

# ALUMNI NEWS

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# ALUMNI NEWS

KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE

WINTER 2007

## KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE

A four-year college of art and design

Justin Stewart, '03, Connected

Do you have a newsworthy item? Please e-mail Andrea Adams, alumni relations coordinator, at [alumni@kcai.edu](mailto:alumni@kcai.edu), or call her at 888-561-2586 (toll free).  
Welcome to the new format of *Alumni News*! In response to alumni feedback, we will be offering our alumni more information about fellow artists and designers more frequently. So, we have changed the format of our communication with you. *Alumni News* will come out three times a year, and our new e-newsletter will supplement this publication. Watch for its launch in the spring! The e-newsletter is a collaborative effort between the alumni relations office and career services, and it will not only provide information about

upcoming alumni events but also information on professional development. Out of touch with KCAI? Be sure to give us your e-mail address, so that we can include you in our e-newsletter circulation.

Alumni, we hear you!

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## Exhibitions

### California

Shauna Alterio ('98 painting/printmaking) and Stephen Loidolt ('99 sculpture) exhibited "Something's Hiding in Here" this fall at Rose & Radish, The Curiosity Shoppe and Rare Device in San Francisco. The two artists are also featured designers in the holiday issue of *ReadyMade* magazine.

Thomas E. Ellis ('63 attended) exhibited "Drinks in Hell" in November at Second Street Cigars and Gallery in Los Angeles.

### Colorado

Kenneth Shanika ('76 painting) participated in the fourth annual Pikes Peak Plein Air Painters Show "Vanishing Vistas" June 2–July 7 at the Cultural Arts Council Gallery in Estes Park. Also, Kenneth donated a piece to the Pikes Peak Regional Hospital Auction, which took place June 9. In August, he presented his "Feature Show," a selection of his paintings picked from more than 100 works, at the Gunter/Wolff Gallery in Colorado Springs.

### Connecticut

Maria Creyts ('86 painting) presented a group show with two others entitled "Chamlin/Coash/Creyts: Painters' Projects" at Seton Gallery, University of New Haven Sept. 20–Oct. 17.

### Florida

Ralph Provisero ('95 sculpture) presented "Swimming with Sharks," an exhibition of new sculptures and drawings, at the Dorsch Gallery in Miami, June 9–Sept. 1. [www.provisero.com](http://www.provisero.com)

### Georgia

Lynn Smiser Bowers ('75 ceramics) collaborated with Robert Briscoe and Emily Watson in "Aspects of Nature," June 22–Aug. 11 at the Signature Shops & Gallery in Atlanta. [www.thissignatureshop.com](http://www.thissignatureshop.com)

### Illinois

In August, John Ferry ('92 illustration) had an exhibition entitled "Revisited" with his father, Dick Ferry, at the Anne Lloyd Gallery of the Decatur Area Arts Council in Decatur. John is illustrations studio manager for Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, Mo. His father is professor emeritus of education at Millikin University in Decatur.

Nancy Cohen Rosen ('79 sculpture) exhibited "Gardening = Painting" at Brushwood in the Ryerson Conservation Area in Deerfield, July 28–Aug. 15.

The work of Adriana Villagomez ('91 sculpture) was featured at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago at the Annual Day of the Dead exhibition, running Sept. 28–Dec. 16.

### Iowa

Nancy Purington ('73 painting) contributed her "Twelve Views of Water," digital photographs featuring views of water, to an October exhibition entitled "Extraordinary Time," Hudson River Gallery, Iowa City. A statewide tour for "Twelve Views" will be developed by and sponsored by the Muscatine Art Center, July 2008. [www.nancypurington.com](http://www.nancypurington.com)

### Kansas

Thomas Ellis ('63 attended) exhibited work in a solo show entitled "Put down the brush, step away from the easel!" at Bowlus Fine Arts Center, Iola, Oct. 14–Nov. 14.

Deb Stavín, who attended KCAI in the 1970s and studied ceramics, presented an exhibition of her photographs at Milton's, 920 Massachusetts in Lawrence, June 25–July 29. The exhibition documents her travels around the world. [www.debstavín.com](http://www.debstavín.com).

