



Welcome to the Medici Circle newsletter! In an effort to keep Medici Circle members, as well as, School of Art faculty and students informed on all Medici Circle related activities in the SoA, and what Medici Circle is doing to help further elevate the excellence of School of Art faculty and students, a monthly newsletter will be sent out to everyone. We hope that you enjoy reading it and find it informative!

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## LETTER FROM THE MEDICI CIRCLE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

This marks the second anniversary of my tenure as president of the Medici Circle board. With the end of the current academic year I (have the great pleasure) am pleased to report that your generosity has provided significant aid to the School of Art and its students that has, and will continue to enable exposure to extraordinary art experiences that are not always available in a traditional classroom setting. It is your kindness and support that has made these experiences possible.

The dedicated individuals of the Medici Circle have supported and increased awareness of the School of Art at BGSU for the past 38 years. Our goal as Medici members is to encourage our students through grants to attend field trips, conferences, workshops, visiting artists and purchase awards of student art works.

The Medici Circle also provided opportunities for students to extend their studies overseas in Florence, Italy in the SACI program. For quite a few of these students it was their first exposure to a world that is very different from their homes, school and the university learning environment.

In April, in collaboration with the School of Art, the Medici Circle co-sponsored a picnic for the School's graduating seniors to celebrate the successful completion of this portion of their studies.



During this past year the Medici board has been very active and initiated several new programs in an effort to raise money for the School of Art and its students. In the fall, we sponsored a "Champagne and Soup" event followed by an auction of past Medici Circle purchase award works of art. This event raised \$1,500, which helped us send an additional student to Italy for the SACI program. Primavera took on a different look this year with the event being held at the School of Art and featuring a silent auction which brought in an additional \$1,500.

During this academic year's fall and spring semesters we provided over \$17,000 in grants for visiting artists, conferences, workshops and field trip for the students in the School of Art. We have donated another \$11,000 to students who participated in the SACI program. That is a total of \$28,000 that you have made available for the School of Art and its students through your donations to the Medici Circle. We commend you and appreciate your generous support of our students.

Jane Vanden Eynden



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## TIME FOR MEDICI CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

June marks the time to start thinking about renewing your annual membership in the Medici Circle, which supports the BGSU School of Art and its talented students in activities and experiences similar to those reported in this newsletter. The Medici Circle membership runs from July 1 through June 30 each year.

Now you can join Medici Circle or renew your membership online >

If you prefer to send in a printed form, you can find the [Medici Circle membership brochure here](#). You can print it out and send it via the postal service. Or if you would like a printed copy sent to you, contact Sandra Smetzer at 419-372-2222.

# MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the School of Art,

As I come to the conclusion of my first full year as Director of the School of Art, it feels right to reflect on some of the wonderful recent accomplishments of our students. To name but a few; third year BFA Studio student Clara Delgado was awarded a prestigious fellowship to the Yale/Norfolk Summer Residency program, this coming summer Graphic Design BFA student Heather Monaghan will intern at NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland and at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC, and MA Art History student Maria Morales will present a paper at the 43rd Annual Caribbean Studies Association conference in Havana, Cuba.

These achievements are national level indicators of the talent of our students. As impressive as they are, however, they aren't unique. Every year School of Art students win awards, participate in exhibitions, and conduct high-level research. Yet, as we celebrate the individual success of our students we should also keep in mind that none of it would be possible without a strong and vibrant School of Art community of faculty, staff, and students striving together for excellence.

The Medici Circle Friends of the School of Art also plays a key role in the School's community of artists and scholars. Of course, Medici Circle funding for scholarships and project grants creates wonderful opportunities for our students that would otherwise be inaccessible, but just as importantly, the presence of Medici Circle members at School events and exhibition openings sends a signal to our students that their work is valued - that their enterprise is beginning to connect with an audience. At the same time, as Medici members meet and interact with students they have the pleasure of seeing new talent emerge and take shape. The relationships that develop are mutually beneficial.

In my experience, this is the most satisfying and rewarding aspect of arts philanthropy. The financial contribution you'll make by joining or re-joining the Medici Circle is certainly important, but your membership will also connect you to a vital creative community. On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of the School of Art I invite you to participate in the continuation of our tradition of excellence.

Sincerely,

Charles Kanwischer, Director School of Art



## SPRING SEMESTER 2018 GRANTS

National Council on Education on the Ceramic Arts Conference

March 14-17, 2018

Bowling Green State University ceramic arts students were among the 3,000 participants at this year's National Council on Education on the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. BGSU had one of the largest contingents of university students represented thanks to the support of Medici Circle.

