

# THE Medici Circle

## Securing a strong future for the BGSU School of Art

### Dear Friends of the Medici Circle —

As you've come to expect, we experienced another exciting and exceptional year in the School of Art at BGSU. And the Medici Circle continues to play an important supportive role with our students and their hard work.

Those of you who took advantage of the Undergraduate, Bachelor of Fine Arts or Master of Fine Arts Exhibitions had to be impressed with the creative and talented work displayed in the galleries. Medici, as always, was there providing the funding that gave students the opportunities to visit and experience other art exhibitions, and to bring renowned artists to our campus to work with our students here. Medici money was also used to send students to various art museums, and to profit from collaborations with other art schools. And, of course, we continued to send several students to Florence, Italy, to study at SACI, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The Medici Circle also promoted the first Arts Entrepreneurship class at BGSU. The course was tailored by the entrepreneurship faculty in our College of Business and was offered as a for-credit course during the Spring semester. Its purpose was to give art students an understanding of how they could use their creative talents to make a living with art following graduation. The class was packed; the students enjoyed it and some felt it should be a required course for all undergraduate art students. It will be offered again this coming Spring. I'm told that it was so well appreciated that music students are now asking for a similar course.

Much of this happens because you support the Medici Circle. All of us appreciate it and offer you our grateful thanks. You can certainly be proud.

Sincerely,



Timothy F. Smith  
 President  
 Medici Circle



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# Medici Circle

## AT WORK:

### Welcome to New Student Member

*The Medici Circle is proud to include students on its Board each year. They play the invaluable role of connecting the Board to the student body. This year, the Board would like to welcome a new student member:*

**Chris Hatfield** is from Toledo, Ohio and will be a senior at BGSU majoring in Graphic Design. He is a member of the AIGA:BGSU Student Chapter as well as an acting board member for AIGA Toledo. During the summer of 2015, he interned with award-winning graphic design agency Madhouse. Upon his graduation next May, Hartfield would like to work with a group of excited, intelligent, forward-thinking creatives to develop concepts that better our day-to-day experiences.



### Medici Circle Featured Student Artist

*Each year, many outstanding students graduate from the School of Art. The Medici Circle would like to feature an outstanding recent School of Art graduate.*

As a first-generation Arab-American, **Zeinab Saab** has often found herself trying to blend two lives into one, and be respectful to both while maintaining her

own distinct identity. "It has always been a somewhat difficult balancing act," the senior Fine Arts major said. "I was raised in a traditional household, with Middle Eastern values, and those traditions are a huge part of me, but life is different in a modern, western world." During the summer of 2014, supported by BGSU's highly competitive Stuart R. Givens Memorial Fellowship, Saab interned at a private gallery in downtown Chicago. After returning, she created a huge 12-by-12 print installation that earned her

the 2015 Medici Circle Best of B.F.A. Show, the most prestigious award at the event. "My summer in Chicago really helped open my eyes to a more conceptual realm of thinking when producing my artwork," she said. "It kept me still in the Midwest where the people are friendly and it has a sense of community." Following graduation, Saab has moved to Chicago to intern and develop a portfolio for graduate school.

## Visiting Artists and Field Trips

*The Medici Circle's generous support makes it possible for School of Art students and faculty to welcome to campus a wide array of internationally recognized artists and scholars. Additionally, the Medici Circle provides funding for student field trips, allowing them to experience a variety of art across the nation.*



### **Rick Valicenti, Graphic Designer**

Internationally renowned graphic designer and alumnus Rick Valicenti visited the Graphic Design Division, which is very proud of its continued collaborative relationship with him and appreciates being able to sustain his participation as a visiting artist. Prior to his visit, Valicenti began Skyping with the students to view their work virtually. While on campus, he reviewed many students' portfolios, offering his kind, gracious, and poignant remarks to each one. He even sketched out a few directions for one student, which the students requested he autograph, and this was followed by a good-natured squabble over who would get to keep these precious signed piece!



### **Kenneth Hall, Painter and Curator of Reverb II**

Traveling from Cedar Falls, Iowa, painter Kenneth Hall gave a lecture to undergraduate students from the Professional Practices class, graduate students, and faculty, about Reverb II, the exhibition he had recently curated in the Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery. His expertise in contemporary figurative and abstract art was inspirational, not only through his words and the work of multiple artists in Reverb II, but also through a smaller exhibition of his own artworks in the School of Art Gallery foyer. The following day, Hall held personal critiques with seven graduate students in their studios, a wonderful contribution to their personal growth as artists.

