



Dornith Doherty, Windswept, 2007, Chromogenic color photograph, Edition of 9, 44 x 44 inches

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS[™]
College of Visual Arts
and Design

FORMERLY THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS

VOLUME II, ISSUE I

FALL 2007

Studio Art Department News

VOLUME II, ISSUE I

FALL 2007

COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN
DEPARTMENT OF STUDIO ART

Note from the Chair

Hello Everyone!

So, what do you think of our new name? Yes, we are now the College of Visual Arts and Design. And, we are also the Department of Studio Art as well. All three divisions in SOVA have become departments in COVAD. The coordinating board approved the changes at its August meeting and it became effective this fall. Why, you might ask? Well, to make a long story short, it seems there are about six Schools of Visual Arts around the nation that will be changing their names as a result of a formal request by the one New York School that had the foresight to trademark the name. But we are okay with it: we like the new name and we like the new department status. It all fits.

I hope this past year was as productive and successful for you as it has been for us. Under the direction of dean Robert Milnes and our interim associate dean, Marian O'Rourke-Kaplan, we completed a major self study this year as a part of our application for accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Several important points came out of the self study. As you might expect, our faculty and our students are among our best assets. We have a highly productive and professional faculty who care greatly about student success, and we have been fortunate in attracting our share of talented students. We need more incentives to bring them here, however. We need more funding for scholarships and more funding for graduate assistantships. We are

short of space by some one hundred thousand square feet.

Thanks to both dean Milnes and associate dean, Don Schol, we

now have additional space in four campus buildings beyond our original art building. We have facilities in Oak Street Hall, Hickory Hall, Scholar Hall and Kendall. Art is thriving at the University of North Texas and we hope you will help us keep it so. Please consider making a contribution this year to one of our preeminent programs.

We are addressing a number of health and safety issues that surfaced as a result of the study and after tweaking a few curricular issues as well, we anticipate gaining certification as a new member of NASAD early this fall.

And, as I promised in last year's newsletter, we are including some alumni news this year. It is always a delight to hear from you. Drop us a line and let us know what you are up to and we will include your news in our future newsletters.



Sincerely,
Jerry Austin
Chair

Studio Newsletter

Vol II, Issue I, Fall 2007

- *Compiled by*
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- *Articles submitted by*
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Jerry Austin
Matt Bourbon
Vincent Falsetta
Robert Jessup
Susan Kennedy
Brenda Lichman-Barber
Ana Lopez
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New Faculty and Programs

The Studio Division (oops, make that the Department of Studio Art) is pleased to announce three new faculty for 2007.

Andy DeCaen, MFA University of South Dakota, joins us as our new assistant professor in Printmaking. He comes to us from the University of Central Florida, Orlando, where he has taught for the past several years.

Paho Mann, fresh out of Arizona State, Tempe, becomes our third faculty member in Photography. He brings experience in digital printing and on line web design to the program.

Matthew Sontheimer, MFA Montana State University, Bozeman, joins us as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Painting and Drawing. Matthew has been teaching at the University of Houston and we are delighted to have him join us this year.

The new major in Watercolor becomes official this fall and we look forward to offering this new option to our painting students. As you may know, we lost Rob Erdle to cancer this past year, but his lovely wife, Millie Giles, an accomplished watercolor artist herself, will administer the program for us. Next year, we will introduce yet another new major concentration, Electronic Media, which we anticipate will find broad appeal.



Broadway Food & Meat Market by Paho Mann, "Circle K" series

Metals & Jewelry at UNT

Recently, professor Ana Lopez organized two international exhibitions of enameling shown in Columbus, Ohio, in August along with the 2007 Enamelist Society's biennial conference, entitled "Fusion". A catalogue and cd will accompany them. More information is available at:

www.enamelistsociety.org/Activities/Exhibitions.html

In April, Ana and professor Harlan Butt were guest lecturers and gave demonstrations at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Ana was also nominated for this year's Women's Jewelry Association Award for Excellence as a "Special Woman Serving the Jewelry Community". She also put out a catalogue of the brooch show that was curated on the occasion of President Bataille's inauguration. The brooches, made by advanced students, reflected different aspects of Dr. Bataille's interests and responsibilities. The catalogue is available for purchase on Blurb.com:



Alchemist Wedding Band by Ana Lopez

Robert Jessup

After a year that was heavy on painting, associate professor Robert Jessup has had a year that was heavy on showing, mounting no less than three solo exhibitions in 2007.

