Honorary Degree Recipient, Mr. Michael Koerner

The Fine Art Program (Visual Art) is very pleased to congratulate Mr. Michael Koerner on the Doctor of Laws honorary degree awarded to him at the November 20th convocation ceremony. Mr. Koerner was joined by family and friends at the ceremony and a celebratory luncheon held by Chancellor David Dodge. We also extend our many thanks to Mr. Koerner for his generous funding and support of the Koerner Artist in Residence Program. We recently benefitted from Jacqueline Hoang Nguyen’s residency in January 2014!

Koerner Artist in Residency
Jacqueline Hoang Nguyen

Born and raised in Montreal (French-Canadian of Vietnamese origin), Jacqueline Hoang Nguyen is a research-based artist currently based in Brooklyn and Stockholm. Her artistic practice investigates issues of historicity, collectivity, utopian politics, and multiculturalism within the framework of feminist theory. Her artworks aim to reveal the unnoticed political relevance of seemingly trivial historical anecdotes by shedding a unique light on stories deemed otherwise insignificant. This is not the work of a historian, yet her artworks are results of findings, collected material, re-framed content, and visual translations with the aim of putting forth a different and novel interpretation. History is used in her artwork in accordance with Walter Benjamin’s assertion that every story about the past is more importantly a story about the present, suggesting that memory functions less as an accurate tool for exploring the past and much more as an exercise in re-interpretation.

Nguyen has exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions both nationally and internationally. Recent exhibitions of her work include: Space Fiction and the Archives, Kunstverein Braunschweig, Braunschweig, DE (2013); For an Epidemic Resistance, La Galerie du Nouvel-Ontarion, Sudbury, CA (2013); Let’s Talk About Love Baby, Printed Matter, New York City, NY (2013); and, The Spring Salon, Liljevalchs Konsthall, Stockholm, SE (2013). Watch for upcoming exhibitions at Momenta Art, Brooklyn, NY (2014); Monument cur, FRAC Basse-Normandie, Caen, FR (2014); and at A Space, Toronto, CA (2014).

The Koerner Artist in Residence program is an annual professional residency in the Fine Art Program (Visual Art) at Queen’s University. The residency program provides students with unique access to mentorship and learning from an artist of national and international stature, and the artist the occasion to share their expertise with the next generation of artists. For Kingston and area community members, the program offers a platform whereby contemporary art is shared and articulated. The residency is an integrated itinerary of studio time with one-to-one student critiques, seminars, class visits and public lectures. These all contribute to building relationships with students, faculty and members of the Kingston arts community.

This artist residency is made possible by the generous support of the Koerner Foundation.
Visiting Artist, Hannah Claus

Hannah Claus recently exhibited her artwork at Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre (MFARC). While here for set up she delivered an artist talk on January 19th and conducted studio visits with Fine Art Program students.

This Montreal-based installation artist utilizes her Euro-Canadian and Mohawk ancestries as a point of departure to create ephemeral installations that provoke subtle shifts in perception to amplify personal, social and cultural associations. Her work-process driven practice centers on accumulation and has come to focus on the signification of time. Integrating references to elements of water, stones and sky, she seeks out patterns and their repetitions to question the role and nature of memory and communication.

Hannah sought student help installing her large-scale sculpture Cloudscape at MFARC, located 21 Queen Street. This was a engaging opportunity for students to gain behind the scene access and to meet Hannah, who greatly appreciated both the turn-out and the help!

“I really enjoyed working with Hannah. It was an amazing opportunity to not only work with a professional installation artist, a medium of which I am just starting to explore, but to meet and work with a professional gallery space and staff outside of the Queen’s University environment. I hope to work in a gallery or museum setting in the future and being given the chance to work with such places as the Union Gallery, Modern Fuel and the Artel is a great privilege.”

Jesse Wardell, BFA ’15

Union Gallery News

Joanna Bo Han Shi, Sylvia Lesniewski & Anna Speyer
Title: Ipseity
Main Gallery (Feb. 6 - March 7, 2014)
Reception: Saturday, March 1st from 6 - 8 pm
Anna Speyer works in painting and printmaking. She sits on the Board of the Union Gallery and is the Creative Director of Vogue Charity Fashion Show and Watercan Queen’s.

Joanna Bo Shi is passionate about the possibilities of oil paint and capturing realistic figures within landscape settings on canvas. She is currently Chair of the Union Gallery fundraiser, Cezanne’s Closet, and sits on the gallery Board.

