Over the Winter 2018 Semester, the Fine Art (Visual Art) Program kept an active schedule. Students filled classrooms with an array of challenging paintings, prints and objets d'art; faculty were recipients of awards and nominations for teaching excellence; the Koerner Artist in Residence and other visiting artists kept the energy running through Ontario Hall vibrant. In this newsletter we present but a sample of the activities that continue to make the Fine Art (Visual Art) Program an exciting one.

Koerner Artist in Residence: Karel Funk

The Koerner Artist in Residence Program is an annual professional residency in the Fine Art (Visual Art) Program at Queen's University. The residency program provides students with unique access to mentorship from a celebrated artist, and gives the artist a chance to share their expertise. In 2017-2018, the Koerner Visiting Artist was Winnipeg-based Karel Funk.

From March 4th to 17th, Karel Funk participated in numerous studio visits and informal gatherings (potluck!). He delivered two talks and a video screening, as well as gave a candid conversation to the 4th year seminar about being a professional artist. There was a pizza party and the occasional winter weather blizzard—a perfect opportunity for studio time. His presence was palpable, with students dropping into his makeshift studio to see the process of his latest painting. His engagement with students was considered.

“I liked how he treated me like a professional artist,” said Carrie Emblem after her visit with Funk. “He spent a lot of time looking at my work,” she continued. “After having a conversation with him, he made me consider elements that I might want to develop and investigate more on, digging a bit deeper.” He had a genuine interest in the work of students, and it was this type of close looking and engagement that made for a memorable visit.

The Fine Art (Visual Art) Program would like to thank Karel Funk for his time and insight, and the Koerner Foundation for their generous support in making this residency possible.
Koerner Artist in Residence: Karel Funk

It is difficult to convey Karel Funk’s visit with only a few representative photos. Nevertheless, here we document some of the studio visits, the 4th year seminar with Amanda White and the DSC potluck. We would like to thank the DSC for organizing the potluck and hosting by Mackenzie Gregson, Veronica Ledermann-Fear, and Julie Finnegan. In addition, a special thanks to Rebecca Anweiler for all her work in organizing Karel Funk’s visit.
Visiting Artists

Melanie Authier and Briana Palmer

In Winter 2018, the Fine Art (Visual Art) Program welcomed two visiting artists: Melanie Authier (Ottawa) and Briana Palmer (Hamilton). On January 25, Melanie Authier delivered an engaging talk that resonated with students and faculty alike. Bridging her knowledge of Canadian and Québécois schools of painting and contemporary concerns about abstraction, she spoke about the tensions and contradictions in her own artwork. On February 8, Briana Palmer spoke about her longstanding environmental research interests and her approach to an expansive form of printmaking. Each brought a wealth of knowledge and aesthetic understanding to our Program.

As the visiting artists are present for two days, the following day studio visits were scheduled and students had a chance to get direct feedback. Often these visits by artists are a highlight of the semester: they introduce a range of artistic practices, convey the challenges faced, and the determination and resiliency that accompany a successful artistic practice. A special thanks goes to Jan Winton for coordinating the Visiting Artists this year.

Featured Alumni

Catching up with Emma White

In our previous alumni profiles, we have often featured graduates who have been removed from Queen's for a number of years: those who have undertaken unexpected ventures, and whose careers show a range of possibilities of a BFA Degree. For this newsletter we approach things from a slightly different angle by profiling a recent graduate less than a year removed from our Program. Emma White is just beginning to immerse herself in a vibrant Toronto Artists' Collective and is readying herself for graduate school. She embodies the drive and commitment to artmaking that many of our visiting artists try to impart. Like Jessica Peterson who we featured in our last newsletter, White graduated in 2017 and is a promising and talented painter. We caught up with her recently for this brief interview.

Kevin Rodgers: Thanks for taking the time to speak with us. Often the first year after graduation can be a challenge to keep producing work - especially when there are no class deadlines. How have you managed to keep an active studio practice?

Emma White: I won’t lie, it is a challenge to find time and motivation without the structure of school. I’ve found it helpful to have a specific goal in mind to work toward. If there is an exhibition, residency, or program that I want to be part of, I have no choice but to create the work to achieve that goal. So for me, it’s been all about creating self-imposed deadlines through applications to shows, programs, etc.