### Missouri

Kim Anderson's ('87 painting) solo show "Oil Paintings" took place Oct. 3–30 at the Saucy Hound Gallery in Kansas City.

Sarah Biondo ('67 sculpture) exhibited at the Unity Temple on the Plaza in Kansas City, Nov. 1–Nov. 29.

As part of Alumni Weekend 2007 activities, Jeff Burk ('79 photography) organized "Continuum: KCAI Alumni Photography, new work by graduates from 1975–1979." The exhibit ran from April 25–May 26 at the Cross Gallery in the Leedy–Voulkos Art Center. Gary Sutton, professor and former dean of faculty, assisted Jeff in choosing work for the show. Participants were as follows: Chuck Avery ('77 photography), Jeff Burk ('79 photography), Ellen Carey ('75 photography), Diane Covert ('77 photography), Michael Crane ('79 photography), Mark Estes ('79 photography), Karen Glaser ('76 photography), Frank Hamilton ('77 photography), Tom Jenkins ('75 photography), Katherine Jones ('78 photo/video), Chuck Kelton ('75 photo/video), Robbin Loomas ('78 photography), Don McKenna ('78 photography), John Parker ('77 photography), Jeff Peter ('75 photography), Russell Phillips ('77 photography), Leslie

Sheryll ('76 photography), Jim Walker ('77 photography), Lyle White ('77 photography), Tim Wilson ('74 photography).

Celia Butler ('07 fiber) exhibited "Some Sort of Opposite," a collection of her woven paintings, at the Pi Gallery in Kansas City, July 6–28.

Justin Gainan ('04 fiber) presented his first solo show at the Dolphin Gallery in Kansas City July 6–28. A 2006 recipient of Kansas City's prestigious Charlotte Street Foundation Award, Justin has work in private collections in the United States, Canada, and Germany. In the spring of 2006, Justin completed a two-month-long internship at the Michael Janssen Gallery in Cologne, Germany. He is currently pursuing an M.F.A. degree at the University of London Goldsmiths in the United Kingdom.

Robin Hirsch ('85 photography), associate director of Art Saint Louis, organized "Fiber Focus 2007." Art St. Louis is a nonprofit visual art organization and co-op art gallery located in downtown St. Louis. The exhibition of contemporary fiber works by Midwest artists included work by Pauline Verbeek-Cowart, associate professor in the KCAI fiber department, and Summer Farrar ('05 fiber) Sept. 10–Oct. 18.

Susan Lordi Marker, former faculty, and Pauline Verbeek-Cowart, current faculty, fiber, exhibited "Rhythm" at the Blue Gallery in Kansas City May 27–June 10.

Apryl McAnerney ('91 painting) and artist Mott-ly launched a grand opening of their new gallery in the East Crossroads District, The Slap & Tickle, with a silent auction of Mott-ly's private collection of artwork, including work by Gregory Eltringham, Larry McAnaney ('01 painting), Lori Raye Erickson ('90 design), Anne Austin Pearce ('88 painting) and Doug Schwietert.

Ryozo Morishita ('73 painting) exhibited work in a solo show at the Leedy–Voulkos Art Center Sept. 7–Oct. 26.



Nancy Rosen, '79



Lynn Smiser Bowers, '75, Tea Jar with Pear Knob



Dylan Mortimer, '02, Prayer Booth



Christina McPhee, '76, Soft



Dorothy Curry, '93, Dusk Series



Marthius Pliessnig, '00

Robyn Nichols ('79 design), an internationally acclaimed silversmith, held her 26th anniversary exhibition "The Dressing of a Geisha" at The Pearl in Kansas City Nov. 16–Dec. 22.

Mark Roper ('83 painting) participated in a group show that opened Sept. 7 at the St. Louis Brewery Inc. in Maplewood. www.mproperart.com.

