

# AVANT-GARDE

*2008 Voertman Show*  
**Rowlett Rd** by Anna Bartholomew Tovar, 12" x 24", Oil on Canvas, 2008



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
COLLEGE OF  
VISUAL ARTS  
+ DESIGN

# A College in Motion



DEAN ROBERT MILNES

Richard Florida, who wrote *The Rise of The Creative Class*, recently wrote another book titled *Who's Your City?* Both books are about the creative class and the creative economy and how the people around you and the places you choose to be make tremendous differences in your life and future. CVAD provides a nurturing environment for the creative class and a direct passage to the creative economy of Dallas and beyond. This edition of the *Avant-Garde* is all about motion, moving forward with creative friends and building for the future. You will see articles about long-time members of the CVAD community Paul Voertman and Ray and Georgia Gough, alums, patrons, faculty and community activists who have been so critical in building the programs and the arts community in Denton. Their generosity of spirit and contributions of time, talent, energy, and funds have brought about remarkable changes in the arts scene on campus and in Denton. Everyone helps and makes their contribution to our thriving college and to our talented students!

When you go to our new website at [art.unt.edu](http://art.unt.edu), you will also be able to read about the accomplishments of alumni such as Michael Faircloth and Howard Sherman, and interact with accomplished UNT graduates and San Francisco residents Emily and Jeff Charette, who designed our new website at [art.unt.edu](http://art.unt.edu). The website is a constantly changing, constantly charged environment that reflects a college in motion, brimming with creativity and scholarship. On the website, you'll also be able to see how we are expanding and changing CVAD's presence in the community and around the world through courses, conferences, exhibitions, and international study.

Students in the College benefit from the ongoing support of alumni and friends and you will find just how you can help raise support for our talented students and programs. We're planning new programming in Dallas and Denton this year and will kick off the year with the second annual Priddy Symposium on Advanced Arts Leadership (September 12-14) featuring national leaders in the arts, organized by Dr. Jack Davis, NTIEVA Director. It's a new year of advocacy and promise. Please join us!

*“The future for CVAD looks great. We are looking forward to seeing the next Voertman Show with this year's incoming students.”*

*—Ray and Billie Gough*



## COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS + DESIGN



### NEW WEBSITE <http://art.unt.edu>

**NEW WEBSITE** was designed by UNT alumni Emily and Jeff Charette of IOMATIX in San Francisco. The website is the place to find up-to-date information about faculty, programs, gallery exhibitions, classes, scholarships, conferences and alumni profiles. [art.unt.edu](http://art.unt.edu)

**NEW FACULTY** This fall CVAD is welcoming three new tenure-track faculty to the college. Dr. Jeffrey Broome in Art Education, Michele Wong Kung Fong in Communication Design, Elaine Pawlowicz in Drawing and Painting, and a new lecturer, Christi Egeland in Fashion Design. Visiting professors Terry Barrett, Mary Lamb, and Matt Sontheimer will also be joining. CVAD represents a collaborative environment with students and faculty engaged in new art forms, new scholarship, and new ways of helping people and communities live more creative lives.

**NEW CLASSROOMS, LABS**, drawing facilities and computer labs will greet students and faculty this fall as the College is on a schedule to improve the facilities to meet and exceed national standards. Planning is commencing on a new Art Building for the Denton campus and for additional facilities in Dallas to meet the needs of current and future students.

**NEW ACCREDITATION** was granted last year by the evaluation team from the National Association of Schools of Design. CVAD was admitted as an institutional member of NASAD in October, 2007.

**NEW SCHOLARSHIPS** At the spring Scholarship ceremony, CVAD gave out over \$50,000 in scholarships. New this fall, all CVAD MFA students will join the university's PhD students in receiving a \$1000 scholarship, making out of state students eligible for an out of state tuition waiver. We encourage students from Texas and those outside Texas and the US to consider making CVAD their site for PhD and MFA studies! MFA and PhD students are also eligible for the \$500,000 we award annually in fellowships and assistantships. The Priddy Fellowships in arts leadership offered through NTIEVA nearly double this amount! You can find out about all of the CVAD programs under Departments or Student Services, as details become available.

**NEW AWARDS** There are numerous awards that our faculty, students, and alumni have garnered this year! CVAD students and alumni received major prizes through the annual Dallas Museum of Art awards for students and emerging artists. Design students took the majority of awards in national competitions in Houston and Dallas. Visit the website to see the work of faculty and students – KUDOS to a wonderful year.

