Notes from the Director

With this second newsletter of the 98-99 academic year, I hope that you are developing a comprehensive picture of the great happenings at the UW School of Art. For those of you who live locally, I hope you were able to take part in some of the lectures, exhibitions, and series that graced Autumn Quarter. If you weren't, don't worry – Winter Quarter promises to be just as exciting.

As I write this column, alumni continue to send brief notes about their recent exhibitions and research, as well as updates about their lives over the last few years or even decades. One great perk of producing this newsletter is that we start to notice alumni wherever we look. We have the widely lauded Chuck Close BFA '62 retrospective coming soon to the Seattle Art Museum, in addition to the many ongoing exhibitions by our alumnus at national and international galleries.

It's hard to get through the Seattle Art Museum without feeling the effect of our long and varied past: a large exhibition of work by the late George Tsutakawa MFA '50 and former School of Art faculty is installed on SAM's fourth floor, and a large piece by sculpture graduate Henry DePuy MFA '97 is in a nearby gallery. DePuy has another piece displayed on the second floor of the Washington State Convention Center. Stroll through the SAM galleries named after School of Art alumnus Anne Gerber and you will happen upon a quartet of ceramics by the late Howard Kottler, former School of Art faculty. Recently we received from the SeaFirst Gallery a list of artists represented in an upcoming show of 100 top contemporary northwest artists. An overwhelming 23 of these are School of Art alumni. See story on back page.

Simon Martin, our administrator, happened upon two different exhibits at the newly constructed Washington State History Museum in Tacoma that relate to the UW School of Art: a series of paintings by Professor Emeritus Jacob Lawrence about George Washington Bush, the African-American founder of Tumwater, Washington, and alumnus Z. Vanessa Helder's stunning watercolor series documenting the construction of Grand Coulee Dam from 1939 to 1941. For those of you who haven't yet seen the spectacular new museum, both shows will be up through January 10, 1999 and provide a great excuse to witness Tacoma's downtown renaissance.

If you have not yet touched base with us about your recent activities, I hope you will soon. Your letters make a great difference to our undergraduate and graduate students who can learn how our alumni have used their School of Art education. I must also stress that your financial support always positively impacts the quality of our students' education. The livelihood of the School of Art is becoming much more dependent on the generosity of our alumni and friends.

Once again, I encourage you to attend our upcoming events, and when you do, please introduce yourself – I would love to touch base!

Christopher Ozubko
Director
UW School of Art
Assistant Professor Leslie St. Pierre is planning the third installment of this innovative class in Industrial Design. This course is open to an interdisciplinary group of students (e.g., art, design, architecture, engineering, and education) who come together to explore the tactile and experiential world of designing for children. Last summer's final projects were tested by a local daycare, and then were set up for display and feedback at the Seattle Children's Museum. Summer 1999's offering includes the possibility of exhibits at the Children's Museum and projects centered around the UW Children's Hospital.

LAMBDA RHO ASSOCIATION for School of Art Alumni

The Art Honorary of the University of Washington, Lambda Rho, is still going strong, more than eight decades after its inception. The primary objective of this non-profit alumni association is to provide scholarships for art majors and to help underwrite exhibits where art majors have the opportunity to display their work. Lambda Rho members are encouraged to make yearly contributions to their scholarship fund, and many make Lambda Rho a beneficiary of their estates. Three years ago a major donation of $42,000 by a member significantly boosted Lambda Rho's giving potential. However, it is the social component that keeps this organization alive—members are in constant communication through newsletters and social gatherings but also partake in regular luncheons, auctions, and even an occasional fashion show. Lambda Rho's fundraising efforts are a boon to students and serve as a wonderful complement to the School of Art's own history of endowments. It is never too early to join Lambda Rho, and membership is not limited to School of Art alumni. Application forms are available in the School of Art Advising Office.

SOA Student Spotlight: Leo Berk

Second year MFA student Leo Berk has just returned from an invitational exhibit at Northern Michigan University in Marquette where he was not only asked to contribute to a group show organized by ceramicist Sam Chung, but was also asked to lecture to the ceramics and sculpture departments. NMU provided an honorarium, and covered the cost of shipping 250lbs of sculpture to the show. The UW Graduate School and the UW School of Art pulled together the funds to meet Leo's travel expenses.