### **Joe Johnson, Photographer**

Nationally renowned photographer and former BGSU instructor Joe Johnson, who is an Associate Professor of Photography at the University of Missouri, presented his work, influences, and future plans as part of a workshop for photography students. Johnson also brought a selection of his artwork for students to examine and question before visiting students' work areas and discussing their own development, an activity that lasted late into the night and resumed again the next day. Lynn Whitney wrote about Johnson's visit that "these experiences remain with [the students] for a very long time and have the power to shape their lives."



# Medici Circle

## FUNDING AT WORK:

### Student Travel

*The Medici Circle also provides funding for student field trips, symposia, and exhibitions, to help them expand their professional experience and exposure during their undergraduate and graduate careers.*

#### **5th Annual Visual Culture Symposium, Georgia State University**

Thanks to Medici Circle funding, graduate Art History student Viola Moten-Radcliffe presented her thesis titled "To Be a Witness: Lynching and Postmemory in LaShawnda Crowe Storm's *Her Name was Laura Nelson*" at the 5th Annual Visual Culture Symposium at Georgia State University. She found the presentation very helpful, and received a lot of positive feedback. While in Atlanta, she also visited the newly established Center for

Civil and Human Rights, providing not only a history of the Civil Rights Movement but also insights into past and present international civil rights violations. In Moten-Radcliffe's words: "A truly amazing experience." In summer 2014, Moten-Radcliffe had also joined Heather Elliott-Famularo, Chair of the Digital Arts Division in the School of Art, and Dr. Tim Murnen in the College of Education and Human Development, on a trip to Poland, Hungary and Greece as part of their Fulbright-Hays funded program "Walking Witness: Civic Responsibility in the Shadow of the Holocaust."



#### **Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. Visit to Graphic Design Studios**

Graphic Design Club students traveled over spring break to Pittsburgh and Washington D.C. to visit five different graphic design studios, as well as four art and design museums. Each of the design firms offered the group of ten students new and important insights into the range of professional futures available to them. Some firms were very large, with formal internship programs; others were small, with just a few employees – the one that resonated the most had just been founded by two young designers from Michigan. The advice given by these two young women to the students about how to seek employment after graduation was invaluable and the club hopes to repeat the trip in Spring 2016.



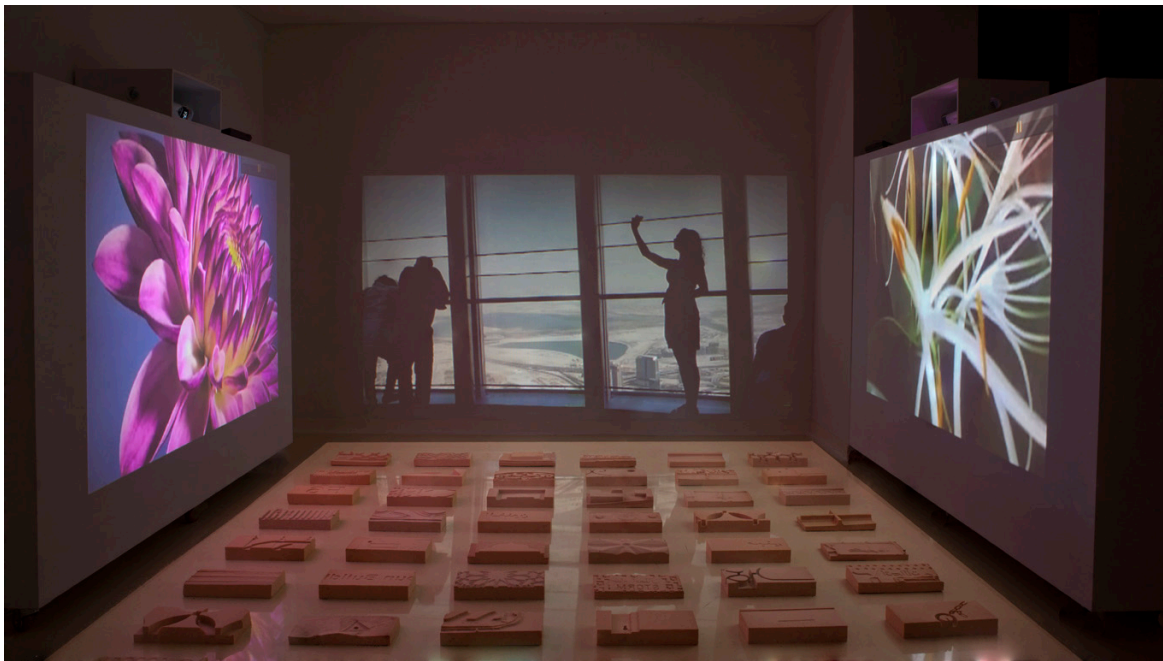
### 2D Students Travel to Chicago

Supported by Medici Circle funds, Two-Dimensional Studies students traveled to Chicago in Fall 2014. The action-packed trip included: the Art Institute of Chicago and a guided tour by former Toledo Museum of Art Mellow Fellow and now Associate Curator, Kate Nesin; the Museum of Contemporary Art; the Chicago Cultural Center; the River North Gallery district; the Ed Pashke Art Center; and the Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art. They also had the opportunity to experience ethnic cuisine, as well as the 'elevated' architecture and the local music scene.



