

THE LOUPE

FALL/WINTER 2023

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looking ahead



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA[®] College of
Arts & Sciences
Department of Art and Art History

UATM Art Camp

June 24 – 28, 2024



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Registration open

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UA ART CAMP RETURNS IN JUNE 2024!

Mark your calendars and apply now! UA Art Camp is June 24-28, 2024. High school students can explore their creativity in a week-long camp that provides a taste of UA's undergraduate-level studio art classes. Rising freshman to rising seniors can immerse themselves in five half-day-long studio classes in Ceramics, Graphic Design, Printmaking, or Sculpture. Scan the QR code here or go to <https://art.ua.edu/ua-artcamp/> for information and to register.



LEFT, ABOVE & BELOW: Photos of 2022 and 2023 UA Art Camp participants.

ON THE COVER: Four examples of nationally and internationally recognized research by art and art history department faculty. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: works by professors Jason Guynes, Rachel Stephens, Wade MacDonald and Doris Sung. For details, see pages 11-13 inside.

The Loupe, published since 2002, is the newsletter of the NASAD-accredited department of art and art history in The University of Alabama's College of Arts and Sciences, for students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the department. Please send correspondence to Rachel Dobson: art@ua.edu

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

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research

INTERNATIONAL GRANTS & RESEARCH



JENNIFER FELTMAN LEADS TEAM AWARDED NEH GRANT TO STUDY SCULPTURES OF NOTRE DAME

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded Dr. **Jennifer Feltman** and co-PIs Alexandre Tokovinine (associate professor, department of anthropology) and Jeremiah Stager (cultural resources assistant, Office of Archaeological Research) with a Level III Collaborative Research Grant for their project, “Notre Dame in Color: Interpreting the Layers of Polychromy on the Sculptures of the Cathedral of Paris Using 3D Modeling.”

This is the first level-III NEH Collaborative Research grant awarded to UA and one of the largest NEH grants ever awarded to the Capstone. It comes to almost \$250,000. Feltman applied for the grant as a 2022 UA Collaborative Arts Research Initiative fellow.

The project, directed by Feltman, builds upon her research as a member of the *Chantier scientifique de Notre Dame* and a FACE Foundation–Transatlantic Research Partnership. The NEH grant will support new collaborations with American and French colleagues on the changing aesthetics and meanings of color at Notre Dame through the centuries. These will include studies of color in music by musicologist Dr. Jennifer Roth-Burnette and the creation of digital models and digital pigments based upon the scientific evidence available at the lab of historic monuments in France. The project’s website, notredameincolor.org, is hosted by the Alabama Digital Humanities Center.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

TOP LEFT: Jennifer Feltman; BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Alexandre Tokovinine, Jeremiah Stager, Jennifer Roth-Burnette.

paths

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Student Summer Accolades

Returning graduate students achieved accolades over the summer.

Kat Murray, a third-year graduate student in printmaking, had work juried into *Alabama A to Z: 45th Biennial Museum Exhibition* hosted by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. Murray's work was also juried into *INK ONLY IV: National Biennial Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Printmaking* at the Birmingham (AL) Public Library Gallery, and into the *Susan Nomberg McCollough Fine Arts Initiative* at the UA Gallery, Tuscaloosa.

Aidan Miles-Jamison, a second-year graduate student in art history in UA's accelerated master's program, presented his research titled "BL's Queer and Artful Enactment of Love" at the Mechademia Kyoto 2023 conference held at the International Manga Museum in Kyoto, Japan. He also completed an internship teaching English at Makino High School in Osaka in the summer.



ABOVE: Kat Murray, *Harness Your Hopes On Just One Person*, monprint, 9 x 12 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.



Celeste Pfau, a second-year graduate student in printmaking, accepted a full-time position teaching in the visual arts department of the Alabama School of Fine Arts (ASFA), the state's oldest public arts high school. Pfau will join ASFA's visual arts faculty, Darius Hill (MFA 2015) and Anne Herbert (MFA 2013), in teaching as she continues her graduate art studies at UA. In October, Pfau gave a monprinting workshop using natural materials at the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Stephen Blades, a second-year graduate student in sculpture, had work juried into *Hotter 'N Hell National Collegiate Art Exhibition* at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches and into the *3rd Annual National Multi-Media Juried Exhibition*, Wilson (NC) Art Center.

LEFT: Celeste Pfau standing with in-process monprints. Photo by Jackie Kim; courtesy of Celeste Pfau.

exhibitions

SUSAN NOMBERG MCCOLLOUGH FINE ARTS INITIATIVE

**SN
SMc**
FINE ARTS INITIATIVE

October 6 – December 1, 2023

The University of Alabama Gallery
in the Dinah Washington
Cultural Arts Center



Susan Nomberg McCollough Supports Exhibition for Studio Art Majors and Alumni

Susan N. McCollough, benefactor and UA alumna, opened her inaugural Fine Arts Initiative with a reception and awards ceremony on Friday, October 6, 2023, in the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center in Tuscaloosa. Many thanks go to Mrs. McCollough, President **Stuart Bell**, Dean **Joe Messina**, department chair **Jason Guynes**, and UA Gallery director **Daniel White**, who organized and curated the exhibition.

