

# THE MEDICI CIRCLE

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

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# GREETINGS FROM THE MEDICI CIRCLE

*December, 2013*

Dear Friends—

We just experienced our annual **Arts Extravaganza** (it's become known here as **ArtsX**) and as anyone who attended can tell you, it was a wonderfully enjoyable evening, and the activity and talent coming from the School of Art is exceptional.

This year's theme was that of a "**Wonderland**," and the event was pleasantly packed with people watching the students work on their particular crafts. Visitors could interact with students as they painted, made jewelry, blew glass, sculpted, demonstrated digital animation and more. And many took the opportunity to purchase unique student artwork for themselves and as holiday gifts.

Also new this year was the School of Art's "**Cinema Optique**," a projection of looping digital art that covered the entire south outside wall of the new Wolfe Center. It was the largest digital projection that this region has seen. Even on a cold evening people just stood and watched the changing landscape on the side of the building. It was captivating!

It's a lot of preparatory work for one evening's event, but our students are can-do people. They make things happen and they do it very well.

Of course, the Medici Circle helps to fund this event, just like other activities throughout the academic year. Your support of the Medici Circle helps us to implement such activities, but better yet, it makes grants available to our students for experiences beyond the School which would not be otherwise available to them. These experiences offer them new insights, and help them hone their skills and bring more enthusiasm back to their classroom and studio.

Your financial assistance is most important to our students and is truly appreciated. Please continue to help us. If you're like me, perhaps you should write that check now before your attention is turned elsewhere.

And, by all means, come and visit the School of Art. You will be amazed at our students' work and you will be proud to know that you support it.

Sincerely,



Timothy F. Smith  
Medici Circle President

# MEDICI CIRCLE FUNDING AT WORK

## SACI

*Each year, students opt to study abroad in Florence, Italy at BGSU's partner school Studio Art Center International. Last summer, four School of Art students had the opportunity to study at SACI and the Medici Circle was able to offer each of them a Travel Grant.*



*Elizabeth Jaszczak at the Colosseum, Rome*

## My SACI Experience

By Elizabeth Jaszczak

It's hard to believe that my five week adventure in Italy has already come to an end. I have seen and experienced so much that it seems like the trip flew by in the blink of an eye. But even though the trip itself is over, the memories I've created overseas will surely last me a lifetime.

While I was in Florence, I studied Painting and Painting Conservation. In my Advanced Painting course, I had the opportunity to paint in various locations around Florence, such as the Boboli Gardens. I learned that I love working in bright and rich colors,

and this has inspired me to explore this concept further in my current work. In my Painting Conservation class, I was able to study with a master of conservation who has worked on many notable projects, including Caravaggio restorations. This course was completely different than any class I have taken before, and it was something I could not have studied here at BGSU. I really enjoyed learning about the behind-the-scenes work that goes into preparing a painting for a museum, and how damages to a painting can be restored. After learning about how conservation works and what harms paintings most, I am now able to better protect my own paintings and prevent future damage.

In addition to taking interesting courses, SACI also gave me the opportunity to travel around Italy. Since they offered field trips on Sundays, I was able to visit Siena, Lucca, San Gimignano, Pisa, and Fiesole. They even provided us with a tour guide who was able to explain the history and art in the cities. I also spent most of my free Saturdays exploring Florence and I traveled to Rome and Cinque Terre.

I loved being surrounded by so much art history and having the opportunity to visit these sites. Everything I had learned from a textbook in my art history classes suddenly came to life, and I felt like I had finally made my artist's pilgrimage to these historic places.

Studying abroad was a dream I've had for years. With SACI on my mind since my freshman year, I was determined to make it happen. My parents were apprehensive because of the costs. But earning the Medici Circle grant as well as two additional scholarships made this trip possible. This was a one-in-a-lifetime experience. The classes I took, museums I visited, and people I met have all helped me grow both as an art student and as an individual.

## Purchase Award

*The Medici Circle grants their Purchase Award to one student each year by selecting one student artwork from the Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition. The purchased piece then enters the BGSU School of Art gallery collection to honor outstanding student work.*



*Antonio Lee, Wake Up, 2013*

At the 2013 BFA Exhibition, the Medici Circle selected Antonio Lee's piece titled *Wake Up* to receive the 2013 Medici Circle Purchase Award. Lee is from Toledo, Ohio and graduated from BGSU in Spring 2013 with a BFA in Two-Dimensional Studies.