### SEA Conference and Exhibition, Abu Dhabi

Undergraduate student Kai Lee Liu traveled to Abu Dhabi with Assistant Professor Leigh-Ann Pahapill to install their collaborative artwork. As part of the prestigious International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA), the project was the result of an eighteen-month research period, combining digital and sculptural media. Site-specific in nature, the installation included impressions taken from different settings on location, and included collaboration with students from Zayed University. It was a dream come true for Kai Lee, who wrote: "I am so grateful for the generous support from the Medici Circle."



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*Each year, BGSU students study abroad in Florence, Italy at the School of Art's partner school, Studio Art Centers International (SACI). Last summer, the Medici Circle was able to offer travel grants to each of the twelve School of Art students who studied at SACI.*

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## My time at SACI

BY ERIN MCCARTY

This summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in studying abroad in Florence, Italy at SACI, or Studio Art Centers International. SACI is an English-speaking program in the heart of Firenze, as the Italians call it. This experience was one that I could have never imagined and could never replace.

I was in Italy for six weeks this summer. In that time, I took two classes, Italian Renaissance Art History and Jewelry-Making. I am a painting and drawing major, and the opportunity to take something out of my element such as jewelry-making was a unique one. I made so many things that I didn't know that I could make and learned all kinds of techniques, such as soldering and how to manipulate metal to create pieces of wearable art. We were required to create four projects for that class, and I ended up with eight once the semester was over, including primarily rings and pendants. The teacher was patient, informative, and one of the most pleasant people I have ever met.

The second class I took, Italian Renaissance Art History, was a great class too. Taught by an instructor with encyclopedic knowledge of the subject, we learned everything there was to know about everything we passed in Florence. The opportunity to take an art history class where the art was actually made, and where it actually exists today, was so unique. We traveled to many museums, churches and different cities within Italy to experience the art in person. Some of my favorite art history trips were to Siena and San Gimignano, but we went to so many places, one every Saturday. In taking this class, I feel I had the opportunity to see more of Florence than even other SACI students did, and definitely more than I would have ever seen on my own.

In addition to the art history trips, I was able to take some trips on my own, with peers I met at SACI, because once you are in Europe the cost of traveling is surprisingly reasonable. One trip I took with other students was to Rome, where we saw the Colosseum, the Roman Forums, and the Vatican. Another trip that I was able to take was with my roommate and some other SACI students to the Amalfi coast. We were able to see the island of Capri, as well as the town Sorrento. On this trip we were also able to take a tour of the ruins of Pompeii. This trip was my favorite trip that I took outside of class while in Italy. Learning the history of Pompeii was fantastic and seeing the ruins was absolutely unbelievable.

I made great bonds with the students and faculty while I was in Italy. I know that some of the students I met there I will keep in touch with far into the future. I met people from all over the U.S. and got to hear about other art programs all over the country. This trip was also a great way to learn about Italian language and culture. Italy is much different than I would have ever imagined it would be, and I feel I have a greater awareness of Europe and other cultures than I had previously. I am now even considering graduate schools abroad because of this great experience, which is something I never would have dreamed about before I went to SACI.

# Medici Circle

PURCHASE AWARD



2015/16 NEWSLETTER

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**Each year, the Medici Circle purchases one piece from the Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition to support student activity within the School of Art. The piece is kept in the Gallery collection.**

This year, the BFA artwork selected was "Infatuation," a drawing by Katie Bocian, whose work is both conceptually powerful and beautifully crafted. Katie writes, poignantly and eloquently, about the piece: "Death is inevitable. It is one of the only constants. Why fear that constant? My work is meant to confront mortality and accept it. The imagery may provoke pity, sadness and despair, yet seeks to create a place for contemplation and self-reflection. It is grotesque and disturbing, yet fragile and intimate. The remains are preserved and respected. Although they might not be traditionally beautiful, or, as with roadkill, hardly worth a second glance, through a fondness for animals and nature as a whole, I seek to give these forgotten animals a second life. Their untimely deaths are acknowledged, but they continue to live on: there exists a type of limited immortality through remembrance; there is no true state of non-existence, even if that only extends to a metaphysical existence. On a technical level, I find the act of mark-making - especially when attempting to render fur, feather, or flesh - a meditative process. I am afforded the opportunity to hone my skills, while at the same time allowing for a time and place to consider my own existence and what memories of me will remain after my own death. I wonder about life and its processes, while realizing my own insignificance and impermanence all at once."

