Securing a Strong Future for the BGSU School of Art

THE Medici CIRCLE

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Dear Friends,

It was another exciting year at the BGSU School of Art! And it’s anticipated that this new year will be just as wonderful.

All one has to do is check out the Arts Calendar to see all the events planned for this 2010-11 academic year. There are ArtTalks, open to the public and featuring the talents, viewpoints and history of many accomplished artists. The Arts Extravaganza is scheduled for early December and attracts hundreds of people annually to enjoy the work of our students as well as those from music and theatre. Our elegant Primavera dinner will again be held in March in conjunction with the BFA show and, as in past years, we will be sending at least a dozen of our students next summer to our partner school in Florence, Italy, Studio Arts Centers International (SACI). And our galleries are always featuring the outstanding work of our students and faculty.

Of course, in the midst of all of this is the Medici Circle, supporting the overall activity of our School of Art. But the most important thing Medici supports is the efforts and talents of our students through financial grants. The economy has not been easy on most of us, but it has dramatically affected students. The financial assistance the Medici Circle provides to many of them helps them over that hurdle.

Medici Circle money comes from you and we sincerely thank you!

You can help us in two ways this year:
1. renew your membership and your financial support, and,
2. encourage your friends to do the same.

The grants Medici provides to students give them educational experiences they would not experience otherwise — and more members bring more resources.

Thank you again for all you do for the School of Art and our students. Please visit the School and enjoy the vibrant talent here.

Sincerely,

Timothy F. Smith
Medici Circle President
Visiting Artists 2009/10: Medici Circle Funding at Work

The Medici Circle funding makes it possible to welcome a wonderful array of artists and scholars each year. The following are among the many practitioners who visited and enriched the BGSU School of Art community last year.

In September, Laura Donefer, an important Canadian glass artist and publisher of The Glass Gazette, arrived for the Open House of the newly remodeled BGSU glass studio. Invited by SAGA, the student glass club, she taught classes, held workshops, worked in the hot shop with students and lectured as part of the “Art Talks” series. Students learned some of her techniques, creating large vessels textured with hot glass bits and found objects. Talking about her career, she shared that she didn’t work in glass until her late twenties—“I choose liquid heat as my main medium and working with molten glass is like dancing magma right out of the earth.”

In October, Anupam Sud, participant in the multimedia exhibition “Contemporary India,” gave a lecture attended by more than 300 students, faculty and community members. She presented her work of the last 40 years, exploring vulnerability, tenderness and fallibility in human relationships expressed through tonally rich, technically complicated, large-scale intaglio prints.

In November, Galina Tirnicic, research assistant to the director of programs at The Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, presented “The Art of Punishment: The Spectacle of the Body on the Streets of Constantinople.” Students welcomed the opportunity to learn about her career and training, and to get advice about their own career paths.

Also in November, Mario Torero, a well-known Southern California muralist, made numerous BGSU class visits, talked with students from Penta High School, and worked with students building a Día de los Muertos altar at the Sofia Quintero Arts and Cultural Center in Toledo. Torero also participated in a Chicano art show hosted by the Arts Village. He returned to Bowling Green in spring 2010 as the artistic director of the mural painted on the Broadway underpass at I-75, the entrance to the Old South End in Toledo – which has received much community praise.
On the road: Cincinnati
Professors Mille Guldbeck and Lynn Whitney took twenty-one students to see examples of contemporary art at the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. They spent the day exploring the primary exhibits of two international acclaimed artists, Marilyn Mentor, and Albanian artist, photographer and filmmaker, Anri Sala.

On the road: Ottawa
The Computer Art Club visited the 2009 Ottawa International Animation Festival in October. This festival screens many shorts as well as feature length films that are unavailable outside of the festival circuit. Notable presenters included Eric Goldberger, a master animator at Disney and creator of the genie in Aladdin. Don Hertzfeldt, Academy Award nominated animator, best known for his film, Rejected, and a popular culture icon, is said to have inspired an entire generation of filmmakers. Others speaking included David Silverman, director of The Simpsons Movie and Henry Selick, stop motion animator and director of Laika’s Coraline and Disney’s The Nightmare Before Christmas.