Sylvia Lesniewski works primarily in printmaking often combining copper etchings with lithography. She is the Co-Chair of the Cezanne’s Closet fundraising committee.

Brian Hoad & James Puffer
Title: VISUAL BLOOM: Cumulative Fragmentation
Project Room (Feb. 6 - March 7, 2014)
Reception: Saturday, March 1st from 6 - 8 pm
James Puffer is in his fourth year of the Fine Art program at Queen’s and focuses on screen print, woodblock, and photo collage. He has worked as studio assistant to artist Otis Tamasauskas and installation assistant to artist Jason Paradis.

Brian Hoad is a third year student in the Fine Art program at Queen’s University. He has been in group shows at the Artel, Kingston and the Upstairs Gallery, Port Hope. He has also worked as a studio assistant to artist David Blackwood.

Upcoming Exhibitions by Union Gallery:
March 20 - April 19, 2014
MAIN SPACE | Bodies & Bonds - Alexandra Brickman, Sarah Love, Magdalena Slabosz
PROJECT ROOM | Wednesday of the Week - Emily Zielke

Alumni News

Sarah E.K. Smith (BFA 2006)

My experience in the BFA program has been pivotal to my current position as a curator of contemporary art. Foremost, my studio degree played a significant role in developing my knowledge of contemporary art practice. During the BFA program I gained wide experience in printmaking, sculpture (including experience with wood, metal and stone), audio and video work. I also benefited from the small size of the BFA program, which allowed me to connect with my instructors and classmates. The faculty was incredibly motivating, providing essential instruction in materials, methods and conceptual approaches to art making. Equally important were the talented group of artists who comprised my classmates— their camaraderie and feedback in the studio was essential to my artistic development. My BFA experience also helped me to advance my understanding of contemporary art. For example, during my degree I found the Koerner Artist in Residence Program immensely valuable, as it exposed me to artists including Rebecca Belmore, Vera Frenkel and Ed Pien. Other key opportunities included travel to New York and North Adams, Massachusetts. At the same time, I built my gallery experience working as a docent and completing an internship credit at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. This, and summer employment at the National Gallery of Canada, sparked my interest in curatorial practice. After completing my BFA in 2006, I began graduate studies in art history, gaining my MA in 2008 and PhD in 2013. During this time, I took a break from producing my own work and focused on writing, curating and teaching, travelling across North America and Europe for coursework, research and to participate in academic conferences. This September, I was thrilled to take on the role of Curator of Contemporary Art at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre—an institution that was very important to me during my studio degree. I am excited to have the chance to work with current BFA students during this academic year and hope to encourage them to make the most of the Art Centre’s contemporary programming as a valuable resource and a complement to the rich BFA program.

Upcoming Events

March 6 - Auction House: Where the Line is Drawn at Tango Nuevo (331 King St. E), Doors open at 8pm, Auction begins at 8:45pm.

March 13 - Eliza Griffiths gives a public lecture about her contemporary painting practice @ 2:30pm in Sterling Hall B.

BFA Student Creates Moving Origami

Jonas Lobo, a student in his 3rd year of the BFA Programme at Queen’s who’s enrolled in the Computing and Creative Arts (COCA) program, was able to create and showcase a moving sculpture at the World Maker Faire in New York City.

“This artistic piece explores the connection between changes within data and how it can directly relate to, and change, a physical space or physical objects through the means of output and input devices,” says Jonas. “COCA has allowed me to explore the use of technologies in conjunction with an artistic mindset. It’s a great way for students to think critically about the way technology is becoming more intertwined with the arts.”

A sensor-controlled motor was used in an origami structure folded by electronic components in order to make the paper breathe in a lifelike way.

Left: Sarah E. K. Smith outside the AEAC. Right: Jonas Lobo with his giant origami structure at the World Maker Faire in New York City.
AEAC News

Rembrandt’s Circle: Making History
Bader Gallery - February 1st to November 30th, 2014
Curator: Dr Stephanie Dickey, Bader Chair in Northern Baroque Art, Queen’s University, with students from Topics in Northern Renaissance & Baroque Art (Art History 446) with special contributions by Christopher Zakos, and graduate students Kirsten Christopherson, Emily Kakouris, Casey Lee, Jane Mann, Laura Schemitsch, Nina Schroeder and Yvonne Tristani.