# MEET OUR NEWLY PROMOTED AND NEW Faculty

CINEMA OPTIQUE

## Promoted Faculty

Over the past year, several faculty members have been promoted within the School of Art:



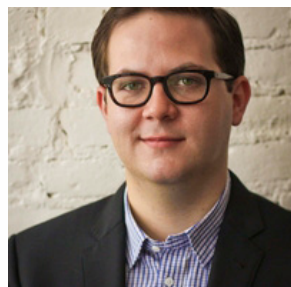
**Michael Arrigo** was promoted to Professor in May 2015. Most of Arrigo's recent work began as simple interactions with his family. He preserves some aspect of these interactions as photos, videos, or audio snippets, and displays them in ways that expose the meaning and strangeness in commonplace objects and activities. As an artist, he thinks of himself as a "tinkerer." He goes into the studio and takes ideas, language, electronics—everything—apart to see how it works. He attempts to put these bits and pieces back together in ways that expose underlying structures and unexpected tensions in the fabric of the everyday. He is increasingly interested in making work that reveals, rather than conceals, his messy process of experimentation in the hope that viewers will enter into the spirit of playfulness and shared discovery.

**Gordon Ricketts** was promoted to Senior Lecturer in May 2015. Gordon came to BGSU from California for his M.F.A. degree, and then was hired as art instructor for the Chapman Learning Community. In 2005, he became the first full-time director of the newly formed Arts Village Learning Community. In 2015, after 10 years of service, he stepped down and returned to teach in the School of Art. For the past decade, Gordon has developed, promoted, and offered to students international trips to Ghana and Peru, and domestically, to New York City, Chicago, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Fe, and El Paso. Gordon has spent much time with community outreach and public art. Working with visiting artists, community partners, and BGSU programs and departments he has, for the past six years, produced and impacted the City of Toledo with a series of community-themed murals.



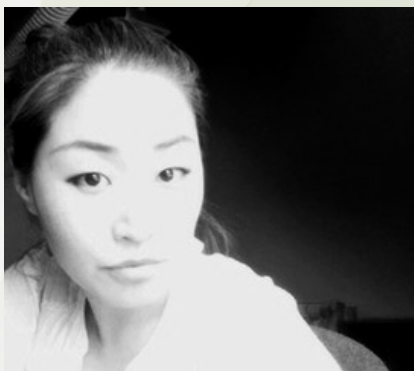
## New Faculty

*This year, the School of Art welcomes to campus several new tenure-track faculty members:*



**Sean Leatherbury** joins us as a tenure-track faculty member in the Art History Division, specializing in Ancient Art. His research combines an interdisciplinary approach to works of Roman, Late Antique, and Byzantine art with a focus on ancient understandings of the relationships between image, space, material, and text. Sean was an Honorary Research Associate for "Late Antique Egypt and the Holy Land: Archaeology, History, and Religious Change" at the University of Oxford, Research Fellow at the Bard Graduate Center and a Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) Visiting Research Fellow at the Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem. He graduated cum laude with a B.A. in History of Art from Yale University and received an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in History from the University of Oxford. His book entitled *Late Antique Building Inscriptions between Reading and Seeing* is nearing publication.





**Hejoo Kim** joins us as an Assistant Professor in the Digital Arts Division. Kim is an experimental animation filmmaker and new media artist. She holds an M.F.A in New Media Arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago, an M.F.A. in Film, Video, New Media and Animation, and a B.F.A. in Art – Drawing from Hongik University. Her films and installations have been internationally presented at festivals and galleries in Canada, France, Germany, Korea, Hungary, the U.K., Italy, Ecuador, Bulgaria, the Philippines, India, Lebanon, and the U.S.A. Her films, *Unwearable Functional Garments II* and *Paramnesia*, were nominated for the best animation and best experimental film awards at the Female Eye Film Festival. She has taught at the University of Montana, SAIC, and Columbia College in Chicago.

