

Thinking & Making

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

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DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

Annual BFA, MFA & BA Thesis Exhibition

The Department of Art, Art History & Design celebrated the annual MFA, BFA, and BA Student Exhibition in the Snite Museum and in the Art Gallery of O'Shaughnessy Hall with an opening reception on April 13, 2018. These exhibits showcase the creative work and thesis projects of ten graduating BA, BFA, and MFA degree students in studio art and design. The

thesis project represents a yearlong investigation involving research and production demonstrating our student's unique ability to express complex concepts and themes, and applying various strategies and processes that are individual to their particular disciplines in design and studio art. The exhibits will be open through Sunday, May 20.



20th Annual Alumni Design Conference



Design alumni: (left to right) [Steven Cozzolino](#), [Mallory McMorrow](#), [Evan Brogan](#), [Matthew Casanova](#), [Brett Belock](#), and [Gabriela Leskur](#).

Graduates from the class of 2008 returned to AAHD for this spring's 20th annual Alumni Design Conference to share their experiences since graduating ten years ago from the Notre Dame Design Program. Six alumni were invited back to campus this year to discuss their careers and conduct portfolio reviews with current students. Friday's conference featured Keynote speaker Steven Cozzolino, Principal at Cozzolino Studio. Steven has a BFA degree in Industrial Design and is a graduate of the class of 1993. The alums lectured about their professional experiences, followed by the portfolio review session. Saturday featured the design program's Crawfish Boil, a longstanding social tradition begun in the 1980s.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Student Award Winners



The Snite Museum of Art awarded the Walter Beardsley Award for best in show at the graduate level to photography MFA, Justin Trupiano (above, left) for his thesis project, "Strange Loops." Justin's work explores those limits and highlights the contrast between the advancements of humans and their relative insignificance within the context of a greater cosmos. Utilizing live data and custom software, the Strange Loops series is a conduit unto observations and cognitive processes done by machines.

The Emil Jacques Gold and Silver Medals for Excellence are the oldest and most prestigious departmental distinctions that can be awarded to undergraduate students. Each year, the faculty awards the two most outstanding undergraduate senior BFA students based on academic excellence, leadership, citizen to the department, and studio achievement.

Jackson Wrede (above, center) was the recipient of the Gold Medal. His thesis project challenges images from popular culture that encourage stereotypical gender performances and other rigidly conforming and limited behaviors by exposing cultural obsessions and their influence in constructing how we think about gender.

Loren Chen (above, right) received the Silver Medal. Her thesis project is titled, "YIQI." The project explores the potential that cross-cultural research has to offer design by reimagining and evolving Asian cultural traditions to inform new approaches that bring traditional values back to the cooking and mealtime experience. YIQI is elegant cookware that seamlessly transitions between the stove and the table with a lid that can be warmed and flipped to nest the pot for carrying and keeping food warm at the table. YIQI celebrates food as a social affair by facilitating family-style meals and bringing harmony, efficiency, and value back to the sharing of a meal.

Please see our [website](#) for a complete list of the 2018 award winners.

Tom Cornell wins Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award

Tom Cornell, third-year MFA student, has been awarded an Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award for 2018. The Outstanding Graduate Student TA or Instructor Award, instituted in 1999, recognizes graduate student instructors and TAs who demonstrate excellence in the classroom or laboratory. Cornell was given this award for his outstanding teaching in the sculpture program.



Professor Nicole Woods, Fr. Austin Collins, and Tom Cornell.

Design research students help South Bend visualize proposed technology center

When the city of South Bend needed ideas for a new community technology center, it turned to Ann-Marie Conrado's design research practices class at the University of Notre Dame for help.

Part of the collaborative innovation minor in the Department of Art, Art History and Design, the class brings together students from multiple disciplines, from design and engineering to business and anthropology, to solve complex design problems.

In this case, the city wanted to create what it called an "inclusive technology resource center" to help residents on the wrong side of the digital divide take advantage of technology for personal and professional growth. [\[Read more...\]](#)



Berlin SONAR: Architecture & Design Course



The Berlin SONAR class pose for a photo in front of the Reichstag building in Berlin, Germany. (From left to right) back row: Avian Robinson, Eric Carlson, Stacie Skwarcan, Sarah Harper, Caroline Cox, Jessica Kim, Jeffrey Graziano, Olivia De Sonne Ammaccapane, Professor Matthias Pabsch, Brandon Garcia, Logan Wishart, and Rex Riley; front row: Kalesé Thomas, Richard Souza, Jose Alvarez Medina, Elizabeth Reyes, and Sydney Losco.

This experimental spring semester course was a collaborative partnership between AAHD and the Department of German and Russian. Sixteen students from the two departments studied with Berlin artist Matthias Pabsch in three week-long block seminars on campus learning to critically analyze the key components of Berlin's culture, past and present. The class traveled to Berlin during Spring Break (March 12-16) for a one-week excursion to explore museums and urban environments and meet with protagonists of Berlin's current cultural life. This interdisciplinary course encouraged students to use a wide range of different media for projects that range from painting, sculpture, photography, video, and urban sketching to essays, documentary forms or literary texts, and concluded with an exhibition of student projects in the Snite Museum of Art.

Professor Pabsch is a renowned Berlin-based artist and art historian. His artistic mediums are painting, sculpture and photography. Prof. Pabsch has published books on art, architecture and urban design. Matthias Pabsch has also taught this course at Stanford University and Duke University.