# MEDICI CIRCLE FUNDING AT WORK: VISITING ARTISTS

*The Medici Circle's generous support makes it possible for School of Art students and faculty to visit and welcome to campus a wide array of internationally recognized artists and scholars.*

## Student-led Living Glass History interview with Glass Artists Boyd Sugiki & Lisa Zerkowitz

In February 2012, School of Art glass students conducted a **Living Glass History** interview with glass artists Boyd Sugiki and Lisa Zerkowitz. During the interview, Sugiki and Zerkowitz answered nine student-generated questions related to their art practice, including the concept of collaboration in glass, and the influence that history has had in their work. Due to the relative newness of the **Studio Glass Movement**, its records often take the form of an oral history. More thorough documentation of this history is necessary to the integrity of its preservation, and recording this history through audio-visual technology makes it more easily accessible to a wider audience. Documentation of this interview has been edited into a DVD, available for distribution nationally to glass centers.

## Former DreamWorks Animator Dennis Recchia at BGSU



*Dennis Recchia workshop*

In January 2013, the Digital Arts Division invited former DreamWorks animation artist Dennis Recchia to share his experience and knowledge of the animation industry. Over 80 guests attended Recchia's public lecture, where he covered topics such as feature film concept development and the animation production process. He also conducted two storyboard workshops for students. In the first workshop, students had the opportunity to learn about sequence visualization and storyboarding techniques. The second workshop, titled "Individual Storyboard Critique," was designed for senior level students and graduate students who wished to have their projects reviewed and critiqued by Recchia. Students appreciated his critique of their work and they found his industry advice to be invaluable for their future careers.

## "Lost and Found" with Jeweler Robert Ebendorf

Jeweler Robert Ebendorf, Carol Grothnes Belk Distinguished Professor of Art at East Carolina University, visited the School of Art in September 2012. Ebendorf conducted a student workshop titled "Lost and Found: Problem Solving," and he presented a public lecture titled "Lost and Found: The Journey Continues" as part of **BGSU's ArtTalks** series. During his lecture, he shared an overview of his 50 years as an international leader in the field of contemporary art jewelry. Ebendorf's extensive knowledge of the field, his 50 years of teaching experience, and his ever youthful approach to art-making and problem-solving are valuable tools that he was able to share with the students and faculty of the Jewelry and Metalsmithing Program.



*Robert Ebendorf with students*

# MEDICI CIRCLE FUNDING AT WORK: FIELD TRIPS

## Graduate Students Visit Ann Hamilton at the University of Akron



(Left to Right) Janna Wheeler, Jessica Summers, Maria Postlethwait, Natalie McChesney, Ann Hamilton, Chelsea Younkman, Chaz O'Neil, Jill Allan and Charles Kanwischer.

Seven BGSU School of Art graduate students travelled to the University of Akron to hear Ann Hamilton speak about her art in September 2012. Hamilton works primarily with large-scale multimedia installations. Her presentation covered a wide array of themes that are present in her work, including resetting the body's sense of time, the cartography of language, and her use of live birds as part of her installations. Hamilton also talked about her process and the advantages and challenges of working with assistants and collaboratively with other artists. Students were especially interested in her approach to new spaces for site-specific work.

## Art History Association Field Trip to Chicago



AHA at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

Seven members of the Art History Association took a three-day trip to Chicago, which was a fantastic opportunity to learn about Art History and become familiar with professional practices in the discipline. The group visited the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, where Dr. Stephanie Langin-Hooper gave the students a guided tour of one of the top-ranked collections of Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian art in the United States. The students then visited the Museum of Contemporary Art to see new installations by Jimmy Robert and the video art of William Kentridge. The students also attended one session of the Annual Meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research conference, enabling them to become familiar with the presentation of cutting-edge research in the discipline of art history.

## Society of Photographic Education Midwest Regional Conference



Exhibition: Reporting Back:  
A Survey of Documentary Photography

Members of the BGSU Photo Club attended the Midwest Regional Society for Photographic Education Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio in October 2012. Students listened to presentations by keynote speaker Ashley Gilbertson and educator Ardene Nelson. Gilbertson spoke about his experience living with American soldiers in Iraq and photographing combat and civilian life, as well as the difference between documentary photography and photojournalism. In her lecture, Nelson addressed the need for artists to embrace change. Students appreciated the opportunity to be surrounded by such an impressive caliber of photographers and historians of photography. They were inspired by being able to see outstanding photographs in person, particularly Laurel Nakadate's polaroids and Robert and Shana ParkeHarrison's photogravures.