Artist and Professor Jim Neel Keynote Speaker

Jim Neel (MFA 1973), an acclaimed artist and war photographer, with five decades of teaching experience, was the McCollough Fine Arts Initiative keynote speaker. Here is an excerpt from his speech:

"My life as an artist has been informed and enriched by this place and its people and its program ... My University of Alabama graduate art education is an immutable part of my continuing evolution as artist and citizen. The debt I owe, I try to pay forward to the younger generations of artists that I teach. They are the rainbow-hued ones that will take up where we left off and challenge newer generations of creatives. The next Renaissance is theirs. It will be in good hands."

More: <https://art.ua.edu/news/mccollough-keynote-address-jim-neel/>



exhibitions

SUSAN NOMBERG MCCOLLOUGH FINE ARTS INITIATIVE

McCollough Fine Arts Initiative Student Awards

During the reception for the inaugural *Susan Nomberg McCollough Fine Arts Initiative – A University of Alabama Biennial Event* on Friday, October 6, 2023, in the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center, awards accompanied by monetary prizes were presented to three UA art students for their work in the student part of the exhibition.

- Best of Show (\$1,000) went to third-year graduate student **Nathan Childers** for his painting, *Terms and Conditions*. Childers will graduate with an MFA in painting in spring 2024.
- The Award of Distinction (\$500) went to second-year graduate student **Stephen Blades** for his sculpture, *Arc #1*.
- The Award of Merit (\$250) went to second-year graduate student **Jigisha Kiran** for her untitled digital photograph.

The student work was judged by **John Fields**, Lydia Cheney and Jim Sokol endowed director and chief curator for the Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts at UAB.



TOP RIGHT: Nathan Childers, *Terms and Conditions*, 2023, oil on canvas. ABOVE LEFT: Stephen Blades, *Arc #1*, chip wood, cardboard, wood, and staples, 71 x 10 x 9 inches. RIGHT: Jigisha Kiran, *Untitled*, digital photo, 24 x 30 inches. All photos courtesy of Jerry Siegel.

READ MORE STUDENT NEWS HERE:

<https://art.ua.edu/category/student-news/>

exhibitions

PAUL R. JONES MUSEUM AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA GALLERY

May 1970: THE GIBBS-GREEN TRAGEDY AT JACKSON STATE COLLEGE

August 4 – September 29, 2023

Paul R. Jones Museum



Thai Art

IN THE PAUL R.
JONES COLLECTION
OF AMERICAN ART AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA

October 18 – December 12, 2023

Paul R. Jones Museum

Broken Bridges

STEPHEN HUMPHREYS IN UKRAINE

August 4 – September 15, 2023

The University of Alabama Gallery



TOP: Installation view of photos in *May 1970* by Dr. Doris Derby in the Paul R. Jones Museum. RIGHT: Jindsena, *Woman and Deer*, 1971, cotton batik, Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art at The University of Alabama, PJ2008.0800. ABOVE: Stephen Humphreys, *Untitled (Ukraine)*, 2022, in the UA Gallery. Photograph courtesy of the artist.

exhibitions

SELLA-GRANATA ART GALLERY

SOUVENIRS: SPAIN'S INFLUENCE ON STUDENT ARTWORK

September 26 – October 10, 2023

Sella-Granata Art Gallery

In a new exhibition, *Souvenirs: Spain's Influence on Student Artwork*, UA students who traveled to Spain in May 2023 exhibited art they created there. The graduates and undergraduates – **Emma Mae Burtnett**, **Nathan Childers**, **Judith Borom**, **Cecily Downey**, **Nate Fulmer**, **Elizabeth Golembiewski**, **Chrissy Gronke**, **Bella Guynes**, **Dillan Ladner**, **Drew Merriweather**, **Luke Skaff**, **SK Steen**, **Jennifer Stroud**, and **Jillian Thorson** (who was also the show's organizer) – took studio and art history courses during their month-long study abroad tour. During the reception, students and professors were available to answer questions and give more information about the May 2024 trip to Italy.