On the road: Western Michigan University
In October, students visited Western Michigan University to see exhibitions by jewelers and metalsmiths and attended a lecture by artist, Ruudt Peters. The first exhibit, “Body/Image,” at the Richmond Center for Visual Arts focused on 3D and conceptual art practices. Artists participating were Sandra Enterline, Yeugeniva Kaganovich, Suska Macket, Ruudt Peters, Maria Phillips, and Tim Rath. The second exhibition, “Simulations,” was an installation by Professor Caroline Gore at Western Michigan incorporating photography, fiber work, and jewelry.

At home at BGSU:
The 4th Annual “New Perspectives in Visual Culture Art History Symposium” was held in April. Art History faculty co-advisor, Ruthy Light, introduced the symposium and keynote speaker, Karin Jacobson, director of Docent Education at The Art Institute of Chicago.

Ms. Jacobson explained how the Art Institute impacts both children and adults on a daily basis and helps to give them a sense of cultural identity. After the keynote address, three panels of undergraduate art history students shared their presentations. In the afternoon, two more panels presented their research. Co-advisor, Allie Terry-Fritsch, closed the event with an eloquent summation and advice for the students to further their research and help develop their careers after graduation.

Medici Circle Funding at Work: Field Trips
Thanks to Medici support, students participated in many field trips, a vital way to connect with art and professional artists.
“It is difficult to articulate the metamorphosis I experienced while studying abroad. Being an aspiring Art Historian, I often feel overwhelmed in the presence of great art. I have a profound appreciation for Renaissance Art, but I feel intimidated and abased by its dexterous craftsmanship. I remember at orientation, Mary Beckinsale informed us that we were walking down the same cobblestone roads that Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci walked down every day. My heart stopped for a moment. Tears began to fill my eyes. I had never felt that kind of exuberance before. I knew at that moment that I was about to embark on an experience that I would consider to be the acme of my college career.”

“I was able to restore 17th century artwork while enrolled in Painting Conservation with Roberta Lapucci. Having begun my college career as a Painting major, I was eager to be able to work in a studio setting once again. In the first week of class, she sent me onto the patio to recreate the face of baby Jesus on a Madonna and Child painting that had been severely damaged in an explosion. I worked on that painting by myself through my six weeks in Italy. I was able to adapt my process based on the information that I was given in the painting and everyday that I worked on it, I became more and more consumed with perfecting it.”

“Being encompassed by Renaissance art and architecture left me overzealous. Thinking about everything that I was able to experience in Florence gives me a profound sense of joy. It was a once in a lifetime experience that I am gracious to have had.”
The School of Art is one of the most prominent art schools in Ohio due to its internationally recognized faculty. We’d like to introduce you to or reacquaint you with its fine professors. Want to know more about the faculty or see some of their creations? Go to http://art.bgsu.edu/faculty/index.cfm?link=facStaff and click on directory.

Michael Arrigo¹ is Associate Professor of Two-Dimensional Studies. He works in multiple media including painting, installation and video. His research examines how the image shapes personal identity, cultural narratives and cosmological mythic forms.

John Balistreri² is Professor of Ceramics. His work involves the ancient process of wood firing. Besides making industrial pieces, he creates more universal pieces directly reflecting nature and has begun to incorporate the figure via heads and brains.

Janet Ballweg³ is Professor of Printmaking. She teaches etching, screenprinting and book arts, including traditional photomechanical and digital print processes. Her work integrates 3D modeling and 2D digital imaging with photopolymer plate intaglio printing.

Dominic Catalano⁴ is Assistant Professor of Art Education. His research focuses on visual culture and visual literacy. A children’s book illustrator, he has published 27 children’s picture books.

Todd Childers⁵ is Associate Professor of Graphic Design. His research explores the manipulation of traditional media via digital technology, combining font design, corporate identity, digital illustration, publication design, multimedia and digital video.

Matt Davis⁶ is Associate Professor of Graphic Design. His research interests include two- and three-dimensional information and the development and impact of experimental design. He is co-founder and co-owner of a full service graphic design firm.

Dena Eber⁷ is Associate Professor in Digital Arts. Her teaching specialties are in mixed media, digital imaging and photography, curatorial work and digital arts theory. Her research explores the art and aesthetics of “virtual” environments.

Heather Elliott-Famularo⁸ is Associate Professor of Digital Arts. Her artwork combines digital arts, video, performance, photography, and installation. The focus of her research is the creation of interactive experiences rather than objects.

Rebecca L. Green⁹ is Associate Professor of Art History. Her research focuses on art and culture of Africa, especially that of Madagascar, and the relationships between ancestors, funerary practices, divination, gender and traditional and contemporary art.
Mille Guldbeck is Associate Professor of Painting. Concerned with an interdisciplinary approach to the interpretation of art, she has pursued interests and taught courses within museum studies, conservation and photography, as well as painting.

