

A large, intricate sculpture made of cut-out paper, resembling a dense, branching structure, displayed in a gallery setting. The sculpture is composed of numerous layers of paper, each with complex, organic cutouts, creating a complex, three-dimensional lattice. It is illuminated with warm, golden light, highlighting its texture and depth. The background is dark, with some framed artwork visible on the wall to the right.

THE LOUPE

alumni issue
spring 2019

ALUMNI NEWS

THORNTON WILLIS AND VERED LIEB PRESENT \$985,000 GIFT OF ART

With his recent gift to the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art's Permanent Collection, alumnus Thornton Willis' art has found a home for his artistic legacy to live on through teaching and exhibiting. Willis, considered a third generation abstract expressionist, and his wife, art historian Vered Lieb, gave 27 paintings and two sketchbooks to UA last fall, in what Willis described to the College of Arts & Sciences' *Collegian* as "a gift of appreciation for the time I spent here as a graduate student and how it enriched my life."



"I owe thanks to [gallery director and associate professor] William Dooley who took the time to come to New York City and handpicked each work. It feels just natural that I give back what I can. Although my career path took me to the North, my roots in many ways remain in the South," Willis told the *Collegian*.

Thornton Willis earned his MA in art in 1966 (the equivalent of today's MFA) from The University of Alabama's department of art and art history, where he came to study under the renowned abstract expressionist Melville Price, who taught at UA from 1958 to 1970. While still in school and considering a move away from Tuscaloosa to New York City, Willis asked the advice of visiting artist Theodore Stamos, a close friend of Mark Rothko's, if he should leave to study painting. Willis said that Stamos replied, "Why would you do that? You have Mel Price here." So he stayed, learning from his primary professors Price and Howard Goodson. He eventually made his way to New York after graduation, going on to a successful career in art.

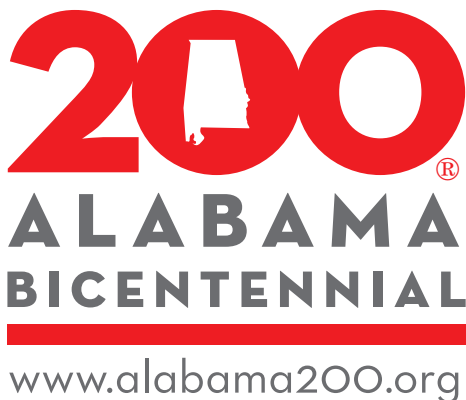
Now UA students will be able to experience Willis' artistic legacy without leaving Tuscaloosa. Along with the 29 works gifted this fall, the Permanent Collection holds eight other paintings by Willis, for a total of 37 pieces. Studying Thornton Willis' art in person brings the rich history of the ideas and techniques of American twentieth-century painting to life before students' eyes.



ALUMNI STORIES

**ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL
RECOGNIZES UA ARTISTS**

"As the Bicentennial approaches it has been obvious that our state's artists have throughout the years been some of our best and most prolific story tellers. Clearly the arts and artists of Alabama will take a high profile position in celebrations statewide." — Alabama State Council on the Arts Annual Report 2018



Over the last two years, the state's celebration of its 200th anniversary has created numerous opportunities for department of art and art history faculty and alumni

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(loop), n. 1. a small magnifying glass used by jewelers or watchmakers, or for viewing photographic transparencies.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA | College of
Arts & Sciences
Department of Art and Art History

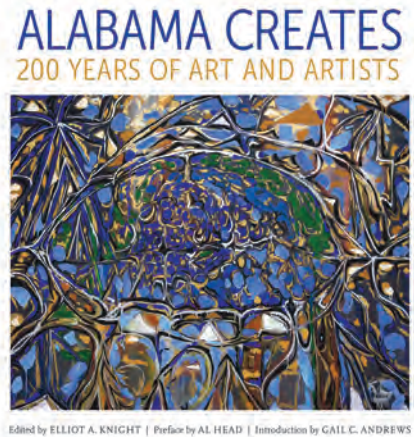
to participate in festivities and to be acknowledged for their achievements. Here are a few examples:

**ALABAMA HISTORY IN
HIGH RELIEF**

Professor Craig Wedderspoon is designing part of Montgomery's Bicentennial park to be unveiled in December of 2019, with help from Assistant Professor Jonathan Cumberland. Tuscaloosa artist Caleb O'Connor is creating sixteen bronze relief panels with Wedderspoon, who is designing the panels' bases and supervising the casting process. Wedderspoon is also working with O'Connor on a Tuscaloosa Bicentennial sculpture to be installed at Manderson Landing on the Black Warrior River.

