vcuarts
Studio
Spring 2013
I’m thrilled to be entering my second year at a school that continues to impress me with its level of creativity, entrepreneurship and sheer risk-taking. I hope you’ve noticed that here at VCUarts we’ve made an effort to reach out to our alumni and friends in a bigger way over the last year. For alumni we’ve begun a calling campaign, sent an eye-catching mailer and quarterly email updates, all in an effort to engage you in the fantastic things happening at VCUarts. And did you notice the feature about VCUarts in the November issue of U.S. Airways Magazine?

The Richmond community has been taking note of VCUarts in a larger way, too. Our group of community supporters known as The Pollak Society has grown this year by 50 percent. They help fund scholarships and other initiatives for VCUarts, including the planned Institute for Contemporary Art, and we are thrilled with that growth. The word just continues to get out about the strength of our programs at VCUarts! In light of that, I thought it would be fun to share some alumni names that all VCUarts graduates and friends should know. They are listed to the right. We hope you’re as proud of your alma mater as we are to work here. And thanks to many of you who’ve helped support the excellence at VCUarts through your generous contributions.

My best,
Julia Carr
Executive Director of Development
VCUarts
carrj@vcu.edu
804.986.4000

INTRODUCING SARAH KIM, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Tell us about your background.
I’ve been part of Richmond’s non-profit community for nearly 20 years. I’ve worked on the Science Museum of Virginia’s $36 million renovation campaign, the evolution of the Hand Workshop into the Visual Arts Center of Richmond and the creation of the James River Ecology School down river on Presquile Island. I was also interim executive director for the Neighborhood Resource Center on Richmond’s Fulton Hill.

Why were you interested in being a part of VCUarts?
VCUarts offered the perfect chance to resume my work in the arts. The opportunity to expand The Pollak Society, engage with VCUarts alumni and be a part of the new VCU Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) was irresistible.

What are you working on?
The Pollak Society, named for VCUarts founder, Theresa Pollak, is the premier VCUarts giving club. Funds raised through The Pollak Society support all 16 departments providing students with scholarships, travel opportunities, lectures and more. Pollak Society contributions will also support the construction of the ICA. I’ve been working to expand and diversify this great group both to generate more support but also to engage more people in the inspiring work at VCUarts.

Sarah can be reached at 804-828-4692 or smkim@vcu.edu.
CONGRATULATIONS, VMFA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

The prestigious 2013–2014 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Visual Arts Fellowships have been announced and once again, the ties to VCUarts are numerous.

The VMFA Fellowship Program is a vital source of funding for the visual arts and art history in Virginia. The VMFA is committed to supporting professional artists as well as art students who demonstrate exceptional creative ability in their chosen discipline and has awarded more than $4 million in fellowships to Virginians. Recipients include:

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
Noelle Choy, Sculpture + Extended Media
Margaret Grymes, Sculpture + Extended Media
Denney Turner (incoming VCUarts student, 2013), Photography + Film
Rob Walker, Jr., Photography + Film

GRADUATE STUDENTS
Jake Bornda, Sculpture + Extended Media
Caryn Brissey, Kinetic Imaging
Sean Sweeney, Painting + Printmaking

PROFESSIONAL RECIPIENTS
Amanda Baldwin, Graduate Alumna of Painting + Printmaking
Stephen W. Brandt, Alumnus of Kinetic Imaging
William Connally, Alumnus of Photography + Film
Warren Craghead III, Alumnus of Communication Arts
Polina Grinberg, Visiting Artist/Assistant Professor in Kinetic Imaging
Jason Hackett, Graduate Alumnus and Assistant Professor in Craft/Material Studies
Susan Iverson, Professor in Craft/Material Studies

THERESA POLLAK PRIZES 2012

We are very pleased to see several of our VCUarts family being recognized by Richmond Magazine for their Excellence in the Arts.

