.

Neeta Verma

Neeta Verma, associate professor of visual communication design, defines her role and the role of graphic design as one that serves as a catalyst within a societal context. Her areas of research interest explore historical influences in graphic design and how these cultural differences have defined the profession today. Growing up in India, she has been fascinated by similarities and differences in the visual manifestations (architecture, artifacts, books, prayer and recitation) and the history of mark making within these religious traditions.

Scott Shim

Professor Scott Shim is an industrial designer coming to us from The Ohio State University, where he was the industrial design program coordinator. His design work is recognized internationally with many of his projects appearing in a number of global publications, including the cover of TIME Magazine. His professional experience includes more than 10 years in product development, during which time he obtained more than 30 design patents and multiple design awards.
Will McLeod ('09), inventor, entrepreneur, and writer

In 2007, while still at Notre Dame, Will McLeod became the inventor and later the founder of SmarterShade. SmarterShade, now owned by a new company and called VG glass, is a smart-glass company that manufactures windows that can brighten and darken a room in response to light and temperature as well as be controlled by an app. After selling his 6-year-long endeavor in 2013, McLeod co-founded the smart home products company, Keen Home, with which he is still heavily involved. From all of his successes and various other experiences in engineering and manufacturing, he is now cultivating his current project, a practical how-to book, Mechanical Engineering for Hackers, which is set to release this November. Will was recognized in January, as a Forbes 30 under 30 honoree in the manufacturing industry.