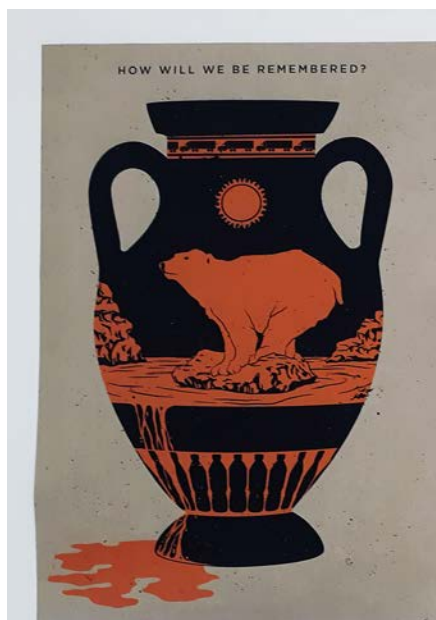
2023 UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL POSTER BIENNIAL

October 20 – November 14, 2023

Sella-Granata Art Gallery

United States
International
Poster Biennial
2023

Iowa State University
College of Design
Gallery 101
Ames, Iowa
October 4-10



TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: **Dillan Ladner**, *Traveling Companions*, ceramic, terra sigillata; **Chrissy Gronke**, *Art in Spain*, digital art, poster; **Bella Guynes**, sketchbook.

BELOW RIGHT, FOREGROUND:
Jonathan Cumberland,
How Will We Be Remembered?



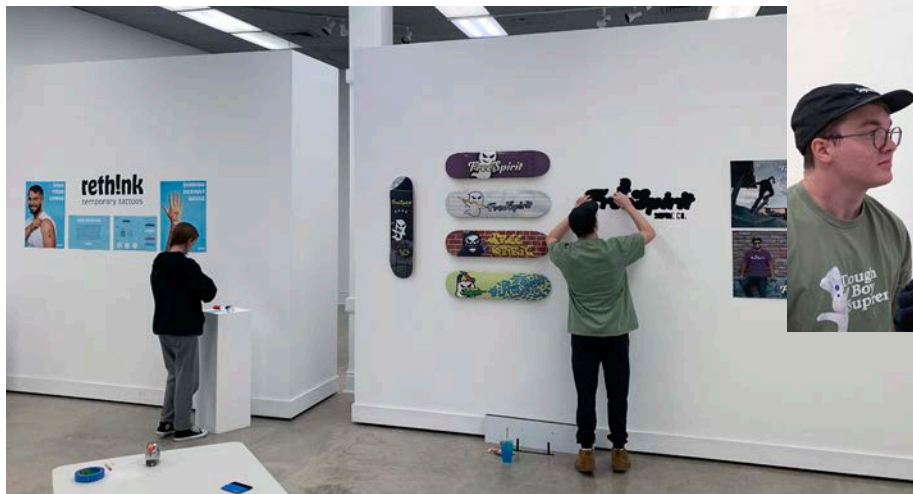
exhibitions

SELLA-GRANATA ART GALLERY

SPLIT: 2023 BFA Graphic Design Senior Exhibition

DANIELLE FARIST AND KYLE PAETH

December 12 – 15, 2023

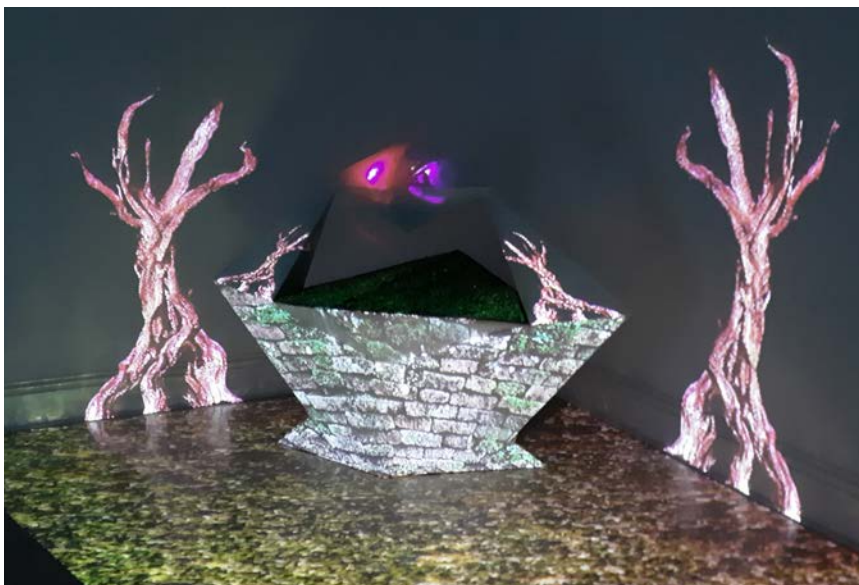


ABOVE AND LEFT: **Kyle Paeth** and **Danielle Farist** install their BFA degree exhibition. Photos courtesy of **Jonathan Cumberland**.