Congratulations to the following VCUarts recipients of 2012 Theresa Pollak Prizes:

Applied Art: Andrea Donnelly, Fiber MFA alumna/Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Craft/Material Studies

Dance: Pam England, Dance BFA alumna

Emerging Artist: Jason Keith (pictured), Painting + Printmaking BFA student

Film: Patrick Gregory, Photography & Film BFA alumnus

Visual Art: Matt Lively, Sculpture + Extended Media BFA alumnus/Adjunct Faculty in Art Foundation

Lifetime Achievement: Joseph Seipel, Dean of VCU School of the Arts

GUTTED

CINEMA ALUMNUS WINS ROSEBUD BEST IN SHOW

arlingtonmedia.org/rosebud

During our Cinema Program’s Summer Intensive in 2010, student Steven Vagias created Gutted, which has since been honored by the Rosebud Film & Video Festival. Vagias won for his individual talent for directing and operating, but his film also took home Best in Show. The Rosebud Film & Video Festival, which promotes the independent film and video community in Washington, Maryland and Virginia, has honored the innovative, experimental, unusual and deeply personal in creative film and video making. Gutted is the story of two damaged people, a butcher and an orphan, who cross paths in a desolate world and help each other to survive.
QUILTS, SLAVERY & THE BIG BANG THEORY

May 23–August 4, 2013
Opening Thursday, May 23, 5–7 pm

Sanford Biggers, affiliate faculty for VCUarts Sculpture and an assistant professor at Columbia University, has achieved international prominence over the last decade with a diverse body of work that explores themes of identity, race, American history, and spirituality, often by blending installation and performance. In his recent project, Codex, Biggers continues to probe these themes through another stylistic departure: painting on historical quilts, many of which were gifts to the artist from descendants of slave owners.

Biggers was inspired by the Afrofuturist notion of “Harriet Tubman as astronaut,” the renowned abolitionist who led slaves to their freedom guided by the stars. He was also inspired by the use of quilts as signposts along the Underground Railroad, signaling safe houses. Biggers knits these multivalent themes together by applying to each quilt a complex system of imagery that includes star maps, dance notations, and the Buddhist lotus flower, whose petals are formed by the image of a cross-section of a slave ship. Suspended among the quilts, cloud forms made of raw cotton not only refer to the institution of slavery, but also evoke the theme of transcendence, reminding the viewer of the power of human will to overcome oppression.

The exhibition will also feature the artist’s 2004 installation, Calenda (Big Ass Bang!), which humorously plays on the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe.

Organized by Anderson Gallery Director Ashley Kistler, this presentation of Codex is made possible with assistance from The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida.


ULRICH EXHIBITION CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

The Anderson Gallery has published a fully illustrated catalog to accompany Photography and Film Assistant Professor Brian Ulrich’s recent exhibition, Close Out – Retail Relics and Ephemera. With photographs by Ulrich, introduction by Ashley Kistler, essay by Will Steacy and interview with the artist; 72 pages. $20.00.

ANDERSON GALLERY HAPPY HOUR RETURNS!

The Anderson Gallery’s popular summertime series returns Wednesday evenings in June and July with refreshments, an international mix of live music, film screenings, gallery tours, and more. Free, open to the public, and definitely the coolest thing happening in Richmond on Wednesday evenings.
STUDENT DESIGNS ON MIAMI RUNWAY

Two out of the ten 2012 Cotton Incorporated Runway Show designs came from VCUarts students. Fashion Design students Grace Hazelgrove and Monisha Jenkins each had a garment selected as part of Cotton University’s™ 24 Hour Runway Show in South Beach, Miami. Both students won an all-expense paid trip to see their design on the runway, as well as other prizes. Grace remarked, “It was a great opportunity and was so exciting to be a part of the experience. To have one of my designs walk the runway with other current designers today was an exciting moment. It was great to learn and get connected with Cotton Inc. and others in the fashion industry.”