**NEW CONFERENCE** This summer, CVAD hosted an international conference, “From Power 2 Empowerment: Critical Literacy in Visual Culture” coordinated by Keith Owens, Eric Ligon, Michael Gibson, and Jack Sprague of the Communication Design program. Participating scholars, journalists, artists, and designers came from Great Britain, Central, and South America, and all over the United States for the exciting, three-day event held at the Universities Center of Dallas. Paho Mann, of CVAD's Photography program, curated an interactive exhibition which was highlighted on KERA's innovative new arts website [www.artandseek.org](http://www.artandseek.org), along with interviews with Keith and Michael.

This was part of an ongoing series of focused conferences that CVAD sponsors annually. There will be more details of this year's events posted on the website. Go to the website for announcements regarding the annual Nasher and Gough lectures, the Medieval Art History Symposium and the many exhibitions sponsored by the UNT Art Galleries.

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Paul Voertman, Ray and Billie Gough

## 65 YEARS & COUNTING

There are numerous benchmarks at a university that build its history, character, and legacy. Most of those moments are tied directly to the people who have made their marks over the years – in this case over decades.

Three amazing individuals who have been there for the art programs at the University of North Texas for over 65 years are Paul Voertman, Ray and Georgia [Billie] Gough. They all attended UNT in the 40's — Ray '40, Billie '46 and Paul '47. Their shared moments include attending numerous gallery openings, lectures, and chats over the garden wall as they are next-door neighbors as well — and have been for over 40 years.

What passions have connected them to UNT all these years? Ray states that, "It has always been about helping shape really talented young people for the future — challenge them to think and to be something more than they are today." Ray's wife of 60 years — Billie, adds that, "We always gave every moment we could to the students who sought out our advice — we still do. They often needed to have an advocate outside of themselves to confirm a great idea." The test of that effort is in the results of the students many of whom have gone on to wonderful careers in the arts. The Gough's today support an endowed scholarship that annually provides funding for the Gough Lecture Series, which brings a leading expert from the interior design profession to lecture and share cutting edge

ideas with students. They keep on giving to the students, and to the university, that has meant so much to them over 6 decades.

Paul Voertman, whose family store set the standard for excellence in Denton for many decades, brought a level of culture to the community through the books, art and home accessories he and his partner Richard Ardoin purveyed from around the world. Paul also created a forum for the art students to share and showcase their works in the annual Voertman Art Competition now approaching its 62nd year. Paul Voertman supports many passions at UNT — art, music, and the humanities through endowed scholarships and major gifts like the new Wolff organ installed in the Murchison Center for the Performing Arts. He believes that, "The creative mind of an individual must be allowed to grow unfettered — no boundaries. Once you start putting conditions on learning — it is no longer learning — just responding." He remembers many of the works that have been honored at the show. "To see the talent of so many young people is really astounding. I am proud to have played a small part."

So what do these three talk about over the garden wall these last 40 years — they reflect upon what amazing people have given of themselves while at UNT — and speculate on the future ones yet to come. They remember friends who are now gone: Flip Higgins, Mack Vaughan, and Rob Erdle. They know there will be many to follow who will continue to espouse fresh, creative ways of teaching about excellence.

They recall when James Prestini and Gyorgy Kepes, two early proponents in the United States of the Bauhaus design system, joined the faculty along with Carlos Merida, the internationally known Guatemalan painter and muralist, and Octavio Medelín, the celebrated Mexican sculptor and painter. Students at that time included Ray Gough ('40, '41 M.A.) and O'Neil Ford, who became one of Texas' most famous architects. Paul Voertman, Ray and Billie Gough have helped shape an incredible legacy.



### Promenade of Style: The Caralee Biery Smith Collection

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 25 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Caralee Smith of Aledo, Texas has been a lifelong collector. Twenty-five years ago she began to focus her passion on vintage clothing. An interest in fashion history led Smith to seek out examples of 19th century women's clothing and accessories. This exhibition will showcase an array of Smith's most carefully selected treasures from the 1830s – 1890s. Presented by the Texas Fashion Collection, *Promenade of Style* is a rare opportunity to take a peek inside Caralee's Closet, which is also the name of her vintage clothing business. Caralee Smith will be in attendance. At FashionOnMain, 1901 Main Street, Dallas; parking in the Elm Street Garage.

#### Scholarships:

## *Gifts That Last Forever*

The College of Visual Arts and Design is fortunate to have endowed scholarships in a variety of the disciplines offered that currently provide over \$50,000 annually to undergraduate and graduate students. Most of the scholarships are endowed, which means that they exist in perpetuity. This year CVAD was fortunate to add several newly endowed scholarships to the current roster.