Andrew Hershberger is Associate Professor of Art History. He specializes in contemporary art and the history of photography. His research has been funded by many grants including a 2009 Visiting Fellowship at Oxford University.

Karen Kakas is Associate Professor of Art Education. Her work involves collaborations with regional schools, with a specific focus on teaching art and its link to cultural issues to underserved urban populations.

Charles Kanwischer is Associate Professor of Drawing. Interested in drawing in all media, painting, printmaking, photography, art history and criticism, his work addresses the intersection of non-objective and representational imagery within landscape contexts.

Lou Krueger is Professor of Photography. His creative work and research have focused primarily on experimental approaches to color photography and includes in-depth exploration of clichés-verre and pinhole cameras.

Susan Lab is an Associate Professor of First Year Studies. Her work relates to historic costume and sees dress as an expression of cultural value.

Bonnie Mitchell is Associate Professor of Digital Arts. She works with animation, programming, www art, stereo imaging, interactive art installation and 3D modeling and rendering.

Shawn Morin is Professor of Sculpture. His work involves physical, metaphysical, conceptual, spiritual, material and familial relationships and his creations range from small, traditional bronzes to more contemporary granite or stainless steel works.

Tom Muir is Professor of Jewelry and Metalsmithing and BGSU Distinguished Professor of the Arts. Participating in many national and international exhibitions, he was awarded the 2009 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Ohio Designer Craftsmen.

Rosalie Politsky is Associate Professor of Art Education. She has lectured in art education and art therapy. Her research focuses on the intersections of art criticism, psychology, social theory and spirituality.

Katerina Rüedi Ray is Director of the School of Art. She has published Bauhaus Dream-house: Modernity and Globalization and with I. Marjanovi, Marina City: Bertrand Goldberg’s Urban Vision, featured in PBS’s Newshour Art Beat blog.

Allie Terry-Fritsch is Assistant Professor of Art History. Her research includes early modern visual culture, humanism, violence in art and the critical traditions of art history. She has had six publications in the last year and a half.

Lynn Whitney is Associate Professor of Photography. Her research includes the history and practice of photography, specifically large format and the gelatin silver print. Her recent “From Start to Finish: Photos of the I-280 Bridge Project,” exhibited at the TMA.

Dennis Wojtkiewicz is Professor of Painting. He is known for his highly rendered drawings and paintings with an emotive quality of light. His recent paintings are large, contemporary still-lifes with subtle glazing.

Lori Young is Associate Professor of Graphic Design whose research focuses on typography development, the role of ornament in design, and the cultural narratives of ornament.
IN MEMORIAM

THE MEDICI CIRCLE LOST THREE BELOVED FRIENDS THIS SUMMER, EACH UNIQUE IN THEIR LOVE FOR THE ARTS.

Ashel Bryan (1920 – 2010)

Ashel Bryan was the heart and soul of the Medici Circle and the School of Art. Born in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, he studied at Ohio Wesleyan and later at Bowling Green State University. A pilot and teacher first, he entered the banking profession, where his innovations, attention to detail and love for people led to great successes. With his wife, Dorothy, he helped found the Medici Circle. When Dorothy complained that the Bryans gave to athletics and not the arts, Ashel asked, “To whom shall I make out the check?” — and the Medici Circle was born. Ashel and Dorothy funded the Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery that resulted in the Renaissance of the School of Art, part of BGSU’s first Center of Excellence today. Ashel’s son, David, and daughter-in-law, Myrna, former president and current Medici Circle secretary, continue the extraordinary Bryan leadership legacy.

Margit Heskett (1921 - 2010)

Margit Heskett was a long-standing Medici Circle member. Born in Czechoslovakia, she moved to the USA in 1939. Initially studying architecture, she followed her passion, dance, graduating from Wittenberg and Columbia Universities. She loved teaching – at Springfield Public and Parochial Schools, Fairborn City Schools, Antioch College, Wittenberg University and finally Bowling Green State University. At BGSU, Margit taught in the dance program and the Ethnic Studies department. Margit’s Red Book: From Elephant to Butterfly: Reflections of a Bohemian Butterfly will shortly be followed by its sequel, A Personal Memoir. Margit’s zest for life, independent thinking, love for the arts and devotion to her national heritage lives on in the Heskett Scholarship, celebrated annually at the Primavera Gala, and awarded to a graduate student whose work is inspired by Eastern European culture.