Garment shown created by Grace Hazelgrove

NEXT ISLAMIC ART SYMPOSIUM IN SICILY

The fifth biennial Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art, God Is the Light of the Heavens and the Earth: Light in Islamic Art and Culture, will be held November 9–11, 2013 in Palermo, Sicily.

Every other year, VCUArts, VCUQatar and the Qatar Foundation join forces to present what has become the world’s leading conference on Islamic art and culture. Past symposia have focused on such subjects as water, color, and the art of the object. The 2013 symposium will investigate the topic of light from a wide range of perspectives, from the imagery of light in the Qur’an and in the literatures of the Islamic lands to light’s role in buildings, paintings, and other works of art. We are delighted that our keynote speaker will be the acclaimed visual artist, Iranian-born Shirin Neshat, whose photographic and videographic work is literally created with light.
Fall 2012 marked a major milestone for VCU’s planned ICA: $20 million was raised, more than 60 percent of the goal to build the privately funded project.

Located at Richmond’s busiest intersection of Belvidere and Broad, the VCU ICA will be a non-collecting institution focused on exploring the art of today and tomorrow — a place for the presentation of the latest visual art, performance and film from around the world, as well as a lab for developing the art of the future. The ICA will bring artists, designers, performers, and scholars of the highest caliber to VCU, serving students, faculty, and the public by providing a place for new thinking and approaches to all artistic disciplines. Programming will serve as a catalyst for collaborations across all VCU departments, and create a new destination for the arts in the Mid-Atlantic.

We have a stunning building design by world-renowned architect Steven Holl which has already received international media attention. Holl’s design was also celebrated with an exhibition of his watercolors and models of the ICA at Meulensteen Gallery in New York and the Virginia Center for Architecture in Richmond. The architect gave a lecture to a packed house at VCU this October, leaving the campus and city abuzz about this new landmark on the horizon.

An international director search is underway and we expect to announce the director this spring. And because student engagement is paramount, we are working with a group of enthusiastic student-volunteers on a campus-wide campaign for the ICA.

If you’d like to support the ICA campaign, please contact VCU Arts Executive Director of Development Julia Carr at carrj@vcu.edu or 804-986-4000.
Opposite page: Steven Holl giving his Windmueller Lecture to a standing-room-only audience. ICA Campaign Committee co-chairs Steve and Kathie Markel (middle, left) and Christy and David Cottrell (bottom, left) at a dinner honoring Steven Holl after his lecture.

This page (clockwise from top left): Holl speaking at a Pollak Society luncheon at the Virginia Center for Architecture; Holl with ICA Campaign Committee co-chairs Bill and Pam Royall; Steve Markel with Steven Holl Architects Senior Partner Chris McVoy; Guests at the exhibition opening; a close-up of the ICA model looking in from the sculpture garden; Terrell Harrigan, Meg Gottwald, Martha Newell and Dean Seipel.
IBRAHIM PERFORMS IN PAKISTAN

Kinetic Imaging MFA alumna and former adjunct faculty Ferwa Ibrahim performed her tense, slowly evolving *Hiding Under Water* at Colour Gallery in Lahore, Pakistan in October. Ferwa’s chant-like vocal slowly evolves to something darker, even masochistic, as her hands draw nearer to her face. The action slowly becomes one of suffocation, masking the sound of the voice but also, her breathing. Over time, the viewer is drawn in to what becomes a deeply claustrophobic experience, as our identification with the performer intensifies.

Ibrahim says “The interaction of a body with spaces marks an emotive domain. It is through my work that I orient myself within a space and connect to the world around me. I also try to understand the relationship between the two, as I create the work.”