Jessup held a solo exhibition at the Conduit Gallery in Dallas in January called Floating, Falling. He also had a solo show at the Fay Gold Gallery in Atlanta, Georgia, in April entitled simply *New Paintings*.

His third solo exhibition of the year will open on September 8 at the McMurtrey Gallery in Houston, Texas.

www.mcmurtreygallery.com

Four of professor Jessup's new paintings in the McMurtrey exhibition are what he calls "story paintings": large views of figures interacting enigmatically in vast landscape settings.

Another group of paintings at the McMurtrey are domestic allegories, featuring windows, still lifes, and babies. Finally, there are a group of small still life paintings, memories of things on the table.

For more images, see his website at

www.robertjessup.com



Falling, oil on canvas

Vincent Falsetta

In the spring semester Vincent Falsetta had a solo exhibition titled “*Modern Rhymes*” at the Art Museum of South-east Texas in Beaumont. Seven large paintings were exhibited. The museum purchased the largest of the group “*CQ 06-3*”, 90” x 110” for their permanent collection. This exhibition was curated by the Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, Ray Daniel. Ray is also a SOVA alumni.



Detail from *CQ 06-3*, oil on canvas, 90”x110”
by Vincent Falsetta

Continuing his investigation of abstract gesture, process, and expression, Vincent Falsetta’s newest body of work features cascades and vertical striations of color that are at once streaming, free, spontaneous, controlled and deliberate. Using brushes, cardboard, spreaders, palette knives and dry wall spatulas to achieve a rich texture of stripes and ripples, Falsetta achieves a kind of deliberate spontaneity.

“My work references technology and its interaction with both contemporary culture and traditional painting. Using an idiosyncratic means of applying paint, I call specific attention to the plasticity of the medium and to the painting as an object, as opposed to a flat image. But, while the waves I produce are quietly literal, they also have an undeniable graphic

presence that corresponds to printed recordings of sound waves, seismic waves and other forms of electronic readings. My choices of color, which are painstakingly formulated, recall those found in Japanese printed fabric and animation.” -- Vincent Falsetta

Falsetta who was a recent finalist for the \$50,000 Hunting Art Prize in Houston also participated in a two person exhibition with Charlotte Smith at the Anya Tish gallery in Houston. Vincent Falsetta was Charlotte’s major professor in the late 90s when she was earning her MFA in painting and drawing.

Fiber Arts at UNT

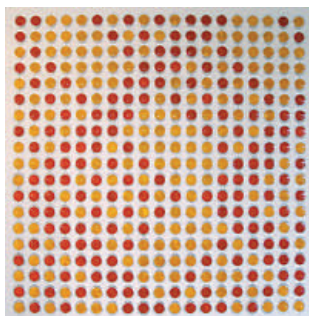
The Fibers programs is weaving an exemplary tapestry of outreach and excellence at both national and international arts events. There are so many exciting things happening in the Fibers program here in the College of Visual Arts & Design

Associate Professor Amie Adelman delivered three lectures this spring: *New Beginnings: Contemporary Art of South Africa* for the Dallas Area Fiber Artists in January; *Traversing Fibers* at Texas A & M-Corpus Christi in February; and *Digital Printing on Textiles* for the Fiber Artists of San Antonio in April.

Amie also curated the exhibition *Traversing Fibers*, a sampling of contemporary fiber works which traveled from El Centro College in Dallas

to Texas A & M in Corpus Christi.

