

# STUDIO DIVISION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2006

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings and best wishes to you all!

This is our first ever Division Newsletter and I want to begin by thanking my administrative assistant, Angela Vanecek, for her hard work and perseverance and of course, our very productive, very diverse and wide ranging studio faculty for all their contributions.

Last January, we welcomed a new dean to SOVA, Dr. Robert Milnes, who comes to us after fourteen years as director of the School of Art at San Jose State, California. We were also joined last year by our second metal smith, Ana Lopez, MFA Cranbrook, and this fall, we welcome a new printmaker, visiting assistant professor, Mark Pease, MFA University of Pennsylvania.

Watercolor is now a separate major concentration and we are hoping to add another, electronic media, in the near future. Printmaking has moved to new digs in Hickory Hall (the old Industrial Technology building), and graduate metals and graduate sculpture studios have joined them. Change is both frequent and common at UNT, but the high quality of our programs, our faculty, and our student endeavors always, I am happy to say, remains a constant.

You will note a paucity of information about our alumni and that is in large part a fault of ours, for we have not been too successful at keeping up with you. However, I invite you to take a few moments to email us with news about yourself and I promise we will include you in our future publications. It is always of interest to us all to discover what you are up to since graduating from UNT, so please correspond. I hope you enjoy our inaugural publication and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Austin, Chair, Division of Studio Art



## POLISHED: THREE DECADES OF METALS AT UNT



*Snakes in Heaven Teapot*  
Harlan Butt

We are pleased to announce an upcoming exhibition *Polished: Three Decades of Metal at UNT*. This exhibition will feature works by University of North Texas Jewelry/Metals alumni, students, and faculty. Scheduled to open in mid November 2006 and end in January 2007, *Polished* will coincide with the thirtieth anniversary of the Metals program under the direction of Regents Professor Harlan Butt.

*Polished: Three Decades of Metal at UNT* will be shown at the new UNT artspace FW, our new gallery on Camp Bowie Blvd. in Fort Worth across from the Kimbell Art Museum. This exhibition is intended to highlight the exceptional quality and diversity of artwork which has been produced by alumni, students, and faculty in the UNT Jewelry/Metals

program from the fall of 1976 to the present.

The final exhibition checklist was selected by a panel composed of UNT Metals faculty and gallery staff, who made every effort to include at least one piece from every applicant.

A silent auction of one of Professor Butt's pieces will be held to help cover the cost of the exhibition. Proceeds will be donated to the UNT Metals Scholarship Fund, which is awarded to students in Jewelry/Metals at the Annual Voertman Student Exhibition.

## ROB ERDLER WATERCOLOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Rob Erdle, *Smokey Mountain Stream*

For the past 30 years, Rob Erdle has been sharing his talents through his painting and drawing courses at the University of North Texas where he is a Regents Professor. He has encouraged and fostered the talent of many students in the School of Visual Arts who will be the next generation of artists. Rob's ability to bring forth and nurture creativity in his students has made him a valuable

mentor to each of them. In recognition of Rob's dedication to teaching and art making, Stephen Zhang, a former student of Rob's who is now Vice President at Fossil, and some of Rob's friends have initiated the "Rob Erdle Watercolor Painting Award Fund."

Letters were sent to friends, alumni, and Medici Circle members asking for contributions to the fund. Its earnings will provide an award each year for the best watercolor painting in the annual Voertman Student Competition.

Rob has been a role model and mentor for many students over the years who have aspired to excellence in painting. How fitting that his name will be permanently linked to this award. It will be a tribute to Rob and the high standards he has set; additionally, it will provide both financial support and an affirmation of each winner's capabilities.

The Visual Arts Society of Texas honored Rob at their 2006 Gala in January at the Center for the Visual Arts in Denton, which included an exhibition of Rob's art work entitled *Rob Erdle, New Work: Eastern Influences on a Western Artist*. A mid-career retrospective entitled *Luminous Landscapes: Watercolors by Rob Erdle* opened last summer in Baton Rouge at the Louisiana Art and Science Museum.