Leo spent three days on the upper peninsula, and gave a lecture to 40 students and four faculty. "At first I wasn't sure how well the content of my lecture was received," recalls Leo, "but after the lecture, students mostly asked for technical information. But over the next few days, I ran into a dozen students at school and at night who expressed their appreciation for my lecture for the same reason—that I was their peer, experiencing the same frustrations and successes as they in making art, with the advantage of a couple more years of experience." Leo was impressed by the work in the well-attended show and was honored to be included among the other artists, especially Sam Chung. "While I was waiting for my prop-jet airplane to arrive at the tiny Marquette County Airport, a sculpture student spotted me. We talked about some of the issues in my lecture. That was the best compliment I could have received."

Charles Wyman Drake Fund

The Metals Program is pleased to announce the recent establishment of the Charles Wyman Drake Fund, an endowed fund of which the Metals Program is the sole beneficiary. Charles Drake was born in 1969 and was enrolled in the Metals Program in the School of Art from September '94 until his death on 22 June, 1996 while mountain climbing in Alaska. Chuck was a 1986 graduate of the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Connecticut where he was the recipient of the Sanford Low Prize in Art. This was followed by a degree from Dartmouth College in 1990. At Dartmouth he majored in Earth Science yet continued to pursue his interest in art by attending the Jewelry Design Workshop, helping students fabricate jewelry using varied techniques and metals. Prior to attending the UW, Chuck spent two years in Japan at the English Conversation School in Ashikawa. Because of his strength in both written and spoken Japanese, he ascended to the position of head teacher there. Chuck's studio mate at the School of Art, David Gackenbach, MBA '98, recalled that Chuck "was the type of person you wanted to get to know immediately. He always had something going. He did what he wanted to do." Chuck was awarded a Parnassus Arts Scholarship before his untimely death on Mt. Hunter. The endowed fund in his name will be a lasting reminder of his impact upon the School of Art.

ART STUDENTS ON FILM

A computer-animated short entitled The Art of Survival, co-created by several art students in CSE 458/490 last Spring, was recently accepted into the Official Competition of the 1998 Ottawa International Animation Festival—a one of only 80 films chosen from the more than 1,200 entries received this year. This announcement follows on the heels of the short film's acceptance into next year's Spike & Mike Animation Film Festival, where it will share the stage with Pixar's animated short Geri's Game and work by Aardman Animations of Wallace & Gromit fame.

THE FIN PROJECT:
A Monument to World Peace and Recyling

Memorial Day, 1998, saw the dedication of a new sculpture by Professor John Tsongas. From Swords into Plowshares. With the help of 10 School of Art students, Professor Young used 22 diving plane fins from decommissioned United States Navy nuclear attack submarines built in the 1960s and arranged them on a "grass skin" at Seattle's Magnuson Park, adjacent to the former Sand Point Naval Air Station.

With the goal of recycling the "ultimate" weapon into art, From Swords into Plowshares is one of the first memorials in the United States to honor those who served our country during the Cold War. The forms are strong, minimal shapes which create a powerful experience, suggesting the dorsal fins of sturgeon whales or salmon.

The fins are composed of high tensile steel and are used intact. Since they are virtually indestructible (they were designed to withstand depth charges), they are maintenance-free. The fins are supported by hidden, reinforced concrete footings buried below grade. Thanks to the generous efforts of patron Max Gurvich, the Navy, the Seattle Arts Commission, the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, and numerous private donors, this artwork was donated fully installed as a gift to the City of Seattle, costing the City and taxpayers absolutely nothing.

The opening dedication was attended by Mayor Paul Schell, State Senator Ken Jacobsen, Admirals Paul Sullivan and William Center, astronaut Richard Gordon, numerous city officials, patrons of the arts, and the public. The artist's hope is that similar posts or "schools" of fins will be created around the country and the world, as symbols for peace on a global scale.

University of Washington / Seattle USA
SEATTLE JEWELRY/METALS SYMPOSIUM

The annual Seattle Jewelry/Metals Symposium will be held on 10 April 1999. It is a daylong series of six lectures, six workshops in Smith Hall, room 120. Lecturers this year include: Tammy Dean from Portland speaking on her own work and the craft show circuit; Charles Lewton-Bray from Denver on technical tips and safety in the studio; Marica MacDonald from Eugene on her own work; James Minson from Seattle on the use of Lampwork glass in jewelry; Bruce Pepop, Director of the Charles A. Wustum Museum in Racine, WI, (topic to be decided; and Judy Soukau), curator of the Textile Study Collection at the Henry Art Gallery, on the collection and its jewelry. General admission is $45, $25 for students.