**ALABAMA ARTISTS FEATURED IN
PUBLICATION**

Fifteen current and past faculty and alumni of the department are included in a special Bicentennial publication honoring notable Alabama artists. *Alabama Creates: 200 Years of Art and Artists*, published by the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA) and the University of Alabama Press, includes current Professor Craig Wedderspoon; distinguished art alumni William Christenberry, Frank Fleming, Darius Hill, Dale Kennington, James Emmette Neel, Scott Stephens; past faculty Gay Burke, Chip Cooper, Frank Engle, Al Sella, Richard Zoellner; and former UA art students John Kelly Fitzpatrick, Spider Martin, Carlos Alpha "Shiney" Moon and Nall Hollis. The coffee-table book will be coming out in July of 2019. Dr. Elliot Knight, ASCA's new



director, and a UA alumnus, was the chief editor and project director for *Alabama Creates*.

ALUMNI NOTES

Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell Walter (MA 1969), artist, art educator, administrator, author and civil rights activist who helped organize the Freedom Quilting Bee, died January 1, 2019.



Read more about Walter's civil rights legacy in an upcoming article, as well as more news about our alumni here: <https://art.ua.edu/alumni-news/>.

research

STUDENT NEWS

ART HISTORY SYMPOSIUM PULLS IN PRESENTERS FROM ACROSS NATION

This year, our annual symposium in art history featured fascinating research on 19th-century ivory anatomical manikins, performance art and a call for the reinterpretation of an abolitionist button, among other topics. “It was one of the best symposia we’ve had,” declared Dr. Lucy Curzon, one of the organizers of this year’s event.

The department hosted the 24th Annual Graduate Student Symposium in Art History on March 1, 2019, in the Bryant Conference Center at UA, a joint production of UA and UAB. Dr. Catherine Zuromskis, associate professor of fine art at Rochester Institute of Technology, presented cutting edge research on the controversial Zabruder film for the keynote address: “Feeling History: Evidence, Affect, and the Visual Culture of the Kennedy Assassination.”

Graduate students from colleges and universities around the region and as far away as Minnesota presented their research in four sessions. Undergraduates presented research in a concurrent poster session. Along with the University of Alabama at Birmingham and UA, schools represented were Columbus State University (Columbus, Ga.), Florida State University (Tallahassee), Savannah College of Art and Design, University of Kentucky (Lexington), University of Missouri (Columbia), University of Montevallo (Montevallo, Ala.), University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minn.) and University of West Florida (Pensacola).

Winners of the Harrison Award for Excellence in Research – Graduate Paper Presentation were: First Place: Samantha Wisneski, University of St. Thomas; Second Place: Audrey Florey, Mizzou; and Third Place: Morgan Heard, UA and Clarissa Chevalier, SCAD. Winners for the Harrison Award for Excellence in Research – Undergraduate Poster Presentation were Aaron Reynolds, UK; and Amber Edmond, CSU.



ABOVE: Dr. Lucy Curzon (right) stands with UA's Morgan Heard and Clarissa Chevalier of SCAD who tied for third place for the Harrison Award for Excellence in Research - Graduate Paper Presentation. TOP, MIDDLE AND BELOW: Students discuss presentations, check in for UA swag, and pose for a group photo with Dr. Zuromskis.