Rob Erdle, *Spring Dusk*, watercolor

## LARI GIBBONS, ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE, THE BANFF CENTRE FOR THE ARTS BANFF, ALBERTA, CANADA, MARCH 13 - 24, 2006.

**About the program:** "The Self-Directed Creative Residencies program in the Visual Arts provides the time and space for artists to create new works, research innovative ideas, and experiment with different techniques and modes of production."

**About Banff Centre:** "Located in Banff National Park and surrounded by the awe-inspiring vistas of the majestic Rocky Mountains, the Banff Centre is an... institution for professional artists working in a peer-to-peer learning environment. The Centre's dynamic context provides for interaction by artists and cultural workers in other program disciplines throughout the year."

– taken from the 2006 Banff Centre's Creative Residencies promotional materials



## DIVISION UPDATE BY JERRY AUSTIN

### In Brief:

Our group of twenty four faculty have been in approximately twenty international exhibitions, sixty-four national shows, and over ninety state and regional exhibitions in just this past year alone. To mention just a few:

### CERAMICS

Area Coordinator **Jerry Austin** mounted a solo exhibition of all new work at the Tim Salen Gallery at the St. Petersburg Clay Works in Florida. Austin also co-presented a glaze session at the national ceramics conference in Portland.



Jerry Austin

Regents professor **Elmer Taylor** also led a seminar in Portland and continued his prolific output of fine tableware, displaying much of it at his new Taylormade Gallery in Ketchum, Idaho. Taylor also gave workshops in Iowa and Utah this past year.

### DRAWING & PAINTING

Area coordinator **Annette Lawrence** mounted solo shows at the Betty Cuningham Gallery in New York City last summer, at Dunn and Brown Contemporary in Dallas, and at the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston. **Vincent Falsetta** showed at UT San Antonio and had work included in New American Painting, 2005 and 3 Decades of American Painting.

**Robert Jessup** continues his prolific outpouring with no less than four solo shows in his galleries in Atlanta, Houston, Santa Monica and Dallas. **Susan Cheal** could be seen at the Flatbed Press in Austin and her work was selected for the Texas Biennial, Blue Star 19 and New American Talent, 2005. **Matt Bourbon** mounted solo exhibitions at the Conduit Gallery, at Studio 107 in Austin, and had works in group shows in New York, at the International Art Expo in Trieste, Italy, and in the United Arab Emirates. Bourbon was made contributing editor to *Art Lies* magazine this year, and also writes for *Flash Art International* and *New York Arts International* where he focuses on contemporary exhibitions.

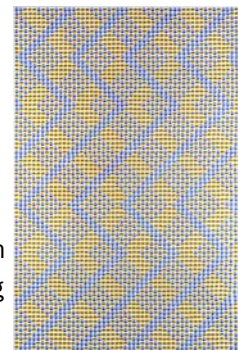


Vincent Falsetta

And then there is **Vernon Fisher**. After a distinguished teaching career at UNT, regents professor Vernon Fisher retired this year to devote full time to his art making.

### FIBERS

Surface designer and program coordinator **Amie Adelman** completed a major solo show in Oslo, Norway this spring where she also led a symposium on contemporary textile design. Recent MFA graduate **Lesli Robertson** will teach our weaving courses this year, replacing retiring **Phyllis Murray**.



Amie Adelman

### METALSMITHING & JEWELRY

Area coordinator and regents professor, **Harlan Butt**, mounted a major solo exhibition at the Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts last spring and another show and enameling seminar at the National Gallery of Art in Australia. He was joined last year by metalsmith **Ana Lopez** MFA Cranbrook, by way of the Corcoran College of Art and Design and the Renwick Gallery of American Craft where she is earning her MA in the History of Craft.