Elizabeth (Beth) Casey (1935 – 2010)

Elizabeth Casey was a devoted Medici Circle Board member. Born in Pennsylvania, she too obtained her graduate degree (a doctorate) from Columbia University, and taught at the University of Rochester, Bard College, and Empire State College. She was associate dean at Hobart and William Smith Colleges before coming to Bowling Green State University in 1978 as director of general studies, a field in which she was a national authority. A dynamic force in the BGSU academic environment, she taught in the Canadian Studies program and was a staunch supporter of the arts. As a Medici Circle Board member, she was tireless in assisting with events, always putting the interests of students first. She will be remembered for her sense of adventure, creativity and tremendous warmth, humor and kindness.
Jessica Ussio-Hoffman

Continuing its twenty-nine year-old tradition, the Medici Circle members purchased a work of art by Jessica Ussio-Hoffman from 2010 BFA Exhibition as a permanent addition to the Medici Circle art collection. Jessica says her art is “about dealing with my childhood and growing up.”

Jessica’s parents separated when she was a child and until she went to live with her father at the age of twelve, she was in a turbulent household beset with family problems. Because of this, she sought control in her own life, trying to be the “perfect” child, and was successful in her art and schooling and social life. Jessica said that it was her senior year at college when “all of this came back in my face.” It was at this time that she really “got into my art” and the “uncovering of organized chaos” became an artistic theme as a way for her to become self-aware and “comfortable in her own skin.”

Fully involved, Jessica exhibited at the Black Swamp Arts Festival and the Toledo Area Artists Show and she taught (her degree is in art education) students at Ottawa Hills High School mentored by art teacher Kirsten Myerholtz, another BGSU graduate. Jessica graduated in May 2010 and that same day, moved to Melbourne, Florida, to be with her fiancé whom she married several weeks later.

At this time, Jessica is at Vero Beach High School in Florida, teaching mainly photography. Because she also likes to “get dirty and try new things such as ceramics and jewelry,” in addition to painting, Jessica expects her art to develop more in the direction of mixed media.

Medici Members at Work: School of Art Events in 2010 and 2011

2010

December 3rd  5:00 pm  Arts Extravaganza and 60th Annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition (through Dec 14th) Opening

2011

February 6th  2:00 pm  Undergraduate Student Exhibition (through February 27th) Opening

March 19th

3:30 pm  Jurying, Medici Circle Purchase Award
5:00 pm  Primavera Gala, Room 308, Bowen Thompson Student Union and Medici Circle Awards Announcements
6:30 pm  Opening, BFA Senior Thesis Exhibition
8:00 pm  BFA Award Announcement

April 8th  7:00 pm  MFA Thesis Exhibition 1 (through April 19th)

April 22nd  7:00 pm  MFA Thesis Exhibition 1 (through May 3rd)
The 91st annual Toledo Area Artists show co-sponsored by the Toledo Museum of Art and the Toledo Federation of Art Societies opened on Friday, July 9, 2010. The juried show is open to all professional artists living in the Toledo area as well as artists who come from or are affiliated with the area. Over 800 entries were evaluated and just over 100 were invited to exhibit. The jurors were Kathryn J. Reeves, an art professor at Purdue University’s School of Visual and Performing Arts, and Kitty McManus Zurko, director/curator of the College of Wooster Art Museum.

BGSU faculty, students, alumni and former instructors received 11 - over 50% - of the 20 awards. Katerina Rüedi Ray, director of the School of Art said, “To my knowledge this has never happened before, although our share of the awards has been going up steadily each year.”

And at the Salon des Refusés exhibition at the Parkwood Gallery across the street, the Best of Show prize was awarded to Michelle Carlson, BGSU School of Art alumna.

Thank you so much for all your support and hard work that is a part of this success story!”