STUDENT RESEARCH

DOCUMENTING ARTISTS IN THE BLACK BELT OF ALABAMA

If you've heard of the Gee's Bend Quilters or Charlie "Tin Man" Lucas, then you know there are some uniquely creative artists in the Black Belt of Alabama. Chris Jordan's photography students got to spend quality time this semester with some of them — artist and civil rights veteran Betty Anderson of Camden, potters Eric Miller and Allen Ham of Brent, painter Stephen R. James and potter Sam Williams of Monroe County, as well as quilters Tinnie and Minnie Pettway — photographing the artists and interviewing them.

Working with a variety of professional-grade cameras, undergraduates Savanna Biggert, Arielle Gray, Jasmine James, Kayla Lawson, Holly Ray, Kassidy Stewart, graduate student Amber Quinn, and recent graduate Candace Von-Hoffman took field trips to Camden in Wilcox County this spring, to practice their skills in portrait photography while documenting these culturally important artists.

Junior studio art major Kassidy Stewart told *The Loupe*, "I have enjoyed the entire experience, from learning from my fellow photographers to hearing all the stories from the artists." Stewart described a big turning point for her when the students used studio lighting outdoors. "That moment taught me that my passion is shooting with studio lighting and that I can shoot with lights inside and outside. That there is nothing limiting me when I create, I just have to learn to work with what I have to make some magic happen."



The Black Belt Artist Project is a collaborative initiative between the UA department of art and art history, the non-profit Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center, and Canon Solutions America. Jordan said that another student group will continue the project in May as part of an interim semester course. A book, exhibition, and archive of the materials will be produced from the oral histories recorded and portraits created by the students.

ABOVE: Gee's Bend quilters Tinnie and Minnie Pettway sit for their portraits in their living room at home with Chris Jordan and his students. Photo courtesy of Kristin Law.

LEFT: Graduate student Amber Quinn captures undergrads taking photos of artist Stephen R. James in Monroe County. Photo courtesy of Amber Quinn.

SARAH MOODY GALLERY OF ART



This spring, the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art hosted two blockbuster exhibitions by internationally known artists: painter and printmaker Julie Mehretu, and photographer and photomontage pioneer Jerry Uelsmann.

RIGHT: *Excavations: The Prints of Julie Mehretu* from January to March, with a gallery talk by master printer Cole Rogers. BELOW: *Confluence* by Jerry Uelsmann, from March to May.



exhibitions

MFA AND MA THESIS EXHIBITIONS



In the spring semester, Amy Smoot (ABOVE LEFT) and John Klosterman (ABOVE RIGHT) presented their MFA exhibitions in the Sella-Granata Art Gallery in Woods Hall.

Pat Hoban (LEFT) presented his MFA exhibition at Harrison Galleries, downtown Tuscaloosa.

Katie Adams (RIGHT) presented her MA exhibition at Harrison Galleries.

Jude Anogwih (MIDDLE LEFT), Juan Lopez-Bautista (BELOW LEFT) and Ulrike Franz (BOTTOM) presented their MA exhibitions in the Sella-Granata Art Gallery.

Nasrin Iravani (RIGHT) presented her MA exhibition in The University of Alabama Gallery in the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center.
<https://art.ua.edu/gallery/sgg/>.



FACULTY NEWS

JAMEY GRIMES WINS SOUTH ARTS PRIZE



Instructor Jamey Grimes has been named the 2019 South Arts State Fellowship recipient for Alabama and awarded \$5,000. The South Arts State Fellow-

ships are awarded to one artist each in nine southern states whose work reflects the best of the visual arts in the South. Artistic excellence is the sole criterion for selection. Grimes will now compete for the Southern Prize, which includes an additional \$25,000 cash award and a two-week residency at the Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts and Sciences. Grimes, along with eight other State Fellows, will be featured in an exhibit at the 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, South Carolina, from March 21 – May 5, 2019, the first year of this event.

MORE FACULTY ACCOLADES

Associate Professor **Pete Schulte** has been awarded a prestigious artist residency at the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas. Founded in the late 1970s by sculptor Donald Judd, the Chinati Foundation has hosted renowned and emerging artists.

