



COLLEGE OF
VISUAL ARTS
+ DESIGN

AVANT-GARDE

DEAN'S MESSAGE

AFTER A YEAR'S HIATUS, THE AVANT-GARDE RETURNS IN A NEW, LEANER FORMAT. WE HOPE YOU FIND IT ATTRACTIVE AND INFORMATIVE. IT WILL BE PRODUCED AND MAILED TWICE A YEAR. THIS EDITION FEATURES STORIES SHOWING THE INTERNATIONAL REACH OF OUR graduates and faculty, the exciting advent of CVAD's Design Research Center in Dallas, and information about visiting artists, artworks, and exhibitions at the college this season. I hope you enjoy the information and are as impressed as I am by the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni and the growth of the art and design programs.

The Avant-Garde now has a new electronic cousin, *Stories from the Avant-Garde*. *Stories*, a beefy yet ethereal, sustainable and green publication, concentrates on the activities of our alumni, providing in depth accounts of their activities, along with reports on the activities of our faculty, students, and programs. As an e-newsletter, it provides us more room for more stories and more opportunities to quickly inform you of the accomplishments of the CVAD family. It provides you the opportunity to tell us what you are doing and for us to share the information with your friends and our supporters. You have to subscribe to receive it though, because we don't want to burden your email accounts any more than your mailbox. So go to art.unt.edu and subscribe to stay informed and connected! Sincerely,

— Robert Milnes, DEAN

*The image in the background is of a travel bus designed by UNT
CVAD Interior Design alumna, Julie Mandrell, B.F.A. 1997.*

UNT
UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH TEXAS

ALUMNA JULIE MANDRELL DESIGNS DREAM PLANES, YACHTS & BUSES

JULIE MANDRELL NEVER DREAMED SHE WOULD SOMEDAY BE DINING WITH MEMBERS OF A ROYAL FAMILY OR WORKING WITH NASCAR GREATS INCLUDING DALE EARNHARDT, JR. and Kasey Kahne when she was growing up in the small town of Burkburnett, Texas. But, after graduating from CVAD's Interior Design program in 1997, her career has taken her where she never dared to dream.

After graduation she went to work for GULFSTREAM AEROSPACE, and then left to start her own company, VIAGGO LUX — *viaggio* translates to *travel* in Italian — 12 years ago. Her company specializes in custom bus, private aircraft and yacht interior design.

Since graduating she has gone on to design tour buses for NASCAR drivers, Kasey Kahne and Dale Earnhardt, Jr. and the President of NASCAR, Mike Helton. She was featured in the November issue of *Design Trade* magazine for her interior design on Kasey Kahne's private tour bus.

She has also designed two Gulfstream G200's for the royal family of Abu Dhabi specifically for His Excellency Sheik Hamad Bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan — a member of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi and part of the Al Nahyan Royal family.

"During the first visit, His Highness (a traditional Muslim man) invited me to sit next to him at the dinner table with a room full of men. I was the only woman," Mandrell said. "After that initial visit, I was asked to return to design the second aircraft and was invited into his palace to eat lunch with his wife, the Princess, and their 18 year old daughter."