Charles Stonewall ('01 design and illustration) exhibited "Backstage with Manos Rojas" at Jardine's Jazz Club in Kansas City Oct. 4–Dec. 28. The work features Charles' series of flamenco performers.

New three-dimensional work by Jim Woodfill ('80 painting) was installed in late summer in the American Century Investments Sculpture Field at 44th and Main Streets, Kansas City. In addition to his career as a studio artist, Woodfill is a lecturer in the printmaking department at KCAI.

#### Montana

Kenneth Shanika ('76 painting) participated in the C. M. Russell Museum's Miniature Show in Great Falls, proceeds from which helped the museum.

#### New Jersey

Leslie Sheryll ('76 photography) exhibited in a group show entitled "About Photography" at Victory Hall in Jersey City June 1-30.

#### New York

Ming Fay ('67 sculpture) collaborated with other artists in two summer shows. "Keep the Change," presented by the Nathan Cummings Foundation and organized by the Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, explored the social implications of wealth and poverty June 28-Sept. 7. Ming's

group show, "Greetings Happy Summer Time," took place at the Lesley Heller Gallery June 21–Aug. 10.

Scott Fraser ('79 painting) had work in a solo show at the J. Cacciola Gallery in New York City, Nov. 3–26. His collaborative exhibition with 14 other artists, the "Object Project," will travel to five museums around the country over the next two years. www.sfraser.com.

Olen Hsu ('01 photo/ new media) exhibited this summer at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Swing Space. He constructs installations in porcelain, paper and algorithmically composed sound, converging new media, tactile forms and works for acoustic instruments. www olenhsu.com.

Ke Sook Lee ('82 painting) exhibited her installation "100 Faceless Women" in the exhibition "Pricked: Extreme Embroidery" at the Museum of Arts & Design in New York in November.

David Rich ('74 painting) participated in a group show at Robert Steele Gallery July 25-Aug. 18. Four of his paintings were on view. www.davidrich.net.

#### Pennsylvania

Ming Fay ('67 sculpture) presented a new sculpture, "Goldlocks," on May 8 in Philadelphia at the Tivoli Condominiums.

#### Rhode Island

Allison Paschke ('96 ceramics) curated and contributed work to "de/construct" at 150 Chestnut St., 7th floor gallery in the jewelry district in Providence May 18-27.

#### South Carolina

Ming Fay ('67 sculpture) exhibited "Material Terrain" at the Columbia Museum of Art July 6–Aug. 26.

#### Texas

Stuart Allen ('94 photo/video) had three shows this year. In May, he exhibited in "Artists Looking at Art" at McNay Art Museum, San Antonio. He presented site-specific installation and a photographic series at the San Antonio Museum of Art entitled "Mapping Daylight" July 7–Oct. 14. He had a solo show at Finesilver Gallery in San Antonio July 13–Aug. 25.

Catherine Massaro ('79 painting) exhibited work in a solo show "Meditations On The Hill Country" at the Kerr Arts & Cultural Center in Kerrville in May.

#### Washington, D.C.

Christina McPhee ('76 painting) exhibited "Carrizo-Parkfield Diaries" at the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center from June 5–July 29. The exhibit of large-scale photoworks, video and high-definition video addressed

seismic memory and identity along the San Andreas fault in California and explored the synchronicity between natural disaster and human trauma. McPhee's work is represented by Sara Tecchia Roma New York.

### Additional alumni news and updates

MK12, a Kansas City studio started by graduates of KCAI, and Cannonball Agency, a St. Louis advertising agency led by creative director Mike Binnette ('83 design), have teamed up to create several Budweiser commercials featuring the voice of George Clooney. Several more are in progress. The members of MK12 follow: Ben Radatz ('98 photo/video); Shaun Hamontree, Teddy Dibble and Jed Carter, all of whom graduated in 1999 with B.F.A. degrees in painting; Chad Perry and James Ramirez, 2005 graduates in new media; Tim Fisher ('98 photography) and John Baker ('97 design). Garrett Peek ('05 design) recently joined Cannonball and also collaborated on this project.