# IN THE NEWS

*LeSo: Transforming a historic space into an art gallery<sup>1</sup>*



*Amber LeFever and Adam Soboleski*

Launching a small business is something many dream about doing for years. Amber LeFever '09 and Adam Soboleski '10 didn't wait. The young alumni have opened LeSo Gallery at 1527 Starr Avenue in Toledo. Both are artists and graduates of the BGSU School of Art.

The two started dating while taking a BGSU course in ceramics, a medium that remains Soboleski's focus and simply fit into LeFever's first-year class schedule as an art education major and business minor. And just as the gallery's moniker was derived from a combination of their last names, the business blends their individual passions and skills.

LeFever works full time as an art teacher at the Imagine Clay Avenue School, and it was during her commutes through the city's east side that she noticed the striking architecture of many abandoned properties in the neighborhood. Soboleski works full time at The Home Depot, and embraces a DIY attitude that came in handy after the pair identified the historic space in need of major renovations.

"I don't really think it was a renovation. It was more of a rebirth," Soboleski said.

An original tin ceiling was hidden behind two layers - an old drywall ceiling covered by a drop ceiling. The two teamed with willing family and friends to remove about 50 cubic yards of aging building materials in order to expose bare brick walls.

Much of the interior beauty of the century-old building was unexpected, as was the overwhelmingly warm reception from neighbors of the gallery. Area residents regularly interrupted renovations to share their memories and photos of the building during its various incarnations.

LeSo's inaugural art show, *Overture*, opened in late September 2012, and several BGSU graduates were among those with works selected for the exhibition. LeFever and Soboleski assembled a jury to choose the wide range of styles and types of art that would be featured behind frames in the gallery. They selected oil paintings, pop art prints, ceramic works, jewelry and more.

"We're not sticking to one demographic. We're open to almost anything," Soboleski said. "We want to stir the pot and let the community know there are a lot of great artists out there."

Both LeFever and Soboleski credit the influence of BGSU faculty for instilling the attitude, vision and drive behind their business. "Generally both my art and business classes were rigorous. Faculty held you to such high expectations, and that carried over into our work ethic," LeFever said.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from "Young Alumni Revive Historic Space as Art Gallery" by BGSU Marketing and Communications. Posted January 14, 2013. <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/features/2013/01/LeSo.html>

# IN THE NEWS

*"You Are Here" project: Putting Toledo on the map through art<sup>2</sup>*

BGSU faculty and alumni have helped put Toledo "on the map" as it were, and their International Design Award-winning efforts were published in the March 2013 issue of HOW Magazine. The "You Are Here" project, sponsored by the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, was among 20 Outstanding Achievement Award winners in the competition hosted by HOW Magazine. Of nearly 1,000 submissions, 242 were accepted and only 20 overall were recognized as "Outstanding."

The AIGA (the professional association for design) Toledo team was led by Jenn Stucker, an assistant professor of graphic design in the School of Art and a BGSU Alumna, as creative director and project manager. The Creative Production Team included graphic design instructor Amy Fidler (who is also a BGSU alumna) and alumni artists Ben Morales and Zach Zollars, along with fellow designer Matt Rowland.

Their challenge was to enhance awareness about Toledo and create a stronger sense of place, both for visitors to the city during last summer's International Glass Arts Society conference and also for Toledo residents. In the process, they employed not only graphic design, but also mobile technology, and they organized a "collect the dots" contest for participants.

AIGA Toledo has partnered with the Arts Commission in previous years to bring attention to the arts in the city, using banners and window displays. But this time, instead of prompting people to look up, the team wanted them to look down. They devised a plan to emulate the "You are here" dots sometimes found on tourist maps. "Using the circular shape of a dot (at three feet in diameter), 100 northwest Ohio artists, designers and students were asked to make a powerful visual statement in response to their assigned dot's location," Stucker wrote in the case study for the project.

"The project was unique to Toledo and showcased the amazing artistic talent and places of this region," Stucker said. "Toledo is known as the Glass City for its rich history in glass innovation, and many of the locations for the project were chosen to highlight that history," Stucker said. "Our research led us to relevant locations such as the Libbey Glass Outlet, The Libbey House, Owens Corning, the Toledo Museum of Art and Glass Pavilion, and the Blair Museum of Lithophanes, to name a few."