Jonathan Cumberland had a poster design accepted to the *Third International Poster Biennial Oaxaca*, in Mexico. Cumberland also had a poster design accepted to the *9th Eco Poster: Climate Changes Exhibition*, hosted by the Art Institute of Cieszyn, and exhibited at the Karolinka Cultural Center in Radzionków, Poland.



Bill Dooley had two paintings accepted to the Marshall University School of Art & Design's *Eighth Annual National Juried Exhibition*, in January at the Charles W. and Norma C. Carroll Gallery in Huntington, West Virginia. Two of Dooley's paintings were juried into the Meridian Museum of Art's *Bi-State Juried Exhibition*.

Chris Jordan had a solo exhibition, *Twilight Passages*, in February, at The Photographic Gallery, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

Bryce Speed had a solo exhibition, *Psychic Reader: Narratives of the Sea*, at the Walnut Gallery in Gadsden. Speed won first place for his paintings, *Stars Fell On* and *The Garden*, in the juried

LUCY CURZON RECEIVES MORRIS L. MAYER AWARD



Lucy Curzon was named the faculty Morris L. Mayer Award recipient for 2019. The award, named after the late Professor Morris Mayer, is one of UA's Premier Awards and is given to a teaching faculty who exemplifies the life of Dr. Mayer in selfless and significant service and leadership for the UA community and significant contributions to student life and integrity. The committee wrote that "Curzon has turned service to UA into an art form – one that inspires her students and contributes to the community," and "She has forged links with the community through her work with the Jones Collection, particularly through the K-12 Fellows Program."

Valdosta National 2019.

Jennifer Feltman was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the International Center of Medieval Art, The Cloisters. Feltman co-edited *The Long Lives of Medieval Art and Architecture*, and au-

THIS PAGE

BOTTOM LEFT: Jonathan Cumberland, *How Will We Be Remembered?*, digital poster

NEXT PAGE

TOP LEFT: Bill Dooley, *Raise the Dust*, oil

TOP LEFT: Jason Guynes, *Cádiz*, graphite on panel, 24 x 36"

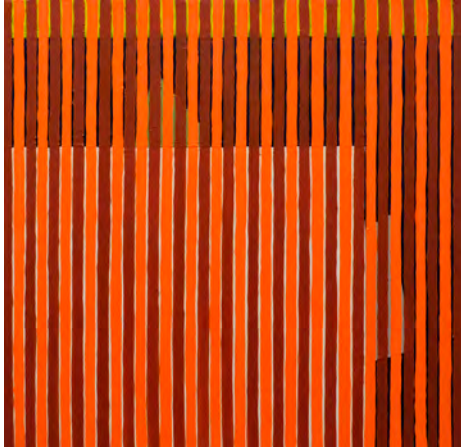
CENTER: Megan Moore, *It Grew with Frog Legs*

BOTTOM LEFT: Jennifer Feltman, cover of her book, *The Long Lives of Medieval Art and Architecture*

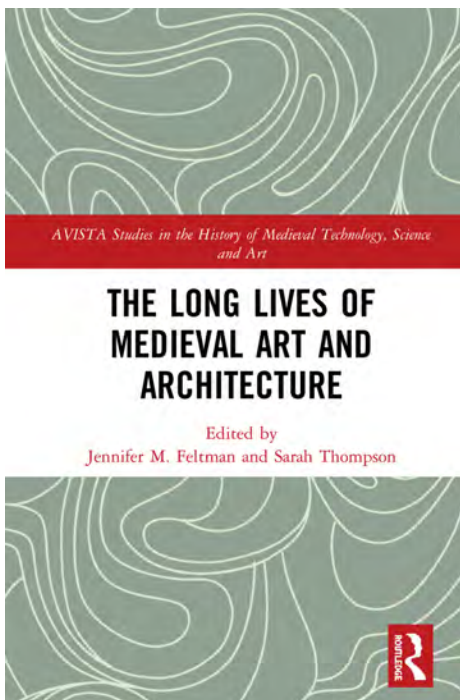
BOTTOM RIGHT: Allison Grant, *Holding Dead Flowers*, archival inkjet print, 20 x 30"