Ana Lopez

### PHOTOGRAPHY

In photography, **Brent Phelps** continues field research with his new theme of photographing major 19<sup>th</sup> century cattle trails and area coordinator **Dornith Doherty** completed solo shows of her work in Brno, Czech Republic and in Houston. Both photographers were honored in LA and in Houston at the Gerald Peters Galleries.



Dornith Doherty

### PRINTMAKING

After finalizing printmaking's move to spacious new digs in Hickory Hall, area coordinator **Justin Quinn** has taken leave of us, accepting a position closer to home for his family. Also leaving the program is **Catherine Chauvin**, whose cre-

## DIVISION UPDATE (CONT'D)

dentials as master printer and head of P.R.I.N.T. Press will be sorely missed. Visiting assistant professor **Mark Pease**, MFA University of Pennsylvania, will head the print program this coming year.



New printmaking facilities at Hickory Hall

### SCULPTURE

Professor **Richard Davis** spent half of last year on sabbatical leave, where he recharged and completed research for new



Andy Holtin

works and commissions in one of his favorite materials, stainless steel. **Andy Holtin**, MFA Virginia Commonwealth, completed his second year teaching in the sculpture program, and continues to intrigue

us with kinetic, interactive works in both local and distant venues.

### WATERCOLOR

In addition to his retrospective, regents professor **Rob Erdle** was also honored with another solo show and banquet at the Denton Creative Arts Center and yet another solo show in Niigata, Japan. Rob and co-conspirator **Millie Giles** will coordinate our newest major concentration, watercolor.



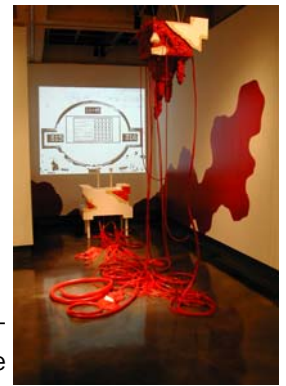
Millie Giles

### ART CORE PROGRAM

In addition to her residency (see pg. 2), drawing foundations coordinator **Lari Gibbons** had work shown in several international venues including the 2005 International Exhibition in Gufang Gallery in Beijing, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Muestra Internacional de Miniprint in Rosario, Argentina, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Lessedra World Art Print Annual Show at the National Palace of Culture in Sofia, Bulgaria. Design foundations coordinator **Sally Packard** mounted solo exhibitions in Chicago and Sweden, and was in group shows in New York and Washington, DC.

### ELECTRONIC ART

Often kinetic, usually electronic, and always entertaining, the work of **Max Kazemzadeh** has garnered attention from electronic pundits around the world. He participated in the Interactive Digital Media Arts Association, the Miami University Center for Interactive Media Studies, and the Boston Cyber Arts Festival. He is bringing it home this fall with the TexElectronica International Symposium right here in the metroplex.



Max Kazemzadeh

As you can see from this brief, partial listing, we are a spectacularly diverse faculty, prolific, wide-ranging, and capable of exerting great and positive influence.

## WANT TO BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE?

We would love to showcase your most recent exhibition, event, or achievement and share it with the faculty, staff, and alumni of the UNT School of Visual Arts. If you would like to be in the next issue of our newsletter, please electronically submit your article and any accompanying images to [studio@unt.edu](mailto:studio@unt.edu) and we will do our best to include you!

Please note that all submissions are subject to edit for length so that we may include as many articles as possible. Please ensure that all image submissions are a minimum of 300dpi resolution.

Send your submissions to [studio@unt.edu](mailto:studio@unt.edu)

## STUDIO CHAIR SPONSERS EMERGING ARTISTS

The Studio Division sponsored eleven emerging artists from the School of Visual Arts in May at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Official Texas State Texas Arts & Crafts Fair held by the Texas Arts & Crafts Education Foundation. The Studio Division provided a display area for the students who participated in the "Emerging Texas Artist" Scholarship contest.