Lesli Roberson and Amie Adelman both traveled to the Republic of Uganda last summer to research barkcloth, mats and basketry. Lesli received a Professional Development Grant from the Surface Design Association and Amie received a Small Grant from UNT to conduct their research.



Amie Adelman, *stratolite*
mixed media, 84”x84”



Mama Banura from Kitibulu, Uganda showing a sample of her mat work.

UNT at NCECA in 2007

By Brenda Lichman-Barber, ceramics lab technician

Each year, faculty and students from UNT attend the international convention of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. This year's conference, NCECA's 41st, was held in Louisville, Kentucky. Alumni Brenda Lichman-Barber (MFA 2002) and Jake Allee (MFA 2003) curated an outstanding national ceramics exhibition entitled ***Line to Volume***.

The show was an invitational exhibition dedicated to exposing different perspectives on the act of



Brenda Lichman Barber's featured work at the *Line to Volume* show.

drawing as related to the creation of ceramic objects. This show was geared towards diversity in aesthetic and direction in terms of functional and non-functional objects. The exhibit focused on the autographic qualities of the maker transcending from two dimensions to three dimensions. The drawings expressed the vitality and immediacy that are an integral process for the ceramic artists in this exhibition.*

Artists submitted line drawings and completed ceramics items based on these line drawings to demonstrate the relationship between drawing out an idea and the implementation of that idea into a three-dimensional ceramic form.

This exhibition was on display for the entire month of March at the Ronald L. Barr Gallery at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Indiana. The exhibition featured the drawings and ceramic works, both functional and nonfunctional, of twenty-five emerging, mid-career, and established artists.

The purpose of the National Council on Education in the Ceramics Arts is to promote and improve the ceramic arts through education, research, and creative practice.



Jake Allee contributed to the organization and implementation of the exhibition.

NCECA offers programs, exhibitions and publications that are uniquely beneficial and rewarding to its membership of artists, educators, students, patrons, retailers and manufacturers. From the NCECA website:

NCECA was founded and developed by forward-thinking ceramic artists who saw the benefits of a professional organization in its ability to create identity, definition and support for the ceramics teacher and artist, and to promote advancement of the ceramic arts. *

*www.nceca.net/aboutus/index.html



Artist Residency with Annette Lawrence

Set on the only inhabited island of the Summer Isles, the summer 2007 Tanera Mòr International Artists' Workshop facilitated by professor Annette Lawrence offered the opportunity for artists to:

- participate in a workshop removed geographically and conceptually from their usual studio
- live, work and create art in a shared, non-structured environment that promotes artistic experimentation
- engage in cross-cultural collaboration and exchange with 20 invited artists
- interact with the local population, participating in educational events and in an open day at the end of the workshop

"As I passed this stone house for the first time I was curious about what the view might be from the window..." -Annette Lawrence, June 6, 2007

As the Tanera Mor workshop residency progressed in the first two weeks of June, artists had the opportunity to blog about their experiences.

See more of Annette's blog at

www.hi-arts.co.uk/iaw-artist-annette-lawrence.html



Double Edge #1, 2005
Acrylic, photocopy on paper
15 5/8 x 12 1/2 inches

"Each student won a \$1,250 scholarship."

TACEF 36th Annual Arts Fair

Every year, the Department of Studio Arts purchases several booths at the Texas Arts & Crafts Education Foundation fair held in May in Kerrville, Texas. And every year, eight to twelve art students are selected to represent UNT at the four-day event, learning the business side of showing and selling their work.

Despite this year's near torrential rain, everyone managed to arrive safely to the fair and competition and get their work, ranging from ceramics and sculpture to photography and jewelry, successfully set up in the school-sponsored booths.

The fair lasted four days, ending on Memorial Day. It was an interesting and informative experience for all our students. Due to the rain, attendance was low and there was plenty of time to listen and learn from the stories and advice of the seasoned artists stationed in nearby booths.