#### 1960s

A painting by Lawrence Stafford ('64 painting) has been purchased by the Kunst Museum in Lichtenstein.

#### 1970s

April Greiman ('70 design) completed public art in Los Angeles' Koreatown this summer. The 8,200-square-foot, hand-painted video image covers the façade of a new six-story mixed use building, which spans an entire city block and is located at Wilshire Boulevard and Vermont Avenue. The image is derived from video footage that the artist shot in the densely populated, culturally rich neighborhood. The piece is a Percent for Art project through the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles.

Greiman also created a three-minute video on the making of the piece. The video was shown at the grand opening in October and will be on view indefinitely in the lobby of the building. http://madeinspace.la/

Eric Wildrick ('75 sculpture), a Purchase College staff member, received the 2007 State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service which recognizes performance excellence both within and beyond the position. Wildrick is a sculpture/3-D media technical specialist in the School of Art+Design and is also a part-time lecturer in the School of Liberal Studies and Continuing Education.

Thomas C. Ema ('79 design) received a merit award Sept. 14 from the Art Directors Club of Denver for his company's Web site, www.emadesign.com. A featured area of the site is a special timeline section that highlights key projects designed within the firm's 25-year history. Over the years, Tom's work has been selected for inclusion in more than 30 juried design shows, exhibitions and publications, including "Graphic Design: America," "Graphic Design America Two" and "Hot Graphics USA." Also, he helped found the Colorado chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, and he became the chapter's first vice-president.

In addition, Ema Design has announced the completion and installation of an interpretive display for the Denver Art Museum, which highlights the restoration, conservation and preservation of Bernardo Zenale's Renaissance painting "Madonna and Child with Saints," a piece that is part of the museum's permanent collection.

#### 1980s

Maria Creyts ('86 painting) and Diane Henk ('83 painting), along with Ricky Allman, were featured Oct. 10 in "Slideshow at the Kemper Museum," a presentation that introduced and promoted talented artists in Greater Kansas City.

David Westman ('86 design) has been selected as Creative Person of the Year by the Rocky Mountain Direct Marketing Association. David works as creative director for Eagle:xm, a total solutions marketing company in Denver.

Stephanie Cunningham ('88 design) presented "Public Art: Design in Disguise" at the AIGA Schools of Thought 3 design educators conference in March. She also presented at the Intent/Content design conference in Nashville in June.

#### 1990s

Dorothy Curry ('93 painting) devoted five years to studio work after graduation, then invested the same creative energies over the next 10 years in co-founding the Gordon Parks Elementary School, www.gordonparks.org. Among its programs to bridge the barriers to learning for urban-core children is a strong visual and performing arts component. Dorothy is making time to continue studio work.

The Art in the Loop Foundation announced its latest public art project, led by Laura DeAngelis ('95 sculpture), to renovate Oppenstein Brothers Memorial Park at 12th and Walnut Streets in Kansas City, Mo. DeAngelis was awarded the commission from Jackson County to complete "Celestial Flyways," a project that references astronomical, ornithological and botanical elements to create an inviting refuge in the middle of the city. Peregrine Lannin-Honig ('98 printmaking), a Charlotte Street Award recipient, collaborated with DeAngelis on drawing constellations for this project.

Anita Sisk-Stone Crownover ('98 fiber) owns a home décor store, From House to Home, in Kansas City, Mo. She was featured in the "House & Home" section of *The Kansas City Star* in August.

Linda Aili Schmeltz ('97 printmaking) moved back to Los Angeles after teaching sculpture at Indiana University to make sculpture, installations and drawings. She is exhibiting all over the country. www.ailischmeltz.com.

Anita Sisk-Stone Crownover ('98 fiber) owns a home décor store, From House to Home, in Kansas City, Mo. She was featured in the "House & Home" section of *The Kansas City Star* in August.

Laura Hurcomb ('98 fiber) attended the Kansas City Art Institute on a scholarship for sculpture but graduated from the fiber department. She freelances photography, digital imagery and mural painting. Hurcomb teaches photography at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, and she is a massage therapist by trade.