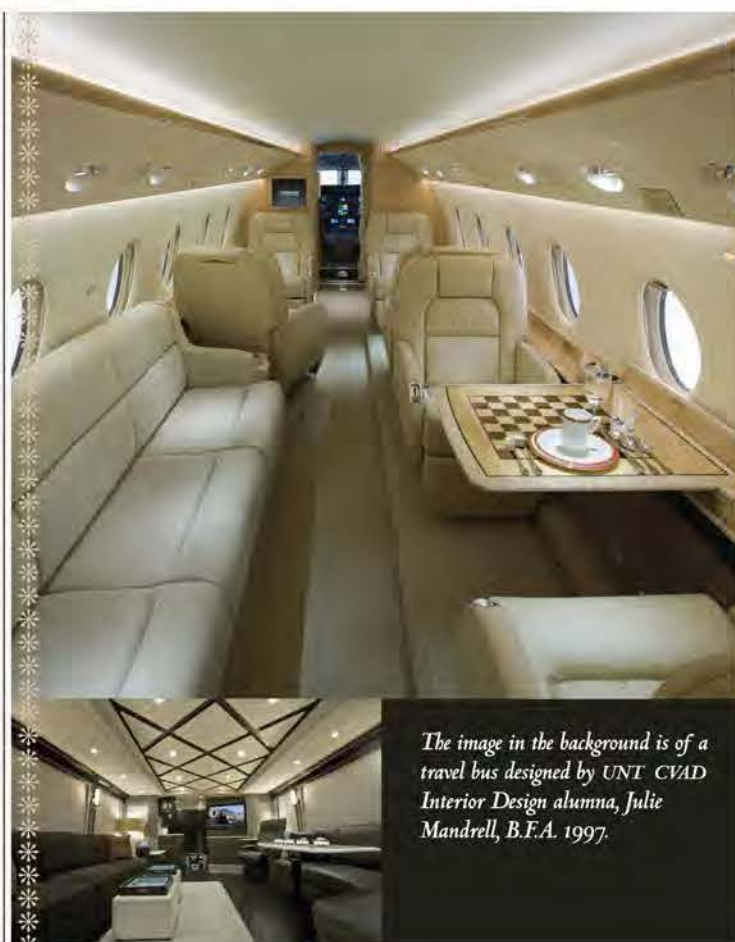
Julie attributes a lot of her success to UNT. "I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for my instructors and the friendships I made there. My circle of friends are all from UNT and my success is due to my education and (professor) Al Baucom."

A small-town girl who graduated from a high school with 150 people, Mandrell came to Denton in 1991 to attend UNT. "I struggled even with my art classes!" said Mandrell. "I probably

went through 10 majors before I came back to my first choice, Interior Design. I didn't see myself as an artist. All the other students were fantastic artists! I was surrounded by talent. I struggled through all my art classes as well as my interior design classes. When Al came on board, my passion in interior design changed. He saw something in me that I didn't. He believed in me and that made a huge impact on my self-confidence as a designer," she said.

She went on to say, "My entire life has changed due to my education. I didn't even think about college until my last semester of high school. It wasn't until then I knew I had to get out of Burkburnett and discover the world! UNT shaped everything ... my taste in music, art, culture, etc. ..."

Contact Julie Mandrell on her website at <http://viaggiolux.com>, or call her at 214-336-1208.



The image in the background is of a travel bus designed by UNT CVAD Interior Design alumna, Julie Mandrell, B.F.A. 1997.



A new University of North Texas Design Research Center (DRC) has opened in downtown Dallas to serve as an "urban laboratory" where graduate students and faculty members can spark and sustain design-driven solutions to pressing contemporary problems.

Construction began in December to renovate the 3,000-square-foot space part of the UNT System Building at 1908 Elm St. The renovated space includes a conference room, student work stations and a classroom.

At the DRC, interdisci-

UNT OPENS DESIGN RESEARCH CENTER IN DOWNTOWN DALLAS



plinary teams of faculty and students will work closely with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in the community to address social, environmental, economic and public policy concerns. Graduate classes began at the DRC this Spring.

Associate Professor Keith Owens, director of the Design Research Center said there are only a handful of universities across the country that are teaching and producing design research, and UNT's center is the first of its kind in the state.

"This urban laboratory is helping the College of Visual Arts and Design answer the challenge for UNT to become a Tier One research university," said Owens. "UNT has challenged itself to have more faculty producing research than before. This Design Research Center is the

College of Visual Arts' way of answering that challenge."