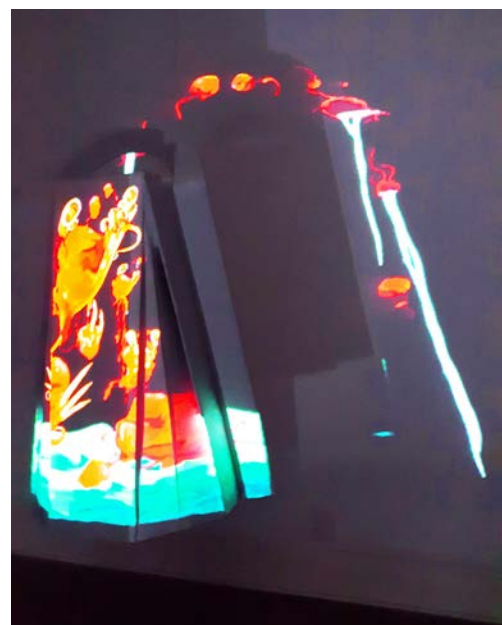
Sculpture/Digital Media Pop-Up Exhibition

STUDENTS OF PROFESSORS JAMEY GRIMES AND MELISSA YES

December 5, 2023



ABOVE: SCULPTURE: **Jacob Camp**, studio art major; VIDEO: **Hill Jones**, communications major.
RIGHT: SCULPTURE: **Michael Esparza**, studio art major; VIDEO: **Drew Merriweather**, senior BFA, studio art (digital media, drawing).



exhibitions

SARAH MOODY GALLERY OF ART



LEFT:
Tom Stanley,
Study 108 #1, 2022,
acrylic on canvas,
47.25 x 37.25 inches.



RIGHT:
Tom Stanley,
Painting 108 #2, 2022,
acrylic on canvas,
37.25 x 47.25 inches.
Image courtesy of the artist.

TOM STANLEY: PAINTING AND DRAWING AND DISCOVERING A PRACTICE

August 31 – October 3, 2023

WOMEN OF MOKUHANGA

CURATED BY PROFESSORS SARAH MARSHALL AND DORIS SUNG

October 17 – November 30, 2023



LEFT:
April Vollmer,
Generation, 2002,
woodcut on
kizuki hanga,
printed in quarters,
edition of 18,
27 x 27 inches.

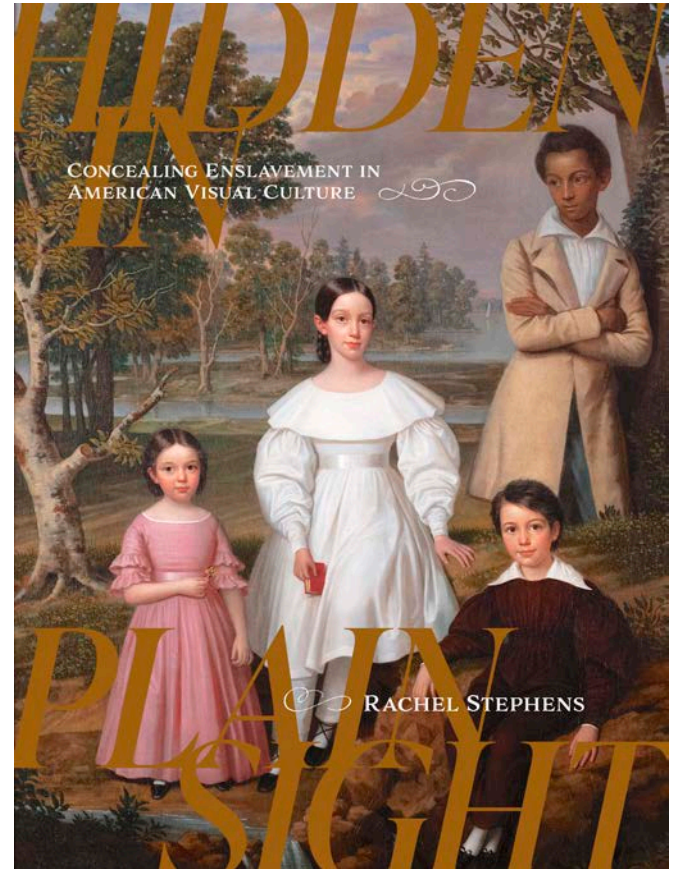


RIGHT:
Jennifer Mack-Watkins,
Future Undetermined, 2019,
mokuhanga,
15 x 11 inches.
Image courtesy
of the artist.