Rachel Hayes ('99 fiber) participated in a three-week residency at the Art Omi International Arts Residency in Columbia County, New York. Hayes is now based in Richmond, Va., and was selected along with 28 other artists from around the world. She was encouraged to apply for the program by Art Omi board member Gregory Volk, who teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University and is a Charlotte Street Awards Visiting Critic in 2007-08. Rachel was awarded a 2004 Charlotte Street Award.

#### 2000s

Matthias Pliessnig ('00 design) received coverage for one of his pieces in the July/August issue of *Dwell* magazine.

Following his 2007 world tour, Christopher Willits ('00 photo/new media) released "Ocean Fire," a collaboration with Grammy Award-winning musician Ryuichi Sakamoto. The album made its debut at No. 2 on the electronic charts of iTunes Japan. Also, Christopher is nominated for a 2007 SF Weekly Award in the category "Excellence in Electronic Music." www.christopherwillits.com

Maralie Armstrong Milholland ('01 sculpture) recently relocated to Providence, R.I. with her spouse, Eli Monster ('00 sculpture), to pursue graduate studies at in Digital + Media at the Rhode Island School of Design, where she received the presidential scholarship. The two continue to tour and perform in the United States and Europe.

R. Justin Stewart ('03 ceramics) was selected as one of the International Sculpture Center's 2007 Outstanding Student Achievement In Contemporary Sculpture award winners. He was featured in the October 2007 issue of *Sculpture* magazine.

Will Staley ('04 design) has been appointed a Domestic Policy Fellow at the Clinton Foundation in New York. He will work in the Harlem office for the Clinton Climate Initiative, helping to research and design products that create jobs in impoverished areas of the world and also protect the environment. In addition to his B.F.A. degree from KCAI, Will has completed a master's degree in industrial design from Pratt Institute.

In addition to his work with the Clinton Foundation, Will will participate this year in the Pratt Industrial Design Incubator program, working on the THRIVE project with Terrance Clark ('05 design). The PIDI is an invitation-only program for promising socially-conscious projects. Meanwhile, Terrance has begun graduate work in industrial design management at Pratt Institute's Manhattan campus.

Dan Bina ('06 painting) is moving to New York, where he has accepted a position as art handler for Christie's auction house.

Lily Walker ('06 fiber and art history) has taken on the role of assistant to the head of wardrobe at the Kansas City Ballet.

Anna Zimmerman ('06 painting and art history) is the new sculpture technician working with Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art's object conservators. She is responsible for the maintenance and conservation of works in both the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Kansas City Sculpture Park.

#### In memoriam

William L. "Bill" Hill ('56 commercial design) a co-founder of Levenson & Hill died July 12, 2007, at the age of 74. A pioneer in the Dallas advertising industry, he was known for his work with Southwest Airlines, Zales Jewelers, Radio Shack and hundreds of other well-known brands. He received many industry honors, including the American Film Festival award for advertising. He is survived by his wife, Rae, his daughters and sons-in-law Shaun and Ross Shipley of Houston and Tami and Tres Adami of San Antonio; sons Schaffer Hill and Christian Hill, both of Dallas; and eight grandchildren.

Joan Fai Shih ('56 painting), died Aug. 8, 2007, as a result of complications following heart surgery. An award-winning painter and a beloved teacher who taught in Philadelphia for nearly 40 years, Shih will be deeply missed by her students. She spent 20 years as an instructor at Rosemont College, and more recently, she taught at Main Line Art College. A prolific artist who exhibited frequently, Shih most recently had a solo exhibition at the Connelly Center Galleries at Villanova University. Entitled "East Meets West," the exhibition featured 44 of her watercolors.

Thomas Manning ('91 painting) died this summer. Services were held for him Aug. 4, 2007, in Cantonment, Fla. Thomas is survived by his wife, Christine Holloway ('93 painting). He was very proud of attending KCAI on a three-year merit scholarship, and after graduation he worked in Chicago as a freelance illustrator.

Justin Stewart, '03, Connected