DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

Max & Emma Lecture 2020: Designer Kevin Bethune

Kevin Bethune is the Founder and Chief Creative Officer of dreams • design + life, a think tank delivering design & innovation services using a human-centered approach. Kevin’s background spans engineering, business and design in equal proportion over his 20+ year career, positioning him to help brands deliver meaningful innovations to enrich people’s lives and experiences. Kevin started dd•l in the Spring of 2018, after serving as the Vice President of Strategic Design at BCG Digital Ventures (BCGDV).

Prior to BCGDV, Kevin worked at Nike, Inc. in business planning, product creation and stretch footwear design roles. Prior to Nike, Kevin worked in the nuclear power industry as a mechanical engineer and reactor systems project leader. Kevin holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, an M.B.A. from Carnegie Mellon University, and an M.S. in Industrial Design from ArtCenter College of Design.

Kevin has given keynote talks at TED@BCG, Google Design, AIGA, DMI (Design Management Institute), DRDS (Design Research Design Strategy, 2017), ArtCenter College of Design, California College of the Arts (CCA), MIT (DesignObserver), Parsons School of Art & Design, Yale School of Management, Woodbury University and Carnegie Mellon University. Kevin’s perspectives have also been featured in DMI Review, Bloomberg, Design.Blog, DesignObserver and Interaction Design Foundation.

Bethune will be on campus on March 26, 2020, to deliver the department’s annual Max and Emma Lecture in Bond Hall Auditorium at 5 pm.

Learn about the Max and Emma Lecture Series.

Art, Art History & Design at 2020 CAA Conference
Alumni and friends of AAHD in the Chicago area, we will be at the 2020 College Art Association conference in Chicago this year. Drop-in at the AAHD reception, held during the conference on Thursday, February 13, from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Hilton Hotel, 720 South Michigan Avenue. See you there!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Wrappe Award Winners

The Department presented the annual Wrappe Awards to two outstanding undergraduate senior BFA students, Yunyi Bai and Lilly Reyes. The award is given for creative and academic excellence in the major, and is awarded by the entire faculty in studio art and design.

Bai's thesis project, Can our perceptions of daily objects be, not only reprogrammed but also transcended?, presents an opportunity for the audience to reflect on and eventually transcend the assumptions they make about objects, consciously and unconsciously, in daily life.

Reyes's thesis project captures the flux of identity through a chaotic layering of mixed media - mirroring the convergence of subconscious psychological states. Her canvases link past to present: the work of yesterday overlaid with the work of today, the totality a representation not just of what is added or subtracted, but of an additional dimension: time. This temporal shift leads to abrupt transitions within her pieces, areas where past and present collide in interesting ways.

Yunyi Bai

Lilly Reyes

Studio Art Minor: Khalid Kareem

Among the typically multi-talented students in the Department of
Art, Art History & Design is Khalid “Lid” Kareem. His intellectual, physical, and artistic abilities have made him a standout: he is an imposing and award-winning defensive end for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team and a great prospect for the NFL draft this year. In addition to his talents on the football field, Lid is a Management Consulting major in the Mendoza College of Business and a very talented painter who will graduate with a minor in Studio Art. He intends to make good use of all the skills he has developed: his life plans are to first play in the NFL, then afterwards to use his business and art education to become an art dealer.

Watch ABC 57's news segment on Kareem: Notre Dame defensive end Khalid Kareem shares his love of art

Carly Hagins wins award at International Design Conference hosted by Industrial Design Society of America (IDSA)

Carly Hagins, third-year MFA student, has been awarded IDSA's Midwest District Graduate Student Merit Award for 2019. The IDSA's Graduate Student Merit Awards (GSMA) recognizes exceptional student design talent through their Student Merit Awards program. The competition highlights the very best in creativity, problem-solving, and design brilliance in each of IDSA's five North American Districts. Hagins presented her work at the International Design Conference's main stage of over 400 designers from around the world. Click on the image below to watch the presentation.

FACULTY NEWS

Public Art pilot targets South Bend roundabouts with help from Notre Dame sculptor Rev. Austin Collins
Six sculptures by University of Notre Dame professor Rev. Austin Collins, C.S.C., have been installed in roundabouts in South Bend as part of a pilot aimed at adding color and vibrancy to the city and sparking conversation around public art. The new and existing works, rising from massive concrete bases at the centers of the roundabouts, can be viewed along Michigan Street at Bartlett and Marion streets on the north side and at Chippewa Avenue on the south side.