THE FOLLOWING ARE BGSU-AFFILIATED WINNERS AT THE TAA SHOW:

1. Felicia Szorad
2. Alison Parsons
3. Ross Roadruck
4. Kelly Sheehan
5. Michael Arrigo
6. Tyler Benjamin
7. Spencer Cunningham
8. Brandon Briggs
9. Joseph Pintz
10. Haik Avanian
11. Scott Darlington

Athena Art Society Award
Molly Morpeth Canaday Award
UT Art Dept Award
Dominick Labino Glass Award
Roulet Meda
ACGT Purchase Award
Third Award
Second Place
Second Place
First Place
First Place

BGSU alumna
BGSU BFA student
BGSU BFA student
BGSU alumna
BGSU faculty
BGSU biology major
BGSU alumnus and former instructor
BGSU MFA student
BGSU faculty
BGSU student
BGSU faculty
MEDICI CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP
CATEGORIES & BENEFITS

**STUDENTE D’ARTE** $5
- Available for Students Only
- Invitation to ArtsX food station
- Eligibility to Apply for Medici Grant

**PARENTE D’ARTE** $25
- Available for Parents and Relatives
- Invitation to Primavera Gala at Member’s Cost

**Ghiberti** $50
- Invitation to Primavera Gala at Member’s Cost
- Invitation to Arts Extravaganza Preview

**DONATELLO** $100
- Invitation to Primavera Gala at Member’s Cost
- Invitation to Arts Extravaganza Preview
- Invitation to Visiting Artist or Scholar Event

**RAPHAEL** $500
- Invitation to Primavera Gala
- Invitation to Arts Extravaganza Preview
- Invitation to Visiting Artist or Scholar Event
- Student Sponsorship—Faculty Work of Art

**MICHELANGELO** $1,000
- Invitation to Primavera Gala
- Invitation to Arts Extravaganza Preview
- Invitation to Visiting Artist or Scholar Event
- Student Sponsorship—Student Work of Art

**LEONARDO** $2,000
- Invitation to Primavera Gala
- Invitation to Arts Extravaganza Preview
- Invitation to Visiting Artist or Scholar Event
- Student Sponsorship—Faculty Work of Art
- Faculty Sponsorship—Faculty Work of Art

**LORENZO IL MAGNIFICO** $3,000
- Invitation to Primavera Gala
- Invitation to Arts Extravaganza Preview
- Invitation to Visiting Artist or Scholar Event
- Student Sponsorship—Student Work of Art
- Faculty Sponsorship—Faculty Work of Art
- Invitation to President’s Dinner, hosted by BGSU President

* All levels of membership receive invitations to annual Medici events and the Medici Newsletter.

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MEDICI CIRCLE PATRONAGE FORM

**Name(s)___________________________**

**Home Address_______________________**

City____________________State____Zip____

**Telephone (Home)_________________ Telephone (Work)________________**

**Email Address______________________**

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PLEDGE: $____________**

- Check enclosed
- Make all checks payable to: BGSU Foundation/Medici Circle

- Please charge my:
  - [ ] VISA   [ ] MasterCard   [ ] American Express   [ ] Discover

- Account Number_________________________ Exp. Date (mm/yy)__________

- Signature___________________________ Date________________________

**Other Pledge Options:**

- [ ] Electronic Funds Transfer
  - Payment Frequency
    - [ ] monthly
    - [ ] quarterly
    - [ ] annually
    - [ ] continuous

- Amount
  - [ ] $10
  - [ ] $15
  - [ ] $20
  - [ ] Other
    - Amount $__________

- Financial Institution
- Account Number
- Bank Routing Number

Please attach a voided check or deposit slip with this form.

I (we) authorize the BGSU Foundation, Inc. to deduct my (our) contribution from the account indicated above on the 15th of the month. I understand that if I decide to discontinue this plan I will notify the BGSU Foundation, Inc. at least two weeks prior.

**Signature_________________________ Date________________________

**Other Pledge Options (continued):**

- [ ] Payment by installment
  - It is my/our intent to fulfill the remainder of this commitment by making:
    - [ ] annual
    - [ ] monthly payments of:
      - [ ] $______________
      - beginning on ____________
    - [ ] quarterly
    - [ ] monthly payments of:
      - [ ] $______________
      - beginning on ____________

- [ ] Matching funds from my company will be applied to my gift
  (Please consult your company’s human resource department as there may be rules governing pledge payment matches)

- Company Name________________________ Match Ratio__________

- [ ] BGSU payroll deduction
  - [ ] $______________ per pay period until pledge is paid off
  - [ ] $______________ per pay period until further notice

- [ ] Employee Type
  - [ ] Faculty
  - [ ] Administrative
  - [ ] Classified

- Social Security________________________ BGSU ID Number__________

- Signature_________________________ Date________________________

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MEDICI CIRCLE PATRONAGE FORM

Please mail form to:
The Medici Circle
School of Art
1000 Fine Arts Center
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403–0204