FACULTY RESEARCH

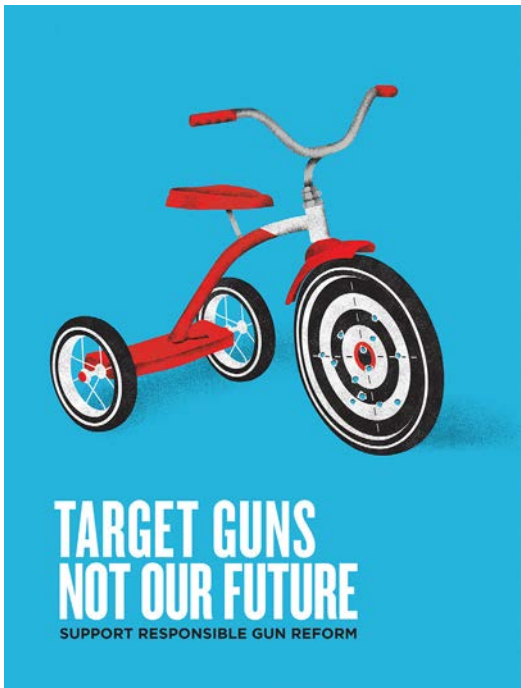
Rachel Stephens Publishes New Book, Wins SECAC Award for Research

Associate Professor Dr. **Rachel Stephens** has published a new book, *Hidden in Plain Sight: Concealing Enslavement in American Visual Culture*, with University of Arkansas Press. Stephens' book explores the ways that slavery and enslaved people were hidden, omitted or idealized in antebellum Southern art. In October, Stephens won the 2023 SECAC Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research and Publication for the title.



Jonathan Cumberland Wins Gold and SECAC Award for Graphic Design

Assistant Professor **Jonathan Cumberland** was awarded two prizes in the international graphic design poster contest, *Posterstellars*. He received the Gold Stellar award in the political category and a Bronze Stellar in the "X Terrestrial" category. Cumberland won the 2023 SECAC Award for Excellence in Graphic Design for his work this year. His poster, *How Will We Be Remembered?*, was juried into the 2023 *United States International Poster Biennial*.



Work by Wade MacDonald Acquired by New York Collection

Assistant Professor **Wade MacDonald** had a ceramic work, *Red and Black Color Dotted Fracture Mug*, acquired by the Rosenfeld Collection, part of the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, N.Y., which is internationally renowned for its collections of ceramics.

ABOVE RIGHT: Rachel Stephens,
Hidden in Plain Sight,
front cover 2023.

LEFT: Jonathan Cumberland,
Target Guns Not Our Future,
2023 (Gold, political category,
Posterstellars).

RIGHT: Wade MacDonald,
*Red and Black Color
Dotted Fracture Mug*,
porcelain, underglazes.



FACULTY RESEARCH



Allison Grant Exhibits Photographs from New York to Alabama

This summer and fall, Associate Professor **Allison Grant** had work acquired for collections and selected for exhibitions in Alabama and across the country. She exhibited work in the Birmingham (AL) Museum of Art's *Art + the Environment* and the Georgine Clarke Alabama Artists Gallery's *2023 Fellowship Spotlight* exhibition in Montgomery featuring Alabama State Council on the Arts Fellowship awardees. Three photographs from Grant's *Unsoiled* series were included in the Alabama Contemporary Art Center exhibition *Borderwaters* in Mobile, curated by Dr. Elizabeth Hawley. Grant had work in an online group exhibition in Intermuseum of Art's *vol. iii: work in progress*, which ran through December in New York. Copies of *Acts of Translation: Allison Grant*, an artist book Grant made in collaboration with artist Sarah Bryant (UA Book Arts), were acquired by Bainbridge Island Museum of Art in Washington and by the Birmingham Museum of Art.

ABOVE: Allison Grant, *Waste Pipe Behind Nucor*, 2023, photograph.

BELOW: Jason Guynes, *Puerta de Bisagra*, 2023, graphite on panel.

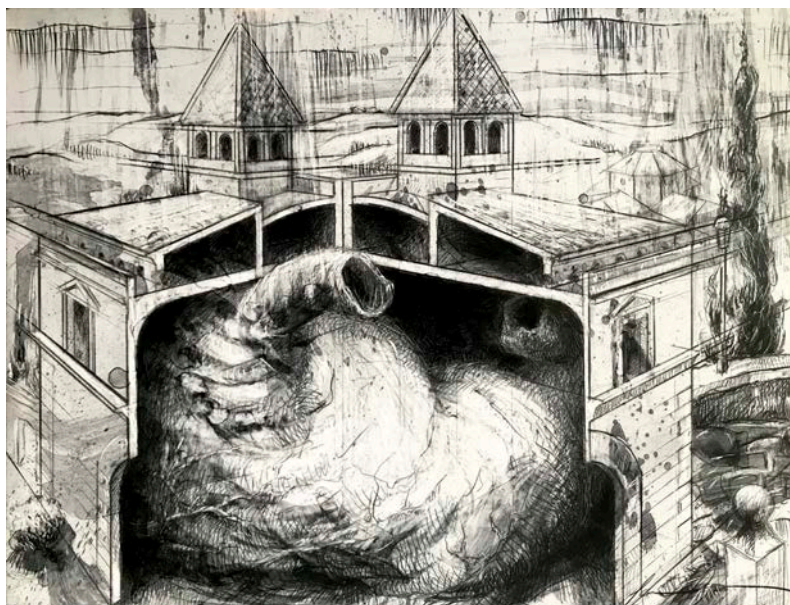
Each image courtesy of the artist.