On Friday, May 25, a steady stream of judges passed through, questioning each student individually on their work. On Saturday, May 26, the scholarship awards were announced. Each year, the TACEF awards scholarships to those participants judged best in their category, and upholding a long tradition of successful enterprise,

UNT's students again this year took top honors in several categories. Best of Clay went to graduate student Susan Kennedy for her display of uniquely fashioned tableware. Best in Sculpture went to graduate student Nina Dyer for her organic pod-like series dealing with transition and metamorphosis. Undergraduate Craig Vandeman won Best in Jewelry with his sterling silver body adornments. Each student won a \$1,250 scholarship.

In addition to these generous awards, all the students had the opportunity to sell work to the public. Many were able to return to north Texas with a little less work and some hard-earned money.

For more information about the TACEF and their annual fair, see their website at:

<http://www.tacef.com/>



Susan Kennedy, *Stacked Bowls*, ceramic

Fibers Student & Alumni News



Abiding Delicacy by Lesli Robertson

Our fibers students and alums are a busy bunch. Many of them exhibit locally and beyond. The following is a selected listing of their many activities.

Fran Collier, BFA 2006, participated in a two-month summer assistantship at Peters Valley in New Jersey. She worked as a studio assistant for various workshops in the fibers department.

Tiffany Witt, BFA 2006, is the Associate Media Producer at Higher Ed Holdings in Dallas.

Jerilyn Fargo, senior in Fibers, successfully completed an internship with Russell-Newman, Inc. in Denton, TX. Additionally, Jerilyn had the honor of designing and weaving the regalia stole worn by President Gretchen Bataille at her inauguration in April.



Scott Collins, senior in Fibers, successfully completed an internship with By Brooke, a textile design firm located in Dallas.

Scottie developed products for their interiors line. Several of his designs were purchased in bulk by Neiman Marcus and placed in stores nationwide.

Ashlie Adams and Andrea Glanzer, fibers students, will be new interns with By Brooke during the fall.

Each year *Fiberarts Journal* illustrates "... the variety of what is being created in colleges and universities today." UNT's Fibers program was one of those recognized for "refinement, consistency, and presentation." The November/December issue featured Lisa Rich, MFA 2006, as an "Artist to Watch."

Leisa was also featured nationally in the PBS Artist Special, "In Context" in spring 2007.

Scott Collins, Jerilyn Fargo and Leisa Rich were each awarded over \$1,600 in scholarships from the Barbara L. Kuhlman Foundation, Inc.

Sarah Fischer received third place in the Visual Art Society of Texas (VAST) National Juried Exhibition for her finely woven toilet paper.

Finally, for four weeks this summer, Lesli Robertson, MFA 2005, researched and studied plaited mat making and its role in Ugandan society as well as conducted supplemental research on bark cloth. With assistance from Kyambogo University, the Uganda National Museum, and Uganda Crafts 2000 Ltd., Lesli was able to build relationships with artisans overseas and observe these two exquisite processes.



Man in Uganda demonstrating the making of bark cloth.

Matthew Bourbon

This year, area coordinator Matthew Bourbon mounted a solo show "Crass, Cruel and Uncouth" at Conduit Gallery. His work was also seen at the Kimbell Museum of Art in conjunction with the Artist's Eye program. More recently his art was on view at Rudolph Projects for the group exhibition Red Velvet. This November his paintings will be seen at H. Paxton Moore Fine Art Gallery at El Centro College. Bourbon gave several lectures over the past year and served on

a panel at the 500 X gallery discussing themes of narrative and sentimentality in painting. He also continues to work as an art critic where he penned seven critical reviews for *Artforum Online*, *FlashArt*, *New York Arts*, *ArtLies* and *ArtNews*.



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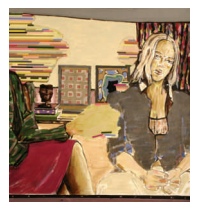
Lari Gibbons



Brenda Lichman-Barber



Ed Blackburn



Matt Bourbon



Don Schol



Etienne Illy



Andy DeCaen



Annette Lawrence



Brent Phelps



Ana Lopez



Elmer Taylor



Jason Dibley