research

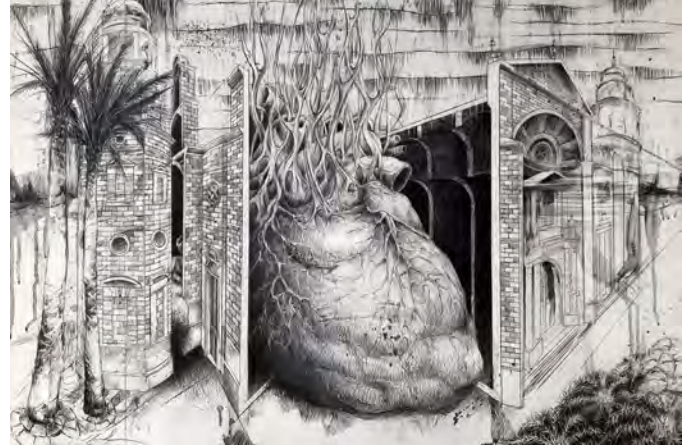
FACULTY ACCOLADES



thored the introduction. Feltman's book was published in March in both ebook and hardback by Routledge. During the tragic fire at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, she was interviewed by national news outlet Newsy and two local stations, WVUA and CBS42, about the damage and future possibilities for renovation.



Jason Guynes had two works accepted to the juried exhibition *Valdosta National 2019*; two works juried into the *25th Annual El Corazon Exhibition* at the Bath House Cultural Center in Dallas, Texas; and a work accepted to *Arts in Harmony 2019: the North Show International Juried Exhibition* in Minneapolis, Minn.



Megan Moore had an art work juried into the *Southern Graphics Conference International 2019-2021 Members Traveling Exhibition*. The biennial exhibit will travel around the United States for the next three years.



In March, **Mark Sniadecki** published a cover design for a volume of poetry, *Trauma Carnival* by SaraEve Fermin, published by Swimming with Elephants Publications.

A photograph by **Allison Grant**, titled *Half Shadow*, received the Juror's Choice in the juried exhibition *Storytelling | Fall 2018* in Latitude's Open Call Gallery in Chicago, Ill. *Half Shadow* was also selected for the international group exhibition *Environment Documenta*, in Milepiani Gallery in Rome, Italy, in April 2019.



exhibitions

SELLA-GRANATA ART GALLERY



BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

Student work was showcased at the *Advanced Scholarship Exhibition* and the *Foundations and Introductory Classes Exhibition*. The Foundations show rang in the new year with examples of our students' work from every area in studio art: ceramics, digital media, drawing, graphic design, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture. Key organizer Assistant Professor Allison Grant conveyed the excitement inherent in this type of show. "This exhibition captures the breadth and diversity of artwork being made by University of Alabama students at the 100 and 200 level. What you see in this exhibition are the skills and ingenuity that instructors are imparting early on. This show represents the bedrock upon which our next generation of artists will build their work. We are excited to share it."

ABOVE LEFT: Students get the chance to see what their peers are creating during the reception for the *Advanced Scholarship Exhibition* in the Sella-Granata Art Gallery. BELOW LEFT: Digital media work by Charlie Cruz; BELOW RIGHT: Detail of a cast bronze sculpture by Susannah "Ringo" Lisko.



awards

SELLA-GRANATA ART GALLERY

ART & ART HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED AT HONORS DAY

During Honors Day ceremonies in the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art, April 1, 2019, twenty undergraduates in studio art and art history were awarded \$81,000 in scholarships for the coming year. To qualify, studio art students submitted portfolios and exhibited their best work in the *Advanced Scholarship Exhibition* in February and art history students submitted essays on historical works.

