ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEST WISHES
Kathleen Sellars, Director

Dear BFA Students:

As we could all see in the last couple of weeks of class, it's been a very busy and productive fall for everyone in Ontario Hall. Congratulations on your many achievements this term!

On behalf of Fine Art faculty and staff, wishing you and yours the very best for the holiday season.

We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year!

Kathleen Sellars

BFA GRAD '13 WINS NAN YEOMANS GRANT FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

Congratulations to 4th year BFA student Ebonnie Hollenbeck who has won the 2012 Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development. She was presented with the prize at the Kingston Arts Council Year in Review event which was held at the Kingston Yacht Club on December 1st.

FEATURED ALUMNUS

Matt Crookshank (BFA '98)

Matt Crookshank is a Canadian painter, animator, digital artist and master of all things mystical. He dares to paint fearlessly and without restraint.

From mystical storytelling to alchemical investigations, his works call to mind the traditional lineage of American abstract expressionists Franz Kline and Robert Motherwell with the contemporary colour mastery of Peter Halley and Jonathan Lasker. Crookshank is constantly playing with psychic powers in his intuitive painting, one wand-like brushstroke at a time.

After graduating with a bachelor's of fine arts from the prestigious program at Queen's University, Crookshank worked as an assistant to conceptual Vancouver superstar Ken Lum – famous for his Guggenheim Fellowship – only to carry on and work with high profile curators Niki Dracos, Jamie Angell, and Wil Kucey to showcase his colorfully explosive paintings in Brooklyn, Los Angeles, London, Switzerland, Mexico and Toronto over the past 10 years. He is currently Represented by Niki Dracos at General Hardware Contemporary in Toronto and Hector Espinoza at Galeria Anomalia in Mexico City. He has been called "one of the most important Canadian painters" in the Globe and Mail, the National Post, Toronto Star and Canadian Art, and remains in the limelights as one of the best ones to watch in Carte Blanche, an exclusive hardcover book selected by the jury of the Magenta Foundation, which saw their launch at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art in Toronto. He was recently featured in the main space at the Canadian Painting Survey show 60p, alongside luminaries Kim Dorland, Jennifer Marman & Daniel Borins, and Shelley Adler.

Ebonnie Hollenbeck working in the Fine Art paint studio. Photo: Kate Yüksel

The Bold and the Beautiful 2, oil and epoxy on canvas, 2012

The Unlikely Event 2, oil on canvas, 2012
UNION GALLERY & RECENT REFERENDUM VOTE
Jocelyn Purdie, Director, Union Gallery

Some of you may be wondering about the most recent turn of events surrounding the Union Gallery and the student referendum vote so I thought this would be a good time to clarify the situation as we move forward. In a nutshell, the gallery receives financial support from several sources, however the largest source is from a mandatory student fee through the AMS every year. Every three years we are required to put our name forward on the referendum ballot in order to have the fee approved by the undergraduate student body via an on-line vote. This fall only 26% of the student population at Queen’s voted and, of those 26%, 2007 people voted not to support the gallery and 1979 voted yes. This means that the Union Gallery lost its funding by a mere 28 votes! The impact of this loss is dramatic. Since these funds account for over 50% of our operating budget the loss will impact gallery programming for 2013-2014 and beyond this period if we can’t rally support from the University and the AMS. But we haven’t given up yet! We are taking steps to reassess our funding model but in the meantime we will be launching an awareness and fundraising campaign next term in order to help the university community understand the value and significance of what we do, and to solicit their support. As art students who benefit through mentoring and experiential learning opportunities provided by the gallery, your voices will be important so please take the time to visit our website, like us on facebook, attend events and talk to your friends about the about the value of contemporary arts and culture to university life. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

AWAWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR UNION GALLERY
Anna Speyer, BFA 2014, President, Union Gallery

When walking to class most students notice, admire, and even photograph Ontario Hall, the backbone of the Fine Art Programme here at Queen’s University. What is not as widely noticed, however, is the Union Gallery. Although it is not made of limestone or covered in rich ivy, the Union Gallery is one of the most valuable resources at Queen’s. The gallery provides students with the opportunity to show their work in a professional art context and to gain crucial experience for career building following graduation. As President, the Union Gallery initially appointed me to the volunteer operating board as an inexperienced first year BFA student, and for three years now this position has given me the opportunity to gain invaluable experience in my field. Students from other disciplines such as Art History and Art Conservation also have the chance to be involved and gain support from the Union Gallery in the development of their future careers as arts professionals.

As one can clearly see, an art gallery is as important to art students as labs are to those studying the sciences. The gallery, however, impacts many more than just those who study art, it is a cultural resource that provides a venue for intellectual and artistic engagement for every student at the university. As a student driven organization, the art gallery requests money every year from students through the referendum, and although $3.71 does not seem like a lot of money, it is crucial to keep the gallery running. This year, we lost by a margin of 28 votes resulting in major cuts for our upcoming year. Currently, the Union Gallery is launching an awareness campaign to spread the word of the Union to students and the Kingston community. Just like going to a sporting event to cheer on the Gaels, visiting the Union Gallery in Stauffer represents support for our peers. So please, come in and learn about what our gallery has to offer you and help us to get the word out.

Reception for Anatomy Studies and Into My Hideout November 2012

Works by Lianne Suggitt from The Sins Of Our Fathers, Installation View, 2011
ArtDocs – Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry
Free screenings of documentaries related to the visual arts.
Thursday 24 January, 7 pm

This galvanizing documentary offers an intimate portrait of China’s leading dissident, artist Ai Weiwei. Renowned for his part in designing the bird’s nest stadium of the Beijing Olympics, Ai’s fame grew when he was jailed for three months in 2011. The official charge was tax evasion, but observers feel that his criticism of the Chinese government led to his arrest and subsequent restricted movement. One of his projects indicted the authorities for the shoddy construction that led to the death of thousands of children in the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. First-time filmmaker Alison Klayman gained unprecedented access to Ai and delivers a powerful picture of an embattled, but serene, artist.

Emily Hill, Associate Professor in the Department of History at Queen’s and a specialist in modern China, will introduce the film and lead a short Q&A after the screening.

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Happy Holidays!
The Art Centre will be closed beginning Saturday 22 December and reopen to visitors Wednesday 2 January.