Ibrahim is a visiting faculty member in New Media and Digital Arts at Beaconhouse National University, Lahore.
STEPHEN ALCORN: MODERN MUSIC MASTERS

alcorngallery.com/MMM

The prestigious Wall of Sound Gallery in the ancient Italian city of Alba is hosting a retrospective of Communication Arts Assistant Professor Stephen Alcorn’s Modern Music Master series of portraits through May. The 130 portraits in this series pays homage to the men and women who bridged the gaps between tradition and innovation, craft and genius, entertainment and art, music and poetry, composition and improvisation, black and white. Two of these images were the backdrop to rock icon Patti Smith’s January 11th performance at Milan’s fabled Teatro Nazionale commemorating the 14th anniversary of the passing of Italy’s most beloved singer-songwriter, Fabrizio De Andrè (1940-1999).

Alcorn has also been conducting research at the Università degli Studi di Milano as part of his dean’s faculty reassignment/research grant.

BULLARD’S BANJO HEARD IN DISNEY FILM

In 2005, John Bullard became the first classical banjoist to graduate from our Department of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in Performance, under the classical guitar program. Graduating magna cum laude, John was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda, the prestigious national music honor society. A track from John’s first CD, The Classical Banjo, is heard in the 2012 Dreamworks animated film Rise of the Guardians. Listen for classical banjo in the background when the main character, Jack Frost, is introduced. This is the third film to feature Bullard’s music.

VCU ALUMNA & ABSTRACT PIONEER FEATURED IN SOLO SHOW

The work of influential abstract expressionist and VCU alumna, Judith Godwin, appeared in a solo exhibition at the VCUarts Anderson Gallery in the fall. The show included 25 of Godwin’s early abstractions from the ’50s and ’60s, a critical period of her growth as an artist. In conjunction, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts mounted a show of her work in the context of other abstract artists of the time. Godwin sat down with Dean Seipel and curator René Barilleaux in a discussion open to the public about her work and what it was like to be a female pioneer in the New York art world at mid-century. You can watch the video conversation at arts.vcu.edu/godwin.
We have just wrapped up another inspiring and informative Tasmeem Doha Design Conference at VCUQatar. This year’s theme was Hybrid Making and featured keynote speaker Rem Koolhaas, dubbed the World’s Most Controversial Architect, by Smithsonian Magazine. Tasmeem Doha is a biennial international design and art conference held at the VCUarts sister campus in Doha, Qatar. For the past seven years, Tasmeem has gathered and engaged scholars, students, community members and practitioners to discuss and scrutinize critical issues in design and art.

Select VCUarts students and faculty got the chance to collaborate directly with VCUQatar students and faculty with collaborative workshops, lab sessions and exhibitions. VCUQatar students have already solved real-world design problems for the country, including creating migrant worker housing and uniforms for the Qatari military. Tasmeem Doha has enabled VCUarts students and faculty to lend their ideas and experience to this rapidly changing country with an enlightened vision of cultivating its cultural community.

AT THIS YEAR’S TASMEEM:

• 750 non-VCU registrations from 30 countries
• 650 Rem Koolhaas keynote lecture attendees
• 299 student lab participants
• 51 presentations
• 13 exhibitions
• 12 faculty workshops
VCUQATAR STUDENTS WORK ON CALLIGRAFFITI

Renowned French-Tunisian Calligraffiti artist eL Seed and his crew – including VCUQatar alumni Ahood Al Dafa, Assil Diab, Dima Masoud and Rana Selo – worked on rendering calligraffiti murals that were created from themes inspired by Qatari life and culture. “The students were very excited to meet him and are thrilled to be working with him. He has been very supportive and encouraging and they feel they are ready to create the images themselves!” said Basma Hamdy, assistant professor of Graphic Design at VCUQatar. “It’s exciting to see the students working outside their comfort zone and seeing their work move from the research phase to the design phase and then finally implemented on the wall. eL Seed is definitely one of the most important Arabic graffiti artists of this generation and it’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to work with him,” she added.