Emily Bookmiller – Bradley Endowed Scholarship in Art

Charlie Cruz – Bradley Endowed Scholarship in Art

Noah Dasinger – Bradley Endowed Scholarship in Art

Amber Daum – Carol B. Merkle Endowed Scholarship

Arielle Gray – Bradley Endowed Scholarship in Art

Kaylee Hammer – Carol B. Merkle Endowed Scholarship

Maggie Hocutt – Bradley Endowed Scholarship in Art

Jasmine James – Paul R. Jones Endowed Scholarship

Susannah Ringo Lisko – Windgate Charitable Foundation
Endowed Studio Arts Scholarship

Ashley Livingston – Windgate Charitable Foundation
Endowed Studio Arts Scholarship

Ashleigh McCool – Jack Russell Drake Endowed Scholarship

Alisa Mills – Bradley Endowed Scholarship in Art

Anna Pitts – Carol B. Merkle Endowed Scholarship

Brittany Pitts – Bradley Endowed Scholarship in Art



Anna Pollard – Bradley Endowed Scholarship in Art

Alyssa Faye B. Rapadas – Carol B. Merkle Endowed Scholarship

Anna Kathryn Sella – Carol B. Merkle Endowed Scholarship

Kassidy Stewart – Bradley Endowed Scholarship in Art

Ally Thomasson – Windgate Charitable Foundation Endowed
Studio Arts Scholarship

A'Neshia Turner – Bradley Endowed Scholarship in Art



As part of the process, the department was able to award more than \$30,000 in scholarship funds to students who have faced hardships in their personal lives or who may be unable to attend college without such support. In 2008 Mrs. Farley Moody Galbraith established the Farley Moody Galbraith Scholarship to support talented students of the department who demonstrate financial or personal need.

ABOVE: Amy Smoot (studio art) and Rebekah James (art history) received awards for Outstanding Graduate Student on Honors Day. RIGHT: Kassidy Stewart, Khelsie Charlie Cruz, and Jasmine James show off their scholarship awards during the reception for the recipients and families in the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNA CASTS SCULPTURES FOR BICENTENNIAL PROJECT IN MOBILE



April Terra Livingston's new sculpture *Motherwork* stands as an iron-strong reminder of the endurance of women, and that it really does "take a village" to sustain life. Celebrating the vital role of midwifery today and in history – termed "motherwork" by scholar Patricia Hill Collins – the cast iron sculpture is one of three new works by Livingston commissioned for the Mobile Medical Museum in Mobile, Ala.

The sculpture depicts eight pairs of life-size hands, cast from the hands of real midwives and obstetric nurses, clasped together in a circle with a central opening. The hands are both protective and in the act of assisting birth, symbolizing the collective effort it takes to bring new life into the world and sustain it. The artistic work itself is also collective. *Motherwork* is one of three sculptures by Livingston that was cast by an all-woman iron pour crew at the Sculpture Trails Outdoor Museum in Indiana last summer.

Motherwork is installed in the Mobile Medical Museum's Robert Thrower Medicinal Garden, along with Livingston's works, *Portrait of Bessie McGhee*, a Poarch Creek midwife and herbalist and *Portrait of Dr. James A. Franklin, Sr.*, one of Mobile's earliest African American physicians. The bust of Dr. Franklin is now on view in the Mary Elizabeth and Charles Bernard Rodning Gallery as part of the museum's special exhibit *Dreaming at Dawn: African Americans and Health Care, 1865-1945*.

April Livingston's sculptures for the Mobile Medical Museum were made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the

National Endowment for the Arts and have been designated a Bicentennial project by the Alabama Bicentennial Commission.

The hands of *Motherwork* could be Livingston's own, crafting new art for the Mobile area. The three sculptures are the most recent of her works commemorating some of Alabama's lesser known history. In 2017, Livingston cast the bust of Cudjoe Lewis, a survivor of the slave ship *Clotilda* and a founder of Africa Town, for Union Baptist Church in Mobile (see *The Loupe*, spring 2017). Livingston is a 2011 MFA graduate in sculpture.

ABOVE: April Livingston with *Motherwork*. RIGHT: Bust of Poarch Creek midwife and herbalist Bessie McGhee. Photos courtesy of the Mobile Medical Museum.



Alumni, we'd love to hear from you. Contact rachel.dobson@ua.edu or go to this page to fill out our online form: <https://art.ua.edu/alumni/>