Faculty Exhibit Artwork in New York

Professor **Jason Guynes** had a work juried into the Bowery Gallery's *32nd Annual National Juried Exhibition* in New York. Works by 22 artists were selected by renowned art critic, art historian, curator and juror David Cohen. Bowery shows have been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *Art in America* and *Arts*.

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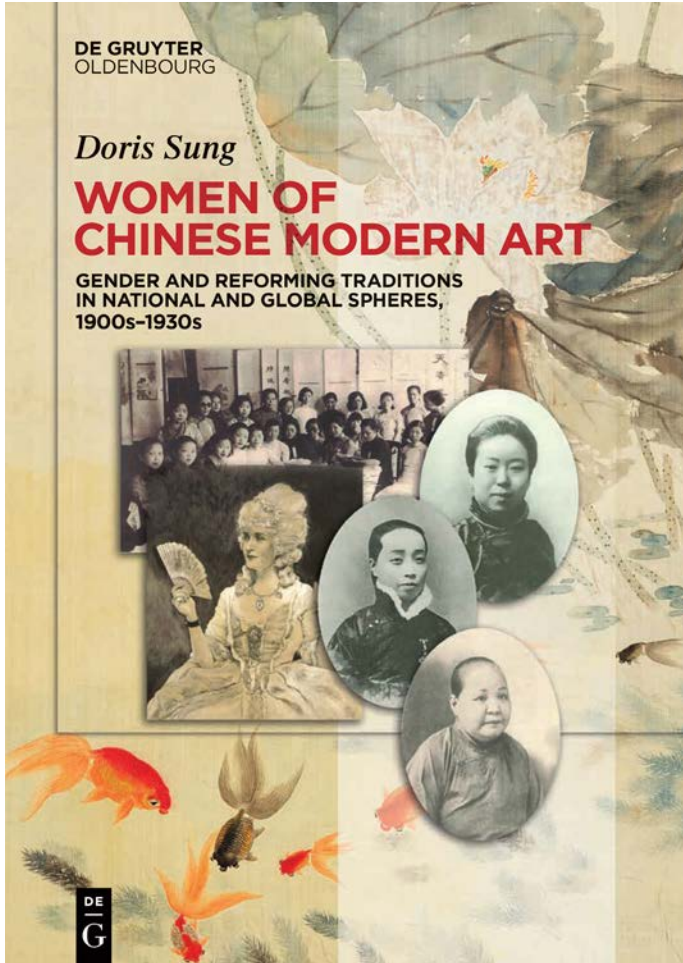
Professor **Pete Schulte** presented a solo exhibition of his recent work, *Chamber Music*, at McKenzie Fine Art in New York, in October and November. Schulte is represented by the gallery.



FACULTY RESEARCH

Doris Sung's New Book Reveals Overlooked Women in Chinese Modern Art

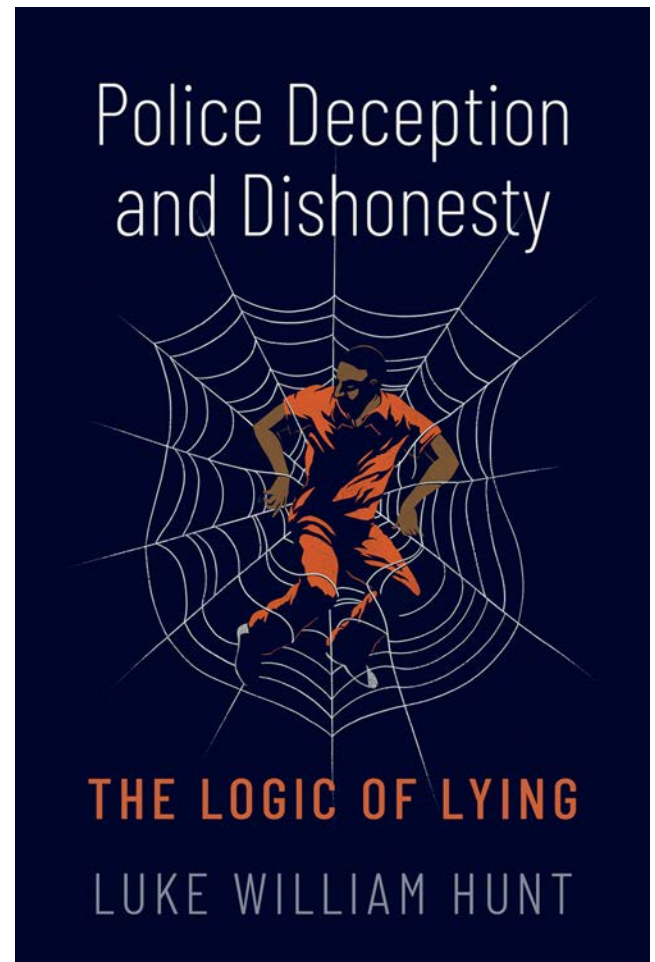
Assistant Professor Dr. **Doris Sung** published a new book, *Women of Chinese Modern Art: Gender and Reforming Traditions in National and Global Spheres, 1900s–1930s* (De Gruyter). The book offers the first comprehensive study of how women embroiderers, traditionalist calligraphers and painters shaped the terrain of the modern art world and of gender positioning during China's important moments of social-cultural transformation from empire to republic. Sung received four grants in support of the publication, including the William R. Levin Award for Research in the History of Art (honorary mention) and the College Art Association Millard Meiss Publication Grant.