**Andrew Gilliat** comes to us as an Instructor in Ceramics. He holds an M.F.A. in ceramics from Louisiana State University, and has held prestigious residencies at top national venues like the Archie Bray Foundation. He is fascinated by how we personalize and define ourselves through the objects we use and accumulate. The clothes we wear, the cars we drive, the things we decorate and furnish our homes with - all of these objects reflect our personality and aesthetic proclivities, both publicly and privately. Making pots is a way for him to reflect on the people, places, and experiences, here and gone, that he knows, loves, and carries with him. Every piece gives him the opportunity to reconnect with those experiences and emotions past and shared.



**Ross Mazzupappa** joins us as an Instructor in Printmaking and Photography. He is an artist specializing in printmaking techniques and processes, but also has experience in analog photography. He was born and raised in the Youngstown, Ohio area and attended Youngstown State University where he received his B.F.A. in Studio Art Printmaking/Painting in 2012. Ross went on to receive his M.A. in Printmaking with a minor emphasis in Sculpture from the University of Iowa in 2014, and his M.F.A. in Printmaking with a minor emphasis in Photography from the University of Iowa in 2015. His work has been shown nationally and internationally in various juried exhibitions and portfolio exchanges.

**Charles Tucker** joins us as an Instructor in Sculpture. He is an artist and researcher actively working toward an aesthetic research methodology, a goal that he has sought and investigated since the mid-1990s. He has exhibited widely, including in Italy and Germany. He holds a B.S. in Biology, and a B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Sculpture. Additionally, he has graduate experience in the areas of Geology and Aquatic Toxicology. His work is influenced by the internal structures and interactions of artworks, and by natural forms and everyday constructed works. Regardless of the initial source of these structures, whether manmade or adapted from the natural environment, his work is focuses on the structural conditions associated with the component parts of the constructions.



# 2015-16 SCHOOL OF ART Events

## EVENTS

DEC 5, 2015 | 5:00 PM

### Arts Xtravaganza

Fine Arts Center and Wolfe Center for the Arts

MAR 18, 2016 | 6:00 PM

### Medici Circle Primavera Celebration and Medici Circle Awards Announcements

## ARTALKS

SEP 21, 2015 | 5:00 PM

### Ma, Xinle

Thomas B. and Kathleen M. Donnell Theatre

SEP 28, 2015 | 5:00 PM

### James Daichendt

### "The Artist-Scholar and the University"

Thomas B. and Kathleen M. Donnell Theatre

OCT 26, 2015 | 5:00 PM

### Clifford Owens

### "Your Head is Connected to Your Body"

Thomas B. and Kathleen M. Donnell Theatre

NOV 5, 2015 | 6:00 PM

### John Waters

Kobacker Hall, College of Musical Arts

NOV 9, 2015 | 5:00 PM

### Dr. Megan Holmes

### "Defacement of Renaissance Painting"

Eva Marie Saint Theatre

## EXHIBITIONS

SEP 4 - 30, 2015

### Fluent Expression: Modern and Traditional Chinese Painting

SEP 21 | 7:00 PM

### Exhibition opening

Willard Wankelman Gallery

SEP 12 – OCT 4, 2015

### "FOCUS" –

### W Ohio and SE Michigan Juried High School Art

SEPT 12 | 6:00 PM

### Awards ceremony

Thomas B. and Kathleen M. Donnell Theater

SEP 12 | 7:00 PM

### Exhibition opening

Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery

OCT 18 – NOV 15, 2015

### Calligraphy Scrolls from the BGSU Asian Studies Collection

OCT 18 | 3:00 PM

### Exhibition opening

Willard Wankelman Gallery

OCT 21 – NOV 19, 2015

### "DO IT: A Participatory Exhibition"

SEP 12 | 7:00 PM

### Inaugural Performance &

### Exhibition opening

Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery

DEC 5, 2015 – JAN 16, 2016

### Annual Faculty/Staff Exhibition

DEC 5 | 6:00 PM

### Exhibition opening

Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery

FEB 7 – FEB 21, 2016

### Undergraduate Student Exhibition

FEB 7 | 2:00 PM

### Exhibition opening

Dorothy Uber Bryan and  
Willard Wankelman Galleries

MAR 19 – APR 3, 2016

### BFA Senior Thesis Exhibition

MAR 19 | 7:00 PM

### Exhibition opening

Dorothy Uber Bryan and  
Willard Wankelman Galleries

APR 9 – APR 17, 2016

### MFA Thesis Exhibition I

APR 9 | 7:00 PM

### Exhibition opening

Dorothy Uber Bryan and  
Willard Wankelman Galleries

APR 24 – MAY 4, 2015

### MFA Thesis Exhibition II

APR 24 | 7:00 PM

### Exhibition opening

Dorothy Uber Bryan and  
Willard Wankelman Galleries



Thank you for supporting the Medici Circle!