Of the 100 artists, 38 were BGSU alumni, students or faculty from the School of Art, including Fidler and Stucker, plus Kim Adams, Todd Childers, Linda Sattler, Sara Schleicher, and Lori Young.

<sup>2</sup> Excerpt from "Team wins Design Award for Toledo Project" by BGSU Marketing and Communications. Posted April 24, 2013. <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/news/2013/news131320.html>



Matt Rowland, Toledo Zoo



Zack Zollars, The Toledo Blade



Todd Childers, Secor Building



Ben Morales, Owens Corning/Washington St. Bridge



Jenn Stucker and Amy Fidler, Inspiring a Vibrant Toledo

# IN THE NEWS

*Exhibition “Chemo Paintings” honors late Bowling Green philanthropist Dorothy Uber Bryan<sup>3</sup>*

In April 2013, Bowling Green State University showcased the power of art in healing through an exhibition of The Chemo Paintings by Dorothy Uber Bryan and related activities for the community. The exhibit and events honored the legacy of the late Bowling Green philanthropist, who was committed to helping those with cancer.

A BGSU School of Art alumna and MFA graduate, Bryan began her art career late in life after raising her family. In 1989, after learning she had cancer, she found solace and healing through art, and painted 11 extraordinary artworks as an expression of her journey through the illness and chemotherapy. For her, the power of art was integral to her healing – emotionally, spiritually and physically.

“My mother often spoke of her wish that her paintings would not only enlighten cancer patients and their friends and family, but that they, as well, would inform physicians and medical workers to make their care and treatment of cancer patients more sensitive to their emotional, as well as physical, needs,” said her son David Bryan, a former BGSU trustee.

In collaboration with The Victory Center, a Toledo nonprofit organization that assists cancer patients and their families, BGSU hosted a community event in conjunction with the exhibit opening. In the spirit of Bryan’s work, guests were

invited to participate in two workshops with art therapist Bob Davis from The Victory Center. One workshop focused on creating expressive personal banners, which were then strung together to form a wellness chain and displayed in the Fine Arts Center. The other workshop allowed guests to create journals from memories.



<sup>3</sup> Excerpt from “Exhibit to Showcase the Power of Art and Healing” by BGSU Marketing and Communications. Posted April 4, 2013. <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/news/2013/news130186.html>

# 2014 SCHOOL OF ART EVENTS

- January 31      **ARTalks: “Recent Works”**  
Neil Callander, Painter, Sculptor,  
Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University  
7 pm, Fine Arts Center 204
- February 9      **ARTalks: “The Dream is Real”**  
Amy Ringholz, Painter, Director,  
The Ringholz Foundation, Jackson Hole, Wyoming  
1 pm, Fine Arts Center 204
- February 9 - 23      **Annual Undergraduate Art & Design Exhibition**  
Juried selection of art in all media by students in the BGSU School of Art  
Opening Reception: February 9, 2-4 pm,  
Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman Galleries
- March 6      **ARTalks: “Singers, Chantresses and Ladies of the House:  
Examining the Roles and Status of Elite Women in Late Period Egypt”**  
Prof. Jean Li, Ryerson University  
3:30 pm, Fine Arts Center 204
- March 21      **Medici Circle Primavera Gala**  
*Medici Circle will vote on BFA Exhibition Purchase Award prior to Gala*  
Medici Circle Award announcement during Gala  
6 pm, Flying Pig Café, Toledo School for the Arts
- March 22 – April 6      **BFA Senior Thesis Exhibition**  
*Juried selection of final work by students graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree*  
Opening Reception: March 22, 6:30 – 9 pm,  
Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman Galleries
- March 28      **“LEGENDS”**  
Thomas Muir, Distinguished Professor of the Arts, Jewelry and Metals, BGSU  
Recent works  
6 pm, Fine Arts Center 204
- April 4      **“LEGENDS”**  
Louis Krueger, Professor of Photography, BGSU  
Recent Works  
6 pm, Fine Arts Center 204
- April 11-19      **MFA Thesis Exhibition I**  
Opening Reception: April 11, 7 – 9 pm  
Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman Galleries
- April 25 – May 4      **MFA Thesis Exhibition II**  
Opening Reception: April 25, 7 – 9 pm  
Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman Galleries

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MEDICI CIRCLE