VCUQATAR HOUSE OPENS IN RICHMOND

As Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar celebrates its 15th anniversary of innovative undergraduate and graduate programs, we have opened the VCUQatar House on the home campus in Richmond, a multi-purpose building with offices for the Richmond-based VCUQatar support staff, a gallery space and meeting space for students.

In October, guests from VCU, VCUQatar, the Qatar Embassy in Washington D.C. and the Richmond community gathered to celebrate this milestone at the new VCUQatar House on the corner of West Broad Street and Bowe Street.

“It seems only fitting to honor our 15th Anniversary year in Qatar with the opening of a full-fledged home here in Richmond,” began VCUQatar Dean Allyson Vanstone in her address. “Fifteen years ago, VCU made a commitment to Qatar, to take our number one public art and design program from the United States and create a rich culture of innovation and creativity in Qatar and the region. The VCUQatar House on the home campus will play a significant role in supporting this commitment. It will be a meeting point for our students, faculty and staff to create and collaborate as we pursue the exchange of ideas and insights across borders of geography. It will be a space to share our experiences and showcase the wonderful work of the VCUQatar family,” she said.

Dean Vanstone thanked VCU School of the Arts Dean Joseph Seipel for his tremendous support and his vision and commitment in facilitating the project. The evening event included a fashion show featuring designs by VCUQatar alumna and recipient of the W Hotel Fashion Award, Mona Al-Ansari, as well as Arabic calligraphy works on paper by alumna Manar Al-Muftah.

RICHMOND MEETS DOHA

The Richmond campus celebrated VCUQatar Day on October 23, 2012 which exposed faculty, staff and students to our sister campus in Doha, Qatar. There were free henna tattoos, Arabic food and calligraphy, giveaways and a photobooth. The event was sponsored by The Student Government Association (MPC), VCU DS&ES, VCUarts and VCUQatar.
LUCKY GUY TO HAVE OUR COSTUME DESIGNERS

Our own Toni-Leslie James has been chosen to design the costumes for two-time Academy Award® winner Tom Hanks’ Broadway debut, Lucky Guy, by three-time Academy Award nominee Nora Ephron. It details the rise, fall, and rise again of the NYC tabloid reporter, Mike McAlary. In addition to James’s New York associate designer, Nicky Tobolski, she is assisted by Joshua Quinn, MFA alumnus and Virginia Varland, a current BFA student.

Toni-Leslie James, assistant professor and costume designer for TheatreVCU, is the winner of the 2009 OBIE Award for Sustained Excellence of Costume Design and numerous other awards.

LUCKY GUY TO HAVE OUR COSTUME DESIGNERS

AND THE AWARD GOES TO... ANOTHER VCUarts STUDENT

Current VCU costume design students won 5 out of 9 Costume Design Awards at the 2012 Southeastern Theatre Conference. More than 30 universities and 124 entries participated in the competition. Congratulations to the following students:

- **Undergraduate Scenic Design**
  1st Place Kristin Kifer, Blackbird
  2nd Place Ben Burke, Penelope

- **Undergraduate Costume Design**
  1st place Gloria Kim, Tosca (designs shown below)
  2nd Place Jocelyn Bowman, The Threepenny Opera
  3rd Place Sophia Yoo, The Mystery of Irma Vep

- **Costume Crafts and Technology**
  2nd Place Matthew Armentrout, 1950’s Woman’s Suit

- **Graduate Costume Design**
  3rd Place Isabela Tavares de Melo, Sweeney Todd

TRAVEL TO MIAMI ART BASEL WITH VCUARTS

Want to travel with fun like-minded people? Dean Joseph Seipel led a group of VCUarts supporters to Miami Art Basel in December for an insider’s look at North America’s biggest art fair – which, naturally, featured the work of many VCUarts alumni and students. This group, The Pollak Society, originally was comprised of Richmond supporters, with unrestricted gifts of $1,000 or more, but it’s now gone nationwide.