ABOVE: Cover of *Women of Chinese Modern Art*, courtesy of Dr. Doris Sung.

Jonathan Cumberland Illustrates Cover of UA Philosophy Prof's Book

An illustration by Assistant Professor **Jonathan Cumberland** was selected for the cover of a new book, *Police Deception and Dishonesty: The Logic of Lying*, by UA philosophy professor Luke William Hunt, and published by Oxford University Press in December. UA faculty often work collaboratively, but Hunt did not specifically think of using artwork by a UA professor until he found what he was looking for. "Collaborating with Luke was a rewarding experience," Cumberland said. "This was a complex topic to visualize, but I feel we provided a visually direct solution for the cover."



ABOVE: Cover of *Police Deception and Dishonesty*, with illustration by Jonathan Cumberland. Image courtesy of Luke Hunt.

ALUMNI DIRECTIONS

Alumna Solo Show: 'Barbie's Dreamhouse'

Ali Hval (BFA 2015, studio art) opened a solo exhibition, *Barbie's Dreamhouse*, at the Gadsden Museum of Art in December. The installation, Hval said, is "deceptively saccharine and playful with more sinister undertones, displayed in their main gallery space drenched in pink." Other recent exhibitions include *6th Midwest Open*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago; *Breaking (More) Boundaries*, Culture Lab LIC, Queens, New York; and *Embodied Knowledge*, Ely Center of Contemporary Art, New Haven, Connecticut. Hval was also featured in the *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory's* special fall issue on fashion, culture and art.



Alumnus Interns at Barnes Foundation, Penn Museum

Shivam Pawar (MFA 2022, printmaking) is working toward a master's degree in museum studies at Syracuse University (NY). This summer, he interned at two Philadelphia museums and was awarded one of three ARCS Summer 2023 Internship Stipends by the national organization, Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists. Pawar served as a collections and registration intern at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, known for its post-Impressionist art. He was also an archives intern at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Penn Museum), renowned as a research museum.

Catching Up with UA Art & Art History Alumni

Julie Weber (MA 2023, art history) has accepted a position as curatorial assistant for photography and exhibitions planning coordinator at the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City.

Parker Hunt (MFA 2023, ceramics) is teaching art to ninth through twelfth graders at Central High School in Tuscaloosa.

Ella Smyth (BFA 2023, studio art) held a solo exhibition, *Interwoven*, at Bells Gallery in Dothan, Alabama.

LEFT: Ali Hval, *Matchmaker*, 2022, ceramic, fabric, holographic plastic, acrylic, rhinestones, wood, foam, fringe, O-rings, cotton piping, 8 x 25 inches x 5 feet. Image courtesy of the artist. ABOVE: Shivam Pawar at the Barnes Foundation. Photo courtesy of S. Pawar.

ALUMNI DIRECTIONS

More Art & Art History Alumni News

Ryan Akers (MFA 2023, painting) held a solo exhibition at the Gadsden (AL) Museum of Art in November and was in *Unstuck in Time: St. EOM, Pasaquan, Here, Now*, at the Bo Bartlett Center, Columbus, GA, curated by the Fuel & Lumber Company.

René Thompson (MFA 2022, painting; certificate, museum studies) is an assistant professor of drawing and painting at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville.

Sarah Dittmann (MFA 2021, printmaking) held a solo exhibition at the Oberreich Gallery on the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Fond du Lac campus, where she is a lecturer in art.

Anna Sella (BFA 2020), a senior art director at GRO Marketing in Tuscaloosa, visited Jonathan Cumberland's graphic design portfolio class in December and talked to students about how to prepare for job interviews. Sella also met with students individually to discuss their portfolios.

Alex Green (BFA 2017, studio art) has accepted a position as registrar and collections manager at Johnson Lowe Gallery in Atlanta. Green interned at the 2023 *Venice Architecture Biennale* in the U.S. Pavilion to support the exhibition *Everlasting Plastics*.