Rodgers: Do you still keep in touch with many of your fellow 4th year students?

White: Yes! In fact, my friend Anna Bullock who also graduated last year is in the same studio space as me through Akin Collective. I see what people are up to really often thanks to social media, but in person as well. It takes a lot more effort now to see people compared to at Queen’s, where everyone was constantly hanging around Ontario Hall. But, it’s been worth it to see what people are up to every now and then because it’s inspiring to see how others are keeping art in their lives after graduation.

Rodgers: You mentioned the Akin Collective. Can you tell me more about them and why you became involved?

White: Akin Collective was suggested to me by Teresa Carlesimo last year when I mentioned to her that I was moving to Toronto, and it was a great suggestion. Akin Collective provides studio spaces of all sizes to artists in Toronto, in multiple locations across the city. It’s definitely the most affordable and well-maintained studio option that I’ve come across, and it’s a really welcoming community of artists. I snagged one of the smallest and cheapest spots that I could find, and I couldn’t be happier with it. One thing that I like about Akin is that it’s large shared space with dedicated portions for each person, which feels a lot like the 4th year setup at Queen’s - so it was a gentle transition from 4th year to whatever this part of my life is. They also have awesome and fun programs like workshops led by Akin members, and gallery crawls.

Rodgers: Have you seen any changes in your work by being in a different location?

White: I’ve seen many changes, particularly in content. During 4th year, my work revolved around landscape and nature scenes. That’s still true, but I’ve introduced a lot more Toronto-trash-inspired imagery into my more recent stuff. Most of the reference photos for my newer work were taken in the stretch of St. Clair West that’s right outside of my studio location. There’s something aesthetically pleasing to me about a good heap of trash, and Toronto definitely has some of those around.
Interview continued

Rodgers: What are your plans for the next year?

White: My plan is to apply to MFA programs this fall, so hopefully that’s where I’ll be next fall. I’m currently working on building a portfolio that I feel confident about. I’ve got a long way to go, but I’ve been spending my weekends at Akin, trying to make some good stuff! Wish me luck.

The Fine Art (Visual Art) Program wishes Emma nothing but the best of luck. It was a pleasure to see how her work developed over the four years at Queen’s, and the new directions her work is now taking, Emma: you have a bright future ahead of you!

More information on Emma White and her work can be found on her website: www.emmawhite.net

Untitled

On March 26th, the graduating students held a highly successful Silent Art Auction at the Grad Club, with all proceeds going towards their final exhibition un(titled). Scheduled for the week of April 23rd to 28th, un(titled) will feature 20 artists.

This yearly exhibition by the 4th year students is one of the most eagerly anticipated events in the Fine Art (Visual Art) Program. Alongside exhibition coordinator Alejandro Arauz, the graduating students plan and diligently work towards this exhibition. Rooms are cleaned and prepared for presentation. The artworks take a range of forms—painting, print, sculpture and video installations—which likewise prompt a number of possible meanings. Surprises abound in every direction.

Please join us to celebrate this culminating exhibition and the graduating class of 2018. The closing reception will take place on Saturday, April 28th, from 7 to 10pm. We hope to see you there!
Faculty Research and Awards

Over the Winter Term faculty have been involved in a number of initiatives, including exhibitions, nominations for awards and recipients of grants. In March, Sylvat Aziz organized the striking exhibition *Works in Flux* at the Art and Media Lab at the Isabel, featuring works by Rena Karanouh, Rawaa Bakhsh and Aziz. Kathleen Sellars was nominated by students for the W.J. Barnes Teaching Award, presented to a deserving faculty member of who has made a significant contribution to teaching. In addition, Alejandro Arauz was nominated for the Frank Knox Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest honour which is given to instructors of Queen's by Students. To help finish his three-part project *L’Invitée*, Kevin Rodgers received a grant from the Queen’s Fund for Scholarly Research and Creative Work and Professional Development.

Much of the activity extends into the Summer Term. Sylvat Aziz will further develop her Aphrodite project with colleagues at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus, and give presentations at the Girne American University and ARUCAD University Girne (Kyrenia) in Cyprus; Kevin Rodgers will undertake a six week residency in France, as well as launch a new artists’ book in August called *The Free Dependent*. We look forward to hearing the stories they will have to tell!