Several research projects have already started. They include:

- Working with KERA-PBS to create a best-in-class "Kids and Family" entertainment, learning and parenting portal and community website, UNT researchers and KERA staff will develop online experiences that build and enhance PBS children's programming and related KERA educational content.
- Collaborating with Downtown Dallas Inc., a nonprofit organization, to help invent innovative solutions to unique challenges faced by distinct districts in downtown Dallas — starting with the Historic West End. Faculty-led student researchers are investigating ideas for improving the economic vitality and quality of life in the West End and will seek to generalize these ideas for use by other Dallas districts, such as Deep Ellum.
- Helping employees of the World

Factory corporation to become more innovative idea generators to develop new products.

The Design Research Center will support graduate students pursuing MFA and MA degrees in Innovation Studies.

A grand opening for the Design Research Center is being planned for the spring. Student researchers are expected to present preliminary results of some of their studies at that time.

At right: Carey Roberson
Sometimes... They have to be on their own, 2009
Oil and ink jet on Stonehenge, mounted on wood
25 x 20 inches
Courtesy the artist



UNT ART GALLERY

51ST ANNUAL VOERTMAN STUDENT ART COMPETITION

April 12 — April 30, 2011

Opening Reception and Award Ceremony, Tuesday, April 12, Noon
The Voertman Competition is synonymous with student excellence in CVAD, featuring a juried selection of must-see new works in all media by undergraduate and graduate students in Design and Studio Arts.

CVAD MFA EXHIBITION

Curated by gallery staff

May 17 — August 6, 2011

Opening Reception, Tuesday, May 17, 4:30-6:00 pm

A summer tradition at the UNT Art Gallery, this exhibition features recent



works in various media by artists enrolled in the graduate Studio Art and Design programs at CVAD. Curated by gallery staff and focused on process, criticism and ideology, the exhibition presents an open environment in which to consider works by emerging artists.

BENEATH COGNITION: JENNIFER LEVONIAN, LEE RENNINGER AND CAREY ROBERSION

Curated by Tracee Robertson, Gallery Director
August 25 — September 24, 2011

Opening Reception, Tuesday, August 30, 4:30-6:00 pm

Inspired by the work of three contemporary American artists, *Beneath Cognition* combines artworks in varied media that convey from unique viewpoints a sense of understanding that lurks just beneath the surface of thought, action, or emotion. In animations, paintings, and ceramic sculptures, new media artist Jennifer Levonian (Philadelphia, PA), ceramic artist Lee Renninger (Washington, D.C.), and photographer and painter Carey Roberson (Little Rock, AR) provide moments of understanding that temporarily take us away from our own lives, only to return us with a heightened awareness of self and circumstance. This

exhibition is made possible in part by the UNT Fine Arts Series.

ANNUAL FACULTY AND STAFF EXHIBITION

October 11 — October 29

Opening Reception, Tuesday, October 5, 4:30-6:00 pm

The Annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition showcases artworks in all media by the accomplished artists working at CVAD. These artists impact communities around the world by guiding students to become smart, well-rounded professionals who positively influence the areas in which they live and work.

UNTold : new

Organized by CVAD Communication Design Faculty

November 15 — December 17, 2011

Opening Reception, Tuesday, November 15, 4:30-6:00 pm

This juried exhibition features award-winning two- and three-dimensional design by generations of CVAD alumni, providing an overview of approaches, accomplishments and changes in visual communication over the last several decades.

Above: Installation view, 50th Annual Voertman Student Art Competition, 2010, UNT Art Gallery. Photography by Matt Golden.



At left: Allison Davidson smiles at a message left by a participant of the storyteller session which was held in conjunction with the Ugandan Bark Cloth Project. Above: Laura Maxwell is touched by a message an attendee wrote on the storyboard which was comprised of recycled or repurposed materials and was a project of the NAEA.

ONSTEAD FELLOWS FUND SUPPORTS GRADUATE ART EDUCATION STUDENTS

Selected graduate art education students in the College of Visual Arts and Design will be granted full tuition and fees, as well as other educational expenses, thanks to an initial donation of \$200,000 from Dr. Charles Onstead to establish the Jody and Charles Onstead Master Fellows Fund.