Stephen Watson (MFA 2013, painting) has accepted a position as assistant to the pastor focusing on student and family ministries at Millbrook (AL) Presbyterian Church. Since 2014, Watson has taught art at Samford University in Birmingham, most recently as associate professor of art.

Raymond Gaddy (MFA 2000, painting) is professor of foundations at Savannah College of Art and Design. Since 2017, Gaddy has taught art at Georgia Southern University (Savannah), most recently as associate professor of painting and drawing and director of the Armstrong Gallery of Art. This fall, he held a solo exhibition at the Avett Center for the Arts, Statesboro, GA, and will have another solo show in 2024 at USC Beaufort.



Alumna Selected for Burning Man Art Grant

Sculpture by **Hannah Warner** (BFA 2022, studio art: digital media, sculpture), *Lucid Beacon*, was awarded a 2023 Black Rock City Honoraria art grant for the international Burning Man event, August 27-September 4, 2023. Out of almost 400 projects invited to submit proposals, Warner's was one of only 75 artworks selected for the award and the first winner from Alabama. She spent fall 2022 at the NES Artist Residency in Skagaströnd, Iceland.



ABOVE RIGHT: Hannah Warner, *Lucid Beacon* (two views) at Burning Man.
RIGHT: Raymond Gaddy, *Untitled (I. Punctatus)*, 2014, mixed media, 60 x 108 inches. Images courtesy of the artists.

back page

ALUMNI UPDATE

Alumna Sees a Renaissance in Southern Black Art



In December, **Caroline Japal** (BFA 2018, studio art) received the MA in Design for Art Direction at the London College of Communications at the University of the Arts London. Her thesis, a short film and book, celebrates what Japal identifies as a new renaissance in Southern Black art. She deeply examines what it means to be a Southern Black artist, with interviews of eleven young creatives who share Japal's Southern roots, including another UA art alumna, Arielle Gray (BA 2019), who recently received her MFA from Yale.

Japal writes about this renaissance: *"It is here and now that history is in the making. The Southern Black artists of today are showing us that they are proud of their identity and they want to show it to the rest of the world. Through the interviews that you will find in the film and this accompanying book, you will get a rare look into why these artists choose to be so vulnerable and let people share an intimate look into their world. Coming back to the idea of being seen, these artists are giving people a direct view of Black life through a Black lens. This centering of the Black perspective is what makes their art so profound. They are simply unconcerned of the narratives of mass media...By viewing Southern Black life through a Black lens we are being authentically us and creating from a place of safety and vulnerability."*

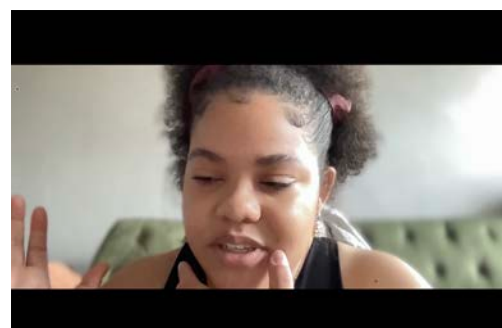
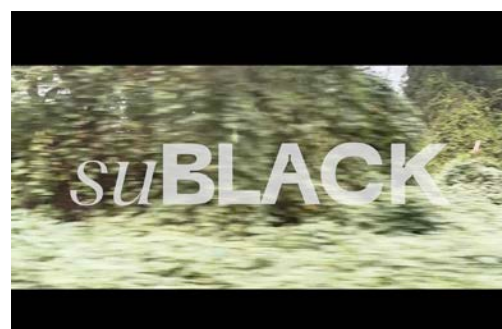
Caroline Japal earned her BFA in studio art in 2018 with concentrations in photography and painting. This fall, in

an alumni update, Japal reflected on the guidance she received in her art courses at UA: "What I remember most is how we were encouraged to make art about topics we were passionate about, to experiment with new materials, and not to fear the unknown but embrace it." Japal wrote that her art professors, including current Associate Professor **Allison Grant**, were big influences and "really helped me to solidify the type of work I wanted to create and mentored me through those processes."

Japal founded *Art Concept Magazine*, served as a creative director of *Belladonna Magazine* and as a creative director alongside Tryna B Studios founder Leslie Gomez, until joining the creative agency *Cultured to Create* in 2019, where she currently serves as a creative director and installation logistics coordinator.



TOP LEFT: Caroline Japal. ALL OTHER IMAGES: Film stills from "suBlack," 2023. All images courtesy Caroline Japal. <https://carolinejapal.com/>



View Japal's thesis project, including her short film and book gif, here: <https://graduateshowcase.arts.ac.uk/project/508265/cover>

Read more alumni stories here: <https://art.ua.edu/alumni-news/>