During the four-day conference, students visited galleries, lectures, one-on-one talks and other institutional settings.

"Attending NCECA always allows the chance to experience ceramic art outside of Bowling Green," said Regina Hilton. "The best part is that it feels like a continuation BGSU's ceramic studio because many ceramic artists are people interested in community engagement as a means of creating work."

The Medici Circle grant allowed Christa Franks to attend for the first time. "I was not able to attend in past years due to financial obligations." The grant

allowed her to attend and to see Ayumi Horie's work, who is her favorite artist.

"This trip is an incredible opportunity for any ceramics student to learn what is really out there to be learned and done. NCECA shows just how possible an art career can be by showing the sheer amount of people that showed up," said David Rummel. He had the opportunity to meet artists Simon Levin, a wood-fire ceramic artist, who has been influential in Rummel's work, and Mike Stumbras, a soda-fire porcelain artist.

Andres Monetnegro used part of his time to collect information about residency programs. "A residence is what I plan to do when I finish graduate school at BGSU," he said.

Drake Gerber saw many artists' work that he has seen online. "It was really special to be able to see it in person," he said.

"It was such a mind-opening experience to be able to talk to artists face-to-face about their works and their processes," said Megan Messer. Buying a mug from artist Mike Jabbur, "who I had been following on social media for quite some time...really spiked my motivation this semester."

Allison Bingham talked to educators to help learn about different educational philosophies and strategies to use in her classroom someday. She called the conference, "The experience of a lifetime" and "incredibly inspiring."

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## VISITING ARTIST COLLEEN KELSEY

March 15, 2018

By Mille Guldbek

Professor of Painting/Drawing

Visiting Artist Colleen Kelsey engaged in a very lively and animated discussion with the Contemporary Concepts class, based on her lecture "Art and Activism." She talked about role models such as Anna Mendieta and Pedro Reyes, whose artwork directly addresses issues of divide among people. Pertinent questions that were raised in the group dealt with race, gender and the preconceptions held by different groups in society. The class discussed ways to use the passion for civility and empathy for other beings/the environment, etc. in a positive and engaging practice with art making.

Kelsey also attended the Figure Drawing class where she demonstrated various drawing tools and ways in which they can be used for portraiture. She did a

drawing demonstration for them with our model and she spent the remainder of the period working with them on their individual portraits.

Her final activity for the day was a public lecture about her own work. She described her experience as an arts administrator and encouraged them to apply to show work at the Dayton Artist Society, of which she is director. It was overall a very fun and engaging visit and she was impressed with the quality of the students' work in the B.F.A. show.

Thanks to Medici Circle for your support.

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## **VISITING ARTIST AHMED ALDOORI**

March 23-24, 2018

By Jack Spencer

Computer Art Club President

and Joshua Drouillard

Computer Art Club Treasurer

Digital painter and illustrator Ahmed Adoori presented a talk and a workshop for BGSU School of Art students. He spoke about working in the video game industry and described his evolution as an artist. After studying at the Art Center College of Design, he worked as a freelancer in the video game industry, then was an instructor before deciding to make a living delivering art instruction and content on YouTube and Patreon. He discussed avoiding formulaic art production and recommended students seek to express themselves freely through their art.

During the workshop with 30 participants, Aldoori focused on character design, including designing shapes with him, drawing figures from a gesture line and implementing iterations of a character. He provided quick critiques of the students' work and addressed their questions.

Aldoori also gave portfolio reviews during which he digitally painted on a separate layer using Photoshop, over students' work to demonstrate how to improve lighting, perspective or shape design.

On behalf of the Computer Art Club, we thank the Medici Circle for supporting the visit that provided the students a broader view of career and personal expression possibilities within the art field.





## VISITING ARTIST RICK VALICENTI

By Jenn Stucker

Division Chair and Associate Professor, Graphic Design

The BGSU Graphic Design Division is very proud of its continued collaborative relationship with Rick Valicenti and appreciates the Medici Circle grant monies awarded to help sustain this vital connection of having him participate as a visiting artist to classroom activities and our portfolio review day.

This year's visit, his sixth year helping with the Graphic Design Theory class, began with Valicenti's virtual attendance during a project introduction in an ARTD3060 course in early April. He also Skyped several times over the semester, and on April 14, students were able to share work him in person to receive his kind, gracious and poignant remarks. He also presented a talk about his creative work, and he shared some of his recent projects. Following his talk, approximately 60 students, faculty, other reviewers and guests attended an Alumni Fundraiser and Dinner to support the Graphic Design Production Fund.



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