- The Bill and Mickey McCarter Scholarship
- The Taylor Hicks Memorial Scholarship
- The National Association of Men's Sportswear Buyers Scholarship
- The Arabic Heritage Society Scholarship in Art History

Congratulations! Each year there are annual expendable scholarships offered as well. Some of these will be endowed in the future. When considering making a scholarship gift to the College, consider selecting an existing scholarship – and make it stronger. As more funds are given to existing scholarships these are ultimately able to provide more support for students every year. Once a scholarship reaches an endowment level of \$25,000, typically that scholarship has a distribution of \$1,000 in interest annually. That amount is significant as well. If a student is an out-of-state student, they will receive a waiver granting them in-state status for their tuition. That can save a student an additional \$7,500. The gift amounts make a huge difference as the costs of higher education continue to rise.

The enclosed pledge card highlights existing scholarships that need extra funds to reach the \$25,000 level. Please consider making a gift to one of these or a gift in support of excellence for the College or its programs. Every gift makes a difference — whether \$50 or \$5,000. Thank you for your generosity and your vision. For more information, please contact Kathy Joyce at 940-369-7474.

# CVAD CALENDAR

**TUESDAY, 8/26**

## A Place in the Painting Continuum

*Opening Reception, 4 – 6:30 pm, UNT Art Gallery foyer.*

The UNT Art Gallery presents the original exhibition *A Place in the Painting Continuum* featuring digitally and mechanically produced artworks that embody the traditions of painting, calling into question their status as a photograph, digital print or video and suggesting a place or a moment in the evolution of the idea of painting. The exhibition runs through 9/27.

**THURSDAY, 9/18**

*Artist Lecture and Career Q&A, 6 – 8 pm, UNT Art Gallery.*

The artist talk on 9/18 will be followed by a Q&A organized by the UNT Career Center. Students will hear exemplary DFW artists discuss their work, studios and professional experiences.

**SATURDAY, 10/4**

## Let Art Talk: A Global Art Workshop for Families with Fred Mutebi

*10:00 am – 12:00 pm, South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S Fitzhugh, Dallas.* In association with the three-year project, *Renewing Material and the Handmade: the Story of Ugandan Bark Cloth.*

**SUNDAY, 10/5**

## Renewing Material and the Handmade

*Panel Discussion, 1:30 pm, Art Building Rm 223.* Printmaker Fred Mutebi and designer and art historian Dr. Venny Nakazibwe will visit from Uganda to explore bark cloth as an artist's muse and material in various activities inspired by global awareness and ecology. Both guests will join CVAD faculty artists Lesli Robertson (fibers) and Andy DeCaen (printmaking) in a panel discussion considering the challenges and successes of using bark cloth in the studio.



**Lesli Robertson experiencing the process of making bark cloth in Kanabulemu, Uganda, 2007**

**TUESDAY, 10/7**

## Visiting Artist Fred Mutebi speaks at the Greater Denton Arts Council

*Lecture, 7:30 pm, Denton Visual Art Center, 400 E. Hickory St., Denton*

**TUESDAY, 10/14**

## Annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition

*Opening Reception, 4 – 6:30 pm in UNT Art Gallery foyer.*

The *Annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition* showcases artworks in all media by the artists working in the College of Visual Arts and Design, one of the most comprehensive university art programs in the nation. The arts thrive in North Texas, due in no small part to the talented CVAD faculty and staff. The exhibition runs through 11/1.

**TUESDAY, 10/21**

## Basquiat, Director Julian Schnabel, 1996

*Film Viewing and Discussion, 6 – 8:30 pm, VRC viewing room, Art Bldg Rm 224*



**TUESDAY, 11/11**

## Kate Gilmore: Girl Fight

*Opening Reception, 4 – 6:30 pm in the UNT Art Gallery foyer. Curator's Lecture with Matthew Drutt, Executive Director, Artpace San Antonio, 6:30 pm, Art Bldg Rm 223.*

The UNT Art Gallery hosts *Girl Fight*, an exhibition of video works by New York artist Kate Gilmore originally displayed at Artpace San Antonio as part of the Hudson (Show) Room series. Gilmore takes a lead role in performances about futility, perseverance and identity in universal situations, such as relationships and competitions. Gilmore's works evoke a new generation's voice about feminism, personal character and the human journey, prompting us to contemplate the nature of purpose. The exhibition runs through 12/13.