If you’d like to join the December 2013 trip to Miami for Art Basel along with several other satellite fairs and VIP events, contact Sarah Kim (smkim@vcu.edu, 804.828.4692) or join The Pollak Society online.

We hope to see you soon.

In May, The Pollak Society is off to New York for a peek behind the vault at the Verdura fine jewelry salon with a VCUarts fashion alumna; a backstage tour of Broadway’s Lucky Guy starring Tom Hanks given by its costume designer and VCU Theatre Professor, Toni-Leslie James; and much more. Last year, members attended a variety of Richmond events including a “salon” in the home/studio of Craft Chair Sonya Clark and Music Chair Darryl Harper; the opening of an alumni glass exhibition; and the Fashion department’s annual sold-out show.

Don’t miss the fun, join The Pollak Society!
ALUMNI & FACULTY CONTRIBUTE TO POSTER EXHIBITION

www.typoshow.com

VCUarts alumni and faculty are taking part in Typoshow, an exhibition of 100 typographic posters by 50 American and 50 Chinese designers. This collection will begin its U.S. tour at Richmond’s Gallery5 as well as the MoB + Storefront for Community Design, a non-profit design and building resource shared by the Departments of Graphic Design, Fashion Design and Interior Design. The mission of the Typoshow exhibition, which runs June 7–28, is to introduce both cultures’ respective use of typography while helping us better understand our own use of language and inspire new typographic approaches.

Typoshow is being co-curated by Bizhan Khodabandeh, administrative coordinator for the Department of Communication Arts. Participants include Alumni Ben Gaydos, Meena Khalili, Bryan Woodland, Ben Hanim, Megan Urban, Jason Dilworth and William Pinholster; Faculty/Alumni Tyler Darden and Jamie Mahoney; and Faculty Noah Scalin and John Malinoski.

STUDENTS CREATE A VIDEO GAME IN 48 HOURS

A dozen VCUarts students from the Departments of Kinetic Imaging, Communication Arts and Cinema (Film BA) participated in the The Global Game Jam, where video games – based on this year’s theme of the sound of a heartbeat – were created in 48 hours or less. The Global Game Jam took place at the Fan Gallery in late January with artists and programmers with a desire to create and innovate.

“The Global Game Jam was an awesome experience! I’ve always thought that I wanted to work in video games, and now having a real experience in making games, I know I want to. I worked on a group with three artists and two programmers. It was interesting working with programmers. After working with artists for so long, it was a bit odd, but refreshing, to work with someone who thought in a more technical way. I would love to be in another game jam again.”

–Anne Lantz, Kinetic Imaging student

MEDICINE & THEATRE COMBINE FORCES TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

The School of the Arts and the School of Medicine have combined forces to create a new Standardized Patient Program – the first of its kind in the country, with the deliberate aim of creating high quality assessment and training tools for medical students that capitalize on the power of Arts in Medicine.

The program builds on eight years of collaboration between the departments of Internal Medicine and Theatre in which faculty use a theatre-based approach to teach empathy to medical students and health care professionals. Dr. Aaron Anderson, associate chair of the department of Theatre and Director of the new program explains: “Although at first glance it may seem like an odd mix, actors possess many skills that are useful in medical education. A simulated/standardized patient (SP) is a person who has been carefully coached to simulate an actual patient so accurately that the simulation cannot be detected even by a skilled clinician. SP’s present nearly everything about the patient: not just the history, but also body language, physical findings and emotional and personal characteristics. They provide medical learners the opportunity to practice interviewing and counseling patients, physical exams, and other essential clinical skills that contribute to the medical students’ development as professionals. The use of SP’s allows healthcare students to practice in a safe, controlled, observable environment where they can develop, practice and demonstrate competence in skills they will eventually use on real patients.”