One of Rembrandt’s chief preoccupations was creating images that tell stories from history, mythology and the Bible. He studied this specialty and went on to communicate his insights to his friends and the pupils in his busy workshop. This exhibition, selected and researched by internationally reknowned Rembrandt scholar and Queen’s professor Stephanie Dickey and a team of students, draws on the Bader Collection’s strength in narrative paintings by artists from Rembrandt’s immediate circle.

Intimate Views: The Watercolours of Nan Yeomans
Frances K. Smith Gallery - March 22nd to July 27th, 2014
Local artist Nan Yeomans (1923-2004) is known for printmaking, particularly etching, which predominated later in her career. In 1989, to mark that distinction, the Agnes held the exhibition A Personal Point of View: Prints by Nan Yeomans. The artist’s oeuvre, however, also reveals an early talent for watercolour painting-one that was fostered in and by the city of Kingston. This exhibition features watercolour landscapes from these formative years now in the Art Centre’s collection. These works reflect details of modern life in the city that became the artist’s home.

Arctic I: Sovereignty in Pink
Samuel J. Zacks Gallery - January 25th to April 6th, 2014
Inspired by her initial visit to Cape Dorset (now Kinngait) in 1971, K. M. Graham’s painting Arctic I: Sovereignty in Pink challenges traditional perceptions of the Arctic landscape and raises the issue of Canadian territorial claims in the North.

Two BFA Alumni chosen as Finalists of the UNTAPPED Emerging Artists Competition!
David Woodward and Brynn Higgins Stirrup were selected as finalists in the UNTAPPED Emerging Artist’s Competition, to take part of the Artist’s Project Contemporary Art Fair in Toronto which ran from Feb. 20th to 23rd, during Reading Week!
Here’s a link: http://www.theartistproject.com/

David is also in a group exhibition, the annual textile show at the Gladstone, called Hard Twist - on from January 23 to April 27th.
Here’s a link: http://www.gladstonehotel.com/spaces/hard-twist/

A Canadian Collection: The Soloway Gift
Historical Feature and R. Fraser Elliot Galleries - August 3rd, 2013 to April 20th, 2014
In 2012, Ruth Soloway donated her collection to the Art Centre, one of the most significant gifts of Canadian art in the gallery’s history. This exhibition provides both a snapshot of particular periods in Canadian art through rarely seen works and a glimpse into how a private art collection is formed—and ultimately transformed into a public legacy.

For more information please call 613.533.2190 or visit www.aeac.ca

Nan Yeomans, Kingston Pen, early 1950s, watercolour on paper. Purchase, J. Stuart Fleming Fund, 2007 (50-014.04)
The 2013 North Adams Prints

The trip to North Adams, Mass., took place from Thursday, Oct. 31 until Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013. Here are images of several of the resulting works and of works installed at the Common Ground cafe.

Left clockwise from top to bottom: Print by Emily Zielke, Print by Cassidy Van Leeuwen, Print by Rachael Dogson and Print by Alivia Veenstra.

Right from top to bottom: Installed prints at Common Ground Cafe, Print by Floriana Ehinger-Cuervo, Installed prints at Common Ground Cafe.

Queen’s BFA Graduating Students Auction House: Where the Line is Drawn

Each year Queen’s Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA) graduating students host an art auction in downtown Kingston to fund their final show, this year is titled, Where The Line is Drawn. All of The students along with many of their professors and local artists contribute artwork to the event. This year’s annual BFA Art Auction will take place at Tango Nuevo on Thursday March 6th at 8pm. Tickets are $20 each and include complimentary tapas. This is a highly anticipated event that you do not want to miss! Please purchase tickets in person from BFA students and check out this detailed link for more information about the event: http://www.queensevents.ca/event/tango-nuevo-art-auction/. For more information on the BFA graduating students and their upcoming exhibitions please visit: http://wherethelineisdrawn.com

Artwork in Kingston Canadian Film Festival Silent Auction

Many BFA students participating in Where the Line is Drawn have also contributed their artwork to the KCFF Silent Auction. This auction raises funds to support the KCFF annual festival and programming. The donated artwork, along with many other items, will be on display outside the Baby Grand Theatre at 218 Princess Street between February 27th and March 2nd. Fifty percent of the proceeds from the artwork will go towards funding the BFA Final Art Show.