A box lunch is included. Those interested in being sent registration information can contact Professor Mary Lee Hu at the School of Art at (206) 5434747. mhlu@washington.edu. There will be an exhibition of student work held in conjunction with the symposium at Pratt Fine Arts Center, opening reception Friday evening, 9 April 1999.

UW ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT PAINTERS LECTURE SERIES

The School of Art announces in Autumn Quarter that a grant written by second year MFA painting student Leah Simon on behalf of the UW Association of Student Painters was funded by the Walter Chaps Simpson Center for the Humanities. Leah secured over $15,000 to hold a quarterly lecture series for the 1998/1999 academic year. The series is entitled Exploring Word and Image: Critical Discussion in Contemporary Art. Each quarter, the lecture series pairs a visual artist with a critic of contemporary art who will together address the relationship between practicing artists and a critic's perceptions and the interpretation of contemporary art and art theory. The first installment of the series, in late October, featured critic, historian Barbara Rose and New York painter Glenn Goldberg. Each gave a solo lecture about their work and interests, then both participated in a panel discussion moderated by art historian and faculty member Marie Mazzucco. In addition, both Goldberg and Rose spent time with students in formal critiques and informal conversations. See the Winter '99 Events Calendar for presentations by critic Dave Hickey and painter David Reed.

FIREFIGHTERS' MEMORIAL SCULPTURE

On 6 June of this year the Seattle Fallen Firefighter's Memorial (SFFFM) was dedicated at Occidental Park in Pioneer Square. Conceived as a memorial to the four fire fighters who lost their lives battling the Mary Pang Warehouse fire in 1995, the concept rapidly developed into a memorial commemorating the 34 Seattle Fire Fighters who have given their lives in service. University District businessman Don Kennedy, the project's founder, contacted Professor Tim Taylor, chairman of the UW School of Art Sculpture Program, to see if Taylor and students were interested and the School of Art faculty capable of doing a project of this scale; they were.

Sculpture student Kai Bing Wu's MFA '96 design won the competition. The SFFFM Board raised an impressive $250,000 from private individuals to complete the project. Work began in September 1996. Alex Montgomery, Instructional Technician to the Sculpture Program, offered his technical expertise, patience and organizational skills as the house project manager. Over 40 different students worked on the project's various phases, including armature building, clay modeling, rubber mold making, wax work, investment, casting and finishing.

School of Art alumni contributed in other ways: Richard Janckelblad MFA '71 was hired by Mamenskos Rock Center to do the core drilling of the mounting holes of the granite pieces. While the final installation of the memorial sculpture was done under contract with Fabrication Specialists, a Seattle firm owned and operated by Larry Tate MFA '71, Larry McCombs MFA '79, and Robert Glabuie MFA '82. The work has received considerable praise from the Seattle Fire Department, the families of the fallen fire fighters, civic leaders, and the general public. In addition to reminding us of the sacrifices of 34 public servants, the memorial is a brilliant example of what our School of Art foundry and sculpture program can create.

Cities / Buildings Archive: ARCHITECTURAL IMAGES ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

The web address http://www.washington.edu/ark2/ is all you need to gain entry to a comprehensive collection of architectural images compiled by Art History Professor Marlies Haussman. The production of this electronic archive was spurred by the limitations of slide technology (media center hours, limited number of copies available) which prevented students from thoroughly studying images used in lectures. Clausen began digitizing slides used in class so that students could have access to the images at any time throughout the quarter from most computers on campus.

Then, with the help of an Arts and Sciences Curriculum Development grant, Clausen took this a step further. Instead of gearing to a particular course, she and assistants Mike Farr MFA '94 and Russ Craig, created the Cities/Building Archive of copyright-controlled digitized images for use by any web browser in the world at any time. Now faculty members and professionals in other disciplines -- History, Urban Design, Architecture, Art, Languages, and Music as well as Architectural History -- can draw on this repository of architectural images for use in their classes, while students can augment their learning in ways that are both more convenient and more effective.

As we go to press, there are over 4,000 images in the archive. Through links with other UW programs like Russo-American Comparative Religion and with peer institutions such as Tokyo Institute of Technology, Manchester School of Architecture in England, and Leiden University in the Netherlands, the depth and breadth of images continues to grow.