Charles and Jo Ann "Jody" Onstead met at UNT, where Jody earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education. They married after she graduated and then Charles began serving in World War II. After the war Charles returned to UNT to complete a bachelor's degree in political science, while Jody taught elementary art in the Dallas public school system. They moved to San Antonio where Charles went on to work at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, serving as a radiologist for the military for nearly 20 years before opening a private practice. The couple was married for 57 years before Jody's death in 2003.

"Through this fellowship, we are able to support excellent students who are planning to dedicate their careers to working with north Texas children as professional art educators," said Kelly Donahue-Wallace, Associate Professor of Art History in the College of Visual Arts and Design.

The fellowship provides a selected student with

full-time tuition and fees and other costs associated with attending school—about \$19,500 a year.

The first selected student, Dallas native Jennifer Hartman, taught middle school art for three years in the Plano Independent School District before coming to UNT for a master's degree which she earned in December 2010. She is currently working toward her doctorate and teaching an undergraduate class at CVAD. Once she earns her doctoral degree she plans on returning to teaching in the public schools.

"Receiving this fellowship is a great honor, and has helped me to pursue my own, personal academic objectives by removing the financial barriers to my education in becoming a more effective teacher, curriculum leader, and arts advocate," Hartman said.

The second group of students awarded fellowships include: Laura Maxwell (*nee* Carmack) is completing coursework and is scheduled to complete her student teaching and graduate in Fall 2011. Also receiving a fellowship is Allison Davidson. She recently presented at the Texas Association of Art Education, and at the National Art Education Association over Spring Break. She is the President of the UNT Graduate Student Art Education Association.



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ONLINE NEWSLETTER "STORIES FROM THE AVANT-GARDE"

CVAD is excited to now have an online newsletter that comes out monthly. *STORIES FROM THE AVANT-GARDE* captures information regarding our alumni, faculty and current students. Each month we highlight the big stories happening at CVAD and tell you about job opportunities and gallery openings that showcase our students, faculty and alumni. The only way you can receive this informative newsletter is to subscribe which only takes a few seconds. So please go to: <http://unt.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7169dbd81e4133d4eb7278219&id=b5b44b981b> to subscribe.

SUPPORT CVAD

Gifts to the College of Visual Arts and Design at UNT enable the College to pursue excellence in many ways. These gifts ensure that CVAD can attract top graduate and undergraduate students through scholarships, make possible CVAD's Visiting Artist/Scholarship programs, provide faculty enrichment opportunities, and support outstanding national treasures such as North Texas Institute for Educators on the Visual Arts (NTIEVA), the Print Research Institute of North Texas (P.R.I.N.T.) and the Texas Fashion Collection, all housed within CVAD. Supporting CVAD through endowments and the Annual Fund helps secure the arts for the future generations.

Please take a moment to join us in the pursuit of excellence. We sincerely value your gifts as they are an endorsement of the University of North Texas and the College of Visual Arts and Design. If you have any questions or would like more information on how you can help, please contact Dean Robert Milnes at 940-565-4003 or email him at Robert.Milnes@unt.edu. You may use the enclosed pledge card or contribute online at "Support CVAD" on our website at <http://art.unt.edu>.

THANK YOU!

We appreciate your gift of support to the College of Visual Arts and Design Annual Campaign at the University of North Texas.

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Questions? Please contact Dean Robert Milnes, at

940.565.4003.

If you have already made a gift, thank you!

We would still love to hear from you.

Alumni/Friends notes: _____

“My entire life has changed due to my education. UNT shaped everything ... my taste in music, art, culture, etc. ...”

—JULIE MANDRELL

Interior Design alumna, B.F.A. 1997

Did you know when you make a donation to the university, you may direct that donation?

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