Installed by the city of South Bend with support from the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, the sculptures — “Fern Temple VI” (Bartlett), the four-part series “Wedding Cakes” (Marion) and “Temple Carousel” (Chippewa) — will remain on display for a minimum of one year to test the scale of public art in the roundabouts.

[Read more...]
Nicole Woods, assistant professor of art history at the University of Notre Dame, has been named a 2019 recipient of an Arts Writers Grant. This award is among the highest honors an art historian or critic can receive, and Woods is one of 19 recipients from a candidate pool of more than 800.

The Arts Writers Grant Program recognizes both the financially precarious situation of arts writers and their essential contribution to artistic culture; it is funded by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and administered by Creative Capital.

Woods is an expert in Euro-American neo-avant-gardes, performance and conceptual art, intersectional feminism and taste cultures. Her current research includes a consideration of the widespread use of food as an object of consumption and a form of political critique in the work of several late-20th-century artists.

The Arts Writers Grant will enable Woods to initiate work toward her second book, which focuses on the pioneering African American painter Bob Thompson (1937-1966), an elusive and under-studied figure despite recognition among major museums, including the National Gallery of Art and the Museum of Modern Art.

[Read more...]

Snite Museum of Art and AAHD Faculty Collaborate on Exhibition

Divine Illusions: Statue Paintings from Colonial South America

In eighteenth-century Spanish America, sculpted images of the Virgin Mary were frequent subjects of paintings. Some of these "statue paintings" depicted sculptures famed for miraculous intercession in medieval Spain. Others captured the likenesses of statues originating in the Americas and were similarly celebrated for their divine intervention. Like the statues they portrayed, the paintings, too, were understood to
be imbued with sacredness and were objects of devotion in their own right.

Drawn from the extraordinary holdings of the internationally renowned Carl & Marilynn Thoma Art Foundation, this exhibition focuses on statue paintings of the Virgin from the Viceroyalty of Peru, a part of the Spanish Empire encompassing much of Andean South America. It centers particularly on works produced in Cuzco (Peru) and artistic centers in the vicinity of Lake Titicaca and explores the European and American dimensions of the phenomenon, iconographic variations in the genre, and what these works of art reveal about sacred imagery and its operation in Spanish colonial South America. The identities of the painters and patrons of these works remain largely unknown, but certainly some of them were native Andeans.

This landmark exhibition is curated by Michael Schreffler, Ph.D., of the University of Notre Dame’s Department of Art, Art History & Design. The show runs from January 18 – May 16, 2020.

[Read more...]
Shelby Alexander, née Grubbs, graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2014 with a B.A. in Studio Art, concentration in Painting. While at Notre Dame, she was awarded the South Bend Museum of Art College Studio Residency, and she has since completed the 2017-18 Emerging Artist Residency Program in Indianapolis. Shelby’s work has been exhibited nationally in galleries and museums, and she most recently had her first solo exhibition, Shelby Alexander: Afterthought, at Guichelaar Gallery in Indianapolis in 2019. She is currently preparing for her second solo exhibition in Fort Wayne this fall.

Shelby's large scale mixed-media works articulate the tension between the modern experience of beauty, consumption, and industrialization—and what that means for the future of the environment and global sustainability efforts.

Shelby aims to expand upon contemporary concepts of drawing and painting by combining traditional techniques on paper with innovative collage, using stitched-together textiles collected predominantly from her own closet. This process serves to explore her own complicated relationship with fashion: after having taken a fashion design intensive program at Pratt, she remains seduced by it as an art form in its own right and as a vehicle for self-expression. Nevertheless, next to Big Oil, the clothing industry is the second largest polluter in the world. Normally when we think of pollution, we envision coal power plants and raw sewage piped into our waterways; rarely do we think of the shirts on our backs. Shelby’s textile work aims to increase awareness of this issue, while still respecting and acknowledging the inherent aesthetics of fashion as an art form.

Shelby currently lives in Cincinnati, where she works full-time for Proctor and Gamble as a Beauty Studio Designer. She maintains an art studio at the Pendleton Art Center downtown.

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