The program has already created jobs for more than 60 people with performance backgrounds, and on March 25th, it moved into its permanent home occupying two full floors of a new multi-million dollar Medical Education Building designed by world-famous architect I.M. Pei.
“As a video producer occasionally I need young actors so I’ll reach out to VCU Theatre to audition students. So I still have a relationship with the department after all these years. And we started collecting glass a couple of years ago so we thought this is neat, we should contribute. The department gives us names of a couple of glass students each year and we have them over for dinner. We’ve gotten to know a number of students that way.

My father was a Baptist minister, and though I’m not involved in any church, one lesson I got from him was the idea of giving back with 10 percent tithing. So that’s how we contribute. Each year we’ve given a few thousand dollars and it’s built up in the Jerry Williams and Mark Reed Fund for VCUarts Glass and Theatre.”

— Jerry Williams, BFA Theater, ’71 and Mark Reed

“VCU delivered the tools which allow me to thrive in my profession as an interior designer. At VCUarts, I was pushed by several extraordinary teachers and was asked to think outside of the box that was created by my previous schooling experiences. As a result, I happily give back. I felt that the time had come to give back, so a few years ago I joined The Pollak Society with a $2,000 gift and in the last two years have contributed $1,000 to the Institute for Contemporary Art. All donations come directly from my interior design business, Cabell Design Studio, which is indirectly the result of the School of the Arts, and I see this as a perfect cycle.”

— Elizabeth Cabell, BFA Interior Design, ’97

“We are delighted to support the new VCU Institute for Contemporary Art for so many reasons! Once again, ever-evolving VCU adds an impressive improvement to continue its transformation of downtown Richmond! And this contemporary building will not only be an impressive gateway to Richmond, it will also offer cutting-edge arts to the students as well as the community. The experience our daughter’s had in the Art Foundation Program has been truly motivating, challenging and effective. VCUarts engages students and gets the best from them. Thank you, VCU!”

— Ashton and David Harrison, parents of a current VCUarts student
Congratulations to Art Education Chair Sara Wilson McKay on receiving the 2013 Southeastern Region Higher Education Art Educator of the Year Award.

Richard Roth, current faculty and former Chair of Painting • Printmaking, has received a Virginia Commission for the Arts fellowship in Painting for 2012–2013. Fellowships are awarded annually to artists residing in Virginia in recognition of creative excellence and to support their pursuit of artistic excellence. This year, five Virginia artists have been honored in the field of painting, each receiving fellowships of $5,000.

Distinguished Interior Design alumna, Dr. Caren Martin, BFA 1978, CIDA, FASID, IDEC, was recently awarded the National Council for Interior Design Qualification’s highest honor, the Louis S. Tregre Award, for her considerable service to the profession of interior design and public safety.

Sculpture alumna Tara Donovan’s work, Untitled (Mylar), 2011 was named in ArtInfo’s The 100 Most Iconic Artworks of the Last 5 Years. An image of this work was featured on the cover of our Studio newsletter in 2011.

Our very own Sharran Parkinson, chair of Interior Design, has been named by DesignIntelligence as one of the “30 Most Admired Educators for 2013.” The list was selected by thousands of professionals, academics & students.

In mid-November, Craft/Material Studies brought artists together to discuss the business side of their practice as part of the Hand-Crafted Entrepreneurship Symposium. Panelists Alex Hibbitt, Daniel Michalik, Heather Mae Erickson and Amy Tavern presented an overview of their work and journey followed by a discussion investigating the successes, pitfalls, and requisite tenacity that encompass a career of making, marketing, and selling handmade products.

The New York Times has cited Sonya Clark’s portrait of the Indianapolis hair-care tycoon Madam C. J. Walker, which is made out of 3,840 combs, as part of work on view at the new Alexander Hotel in Indianapolis. Indianapolis Museum of Art curators have filled the hotel with contemporary art that resonates with and sometimes mocks the region. Meg Roberts (BFA alumna), Erika Diamond (MFA candidate) and Ann Walsh (MFA alumna) assisted the Craft department chair with the commission.