Students reflect on the experience. [\[Read more...\]](#)



Professor Denise Della Rosa and student Eric Carlson (right) converse about the exhibition.



Attendees listen to music during the opening reception.

FACULTY NEWS



Marius Hauknes, Lecturer at the Global Premodern Studies Speaker Series

Marius Hauknes, Assistant Professor of Medieval Art, was invited to give the second annual lecture in the Global Premodern Studies Speaker Series at California State University, Channel Islands. This series of talks is aimed at students and faculty in CSUCI's interdisciplinary Global Premodern Minor, which features an interdisciplinary curriculum exploring art, anthropology, and cultural history prior to ca. 1500 CE. Professor Hauknes' lecture, titled, "The Art of Knowledge: Representations of the Artes Liberales in Medieval Art," surveyed the manifold conceptual strategies medieval artists developed for the visual representation of abstract and theoretical knowledge. Focusing particularly on visual

allegories of the Liberal Arts, the talk invited its audience to reflect on the problems medieval painters and sculptors faced as they set out to create pictures of things that do not exist in the world as objects—and how, in turn, the pictures these artists created enabled viewers to obtain knowledge about the abstract ideas represented.

Neeta Verma: "The Evolving Role of the Designer in the New Paradigm"

Neeta Verma, Associate Professor of visual communication design, presented a paper at the CAA conference in Los Angeles titled, "The Evolving Role of the Designer in the New Paradigm."

Within the context of a world where many socio-economic challenges are becoming a shared predicament, the paper examines the evolving role of design/designers to understand how user-centric approaches have introduced research, testing, and validation to the design process. The emergence of web created a seismic shift in the 1990's—it redefined the crucial role that users began to play in the redefinition of both industrial and visual communication design. Added to this shift, the rapid change of scale at which problems came to be defined, especially within societal contexts, made it imperative for designers to extend their approach beyond disciplinary skills to gaining a deeper understanding of the context within which they operate in an effort to create sustainable impact through design innovation. In this new ecology, in addition to serving as creatives by connecting 'need' to 'gratification', the role of the designer transformed to incorporate additional roles: that of being a collaborator, facilitator, catalyst, and co-creator.

[[Read more...](#)]



Jason Lahr: Head Glitch

Associate Professor, Jason Lahr's solo exhibition of recent work, Head Glitch, opened at Aron Packer Projects in Chicago, IL on Saturday, April 7. The exhibition was accompanied by a full-color catalog and supported by a Small Research and Creative Works grant from ISLA. It will be up through May 19.



Emily Beck: Ladylike installation in the gardeHouse at Lafayette College



In April, teaching professor Emily Beck was invited to Lafayette College in Easton Pennsylvania to give an artist talk, a classroom lecture and install two site specific pieces from her newest body of work.

Beck installed [Ladylike \(expanded dollhouse\)](#) at the gardeHouse at Lafayette College. The gardeHouse is a campus guard house that has been converted into an installation space for visiting artists. Ladylike (expanded dollhouse) is a digital animation projected onto a laser cut project screen. The projection screen depicts a 14 room house that contains domestic and public spaces in which women perform. The animation utilizes the icon for woman as the main character. The character runs from room to room completing and failing the tasks the room demands. This project is a reflection of the expanded roles women play, and the lack of domestic, societal and institutional support and recognition that many of them face. [\[Read more...\]](#)

ALUMNI STORIES

Carly Murphy, '01

Growing up in South Bend, Carly Murphy '01 always admired Marc Chagall's *Le Grand Cirque* when she saw it in the Snite Museum of Art at Notre Dame.

This piece of art sparked a love of French culture in Murphy, who went on to major in French and art history in the College of Arts and Letters.

Now vice president of global client development at Sotheby's international art auction house, Murphy returned to campus last semester to speak to a gathering of students, reflecting on her Notre Dame education and offering advice on entering the art world.



The title of Murphy's presentation, "No Straight Lines," highlighted her unexpected path to her current role. Every step along the way, she said, her liberal arts education has been a valuable asset.

"I do think that the education that I got at Notre Dame, and what I was exposed to, really made a difference," Murphy said. "My people skills, my polish, my ability to stand on my own — to walk into a room with the top of the 1 percent and hold my ground — has really helped me." [[Read more...](#)]

Samantha Coughlin, '15



[Samantha Coughlin](#) has spent the last two years at PodOp—a NYC startup focused on changing the way stories are crafted and experienced. Lead designer at a small shop, Sam works on designing interactive content and building tools to assist in the creation of complex narratives. Whether that's exploring themes like empathy and perspective, viewer agency, or immersive engagement, her primary goal is creating "technology that furthers or enhances traditional storytelling."

[Mosaic](#), an interactive app experience directed by Steven Soderbergh, was released in the fall in collaboration with HBO. It was featured by the App Store and Google PlayStore, and heralded by some asbobb "the Most Innovative TV Series Maybe Ever" (Daily Beast, 2018). Bobby McKenna, '10 served as art director for the project.

Outside of work, Sam helps run a small collective aimed at connecting new friends from their own extended networks and has served as a designer in residency for Columbia Business School.

Thinking and Making is published by the department of Art, Art History & Design. Send comments to the Department at Art@ND.edu. For more information about the department, visit our web site at artdept.nd.edu.

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