The fair is held each Spring in Kerrville, Texas, and is an excellent opportunity for our students to be seen and recognized. The fair provides a large audience of potential buyers, collectors, and art enthusiasts. Students are encouraged, but not required, to sell their work at the fair.

In recent years, only ceramics students have participated, but this year we had sculptors and metalsmiths joining the group. Past participants have won scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. Over the last four years, ceramic artists from UNT have won the \$2,500 "Best in Show" award twice, three "Best in Medium" awards of \$1,500 each, and seven additional \$500 scholarships.

We had a successful showing of our artists at this year's fair, which was held May 26-29. This year's competitors from UNT won the Best in Ceramics and Best in Jewelry categories.



*Promethius*, Kristin Freeman, Metalsmithing & Jewelry undergraduate and Best in Medium, 2005.

For more information about the Texas Arts & Crafts Education Foundation or the Emerging Artist scholarship competition, please see their website at [www.tacef.org](http://www.tacef.org).



Elmer Taylor

## 500X GALLERY, DALLAS, TX

500X Gallery in Dallas, TX, is Texas' oldest artist-run gallery. As we enter our 29th season, allow us to introduce our Members who are alumni of SOVA:

Jim Burton, MFA, Drawing & Painting  
 Sarah Maxwell English, MFA, Drawing & Painting  
 Garland Fielder, MFA, Drawing & Painting  
 John Oliver Lewis, MFA, Ceramics  
 Jessica McCambly, MFA, Drawing & Painting  
 Tina Medina, MFA, Drawing & Painting  
 Veronica Tosten, MFA, Drawing & Painting  
 Brad Wehring, MFA, Drawing & Painting  
 Tara Welch, BFA, Printmaking

Associate Members:

Natalie Macellaio, MFA, Metals  
 Lesli Robertson, MFA, Fibers  
 Brian Spolans, MFA, Printmaking

500X Gallery hopes to see you this season! Support your local art scene!

[www.500x.org](http://www.500x.org)



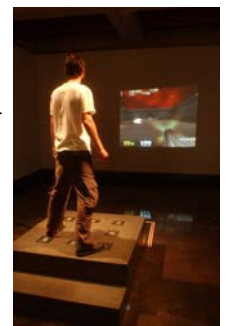
## MAX KAZEMZADEH WORKING WITH VISITING ARTIST

Bytes and Pieces, an electronic media art exhibition featuring Chinese artist Feng Mengbo and Ecquadorian artist Galo Moncayo that took place in the SoVA Gallery Feb. 8 - March 25, was curated by assistant professor of electronic media art Max Kazemzadeh and assistant professor of sculpture Andy Holtin.

Each artist has a different approach to electronic media as is apparent within their installations. Feng Mengbo is an international reknown e-media artist who exhibited in the Venice Biennale in 1993, the Lyon, Shanghai, and Seoul Biennales, the MOMA in New York, Ars Electronica 04, the Boston CyberArts Festival, the Dia Center, among other prominent venues. Galo

Moncayo is an artist and professor teaching at Indiana University who has exhibited his programmed kinetic installations nationally and internationally.

While visiting UNT last February, Feng Mengbo screened three of his movies, gave an artist's lecture at SOVA, and gave a new performance for UNT in the UNT College of Music's Merrill Ellis Intermedia Theater (MEIT), which is the Music Department's primary Center for Experimental Music and Intermedia (CEMI) performance venue.



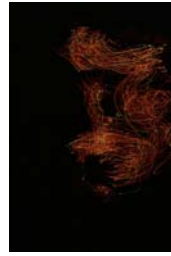
A student tries out Feng Mengbo's piece in the SOVA gallery during Ah\_Q competition



Matthew Bourbon



Kathy Lovas



Susan Cheal



Robert Jessup



Sally Packard



Leslie Robertson



Jason Dibley



Don Schol



Brent Phelps



Robert Milnes



Richard Davis



Annette Lawrence

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