James Busby, a Painting and Printmaking MFA alumnus, won the 701CCA Prize (701 Center for Contemporary Art). Columbia, South Carolina’s CCA has been growing a reputation throughout the Southeast for its innovative programs and exhibitions. Busby received a paid, six-week residency at the art center and a solo exhibition in the gallery.

Congratulations to Dr. James Frazier, VCUarts associate dean of graduate studies and faculty affairs, who has been inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest, largest, and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. He is pictured with Dr. Christina Lindholm, associate dean of curriculum and assessment, who earned a PhD from the University of Brighton, UK in 2012.

The Making Meaning in the Marketplace Symposium was held in mid-November. Panelists Alex Hibbitt, Daniel Michalik, Heather Mae Erickson and Amy Tavern presented an overview of their work and journey followed by a discussion investigating the successes, pitfalls, and requisite tenacity that encompass a career of making, marketing, and selling handmade products.

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Congratulations to Art Education Chair Sara Wilson McKay on receiving the 2013 Southeastern Region Higher Education Art Educator of the Year Award.

Richard Roth, current faculty and former Chair of Painting • Printmaking, has received a Virginia Commission for the Arts fellowship in Painting for 2012–2013. Fellowships are awarded annually to artists residing in Virginia in recognition of creative excellence and to support their pursuit of artistic excellence. This year, five Virginia artists have been honored in the field of painting, each receiving fellowships of $5,000.

Distinguished Interior Design alumna, Dr. Caren Martin, BFA 1978, CIDA, FASID, IDEC, was recently awarded the National Council for Interior Design Qualification’s highest honor, the Louis S. Tregre Award, for her considerable service to the profession of interior design and public safety.

Sculpture alumna Tara Donovan’s work, Untitled (Mylar), 2011 was named in ArtInfo’s The 100 Most Iconic Artworks of the Last 5 Years. An image of this work was featured on the cover of our Studio newsletter in 2011.

In mid-November, Craft/Material Studies brought artists together to discuss the business side of their practice as part of the Hand-Crafted Entrepreneurship Symposium. Panelists Alex Hibbitt, Daniel Michalik, Heather Mae Erickson and Amy Tavern presented an overview of their work and journey followed by a discussion investigating the successes, pitfalls, and requisite tenacity that encompass a career of making, marketing, and selling handmade products.

The New York Times has cited Sonya Clark’s portrait of the Indianapolis hair-care tycoon Madam C. J. Walker, which is made out of 3,840 combs, as part of work on view at the new Alexander Hotel in Indianapolis. Indianapolis Museum of Art curators have filled the hotel with contemporary art that resonates with and sometimes mocks the region. Meg Roberts (BFA alumna), Erika Diamond (MFA candidate) and Ann Walsh (MFA alumna) assisted the Craft department chair with the commission.

James Busby, a Painting and Printmaking MFA alumnus, won the 701CCA Prize (701 Center for Contemporary Art). Columbia, South Carolina’s CCA has been growing a reputation throughout the Southeast for its innovative programs and exhibitions. Busby received a paid, six-week residency at the art center and a solo exhibition in the gallery.
THANK YOU TO THE MANY ALUMNI WHO TOOK
TIME TO FILL OUT THE SNAAP SURVEY

The national survey, SNAAP (Strategic National Arts Alumni Project), helps VCUarts enhance the quality of education. In 2011, VCUarts alumni participated in the SNAAP survey for the first time and analyzed undergraduate and graduate alumni responses in Fall 2012. To update your contact information, so that you will receive the next survey, go to esterknows.com/where-are-you-now and upload your bio and image. Many prospective and current students visit these bios and we’d love to show them what you’ve been up to.

Over 90% of VCUarts alumni rated their experience as “Excellent” or “Good” and would recommend VCUarts to others

87% of alumni obtain work within a year, with another 10% going on to graduate school

34% of alumni have their first job before leaving VCUarts

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