THE STATE OF THE ART SCHOOL

During the last year, the School of Art underwent its 10 Year Review - an extremely thorough evaluation of its five degree programs. The evaluating committee was comprised of internal and external academic peers who reviewed our exhaustive self-evaluation, visited the School, and met with students, faculty and staff. In September of 1998 they presented their findings to the Graduate School and the Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences. While reporting that the School has serious problems "rooted in inadequate funding," they did applaud our "impressive and hard-working faculty and staff; dedicated students, and an administration that is obviously committed to beneficial change." They concluded that "the School has managed to make many improvements in its curriculum, in the organization of its degree programs, in the areas of health, safety, and technical support, and in its administrative functions during the period since its last set of program reviews." We hope the result of this review is the rebuilding of crucial financial support, ensuring that our outstanding programs continue to enrich and educate the growing number of students we take in each year.

Winter '99 EVENTS Calendar

13 January - 3 February

Work in Progress: 1st Year MFA Candidates Group exhibition from the programs of ceramics, fibers, metals, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and visual communication. Jacob Lawrence Gallery. Hours Tues.-Sat. 12-4pm, 685-1805
Opening Reception Tuesday 12 January 4:30-6:30 pm

Sunday 13 January

1st Year MFA Studio OPEN HOUSE

12-4pm. Student studios open to the public. Jacob Lawrence Gallery open, and 2nd Year MFA Student Artwork + Silent Auction
Thursday 11 February

Chuck Close

Kane Hall Room 130, 7pm. Sponsored by the UW School of Art and the Seattle Art Museum. Ticket information (206) 654-3100

17 February - 8 March

OPEN 15

A juried competition of undergraduates from the School of Art sponsored by the University Bookstore and Lambda Rho. Jacob Lawrence Gallery. Hours Tues.-Sat 12-4pm. Opening Reception Thursday 18 February 4:30-6:30 pm.

Wednesday 2 March

Painter David Reed


Thursday 4 March

Art critic and historian Dave Hickey

Presentation at Kane Hall, Room 210, 7:30pm. Free admission. Part of the series Exploring Word and Image: Critical Discourse in Contemporary Art. Information line (206) 543-5865.

Friday 5 March

Conversation with Dave Hickey and David Reed


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High in Hilton March in drawing and painting, stained glass held recently in South Dakota.

Carls on Portugal in the Belieu School and in the Sand Point studio, Hovis. Melbourne, most of the Belieu School's gallery's artists will be from the Puget Sound area, it also be showing work from artists of Western Northwest, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Prior to opening the gallery, Esther had been working at Francis Derer's gallery, one of the oldest galleries in Seattle. The Seattle gallery is known for showing the work of UW faculty—Lawrence, Saffert, Bailey, Jense, Wallace—and to name a few, Esther's connection to the Seattle Art scene has secured her.

The first two artists approached to exhibit at the Esther Clapp gallery were close to Esther at the UW, and Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Oregon, John Gill. She was a member of a graduate program to the gallery, and Luke Belkin's MFA '03 was a graduate student at the same time. Luke currently lives and works in Vancouver. Currently, the gallery is exhibiting the paintings and drawings of Michelle Soffa. Biko, Biko MFA '99 will show a lone of her large-scale drawings at the gallery during the month of December. In January, 1999, Esther Clapp gallery will feature the work of George Chacona, who has been a Visiting Professor at the School of Art. The Esther Clapp Gallery is located at 6717 Western Ave in Seattle.

Milesstones

Faculty Notes

William H. Dillard, painter (Michael Handren) was recently awarded the 510.000 Betty Brown Researcher/By the Betty Brown Foundation of the Seattle Art Museum. The Twentieth Anniversary of the Betty Brown Award recipient is on display at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle through

Painting faculty David Harley exhibited his work at the University of Oregon. In a press conference, he exhibited his work regularly and is looking forward to his next show at New York's Donalson/Screen Gallery in March 1999. Wrote in a press release, "June is simply a very good painter who creates works of art that are even better than the sum of his considerable emotions and abilities," like several other letters we received. Professor Hilton was saddened to hear of the death of Spencer Morris, who was most influential in my development as an artist.

In November, Seattle's Lisa Harris Gallery held an exhibition of work by Daniel Green

Esther Clapp Gallery

School of Art graduate student residence hall is a residence hall for the School of Art. The Esther Clapp Gallery is located at 8119 Western Ave in Seattle.

University of Washington / Seattle USA

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195-3440

Take Part in the School of Art

Current emerging needs:

- Ceramics Renovation Fund / ARTMEX: The Ceramics facility is currently undergoing a considerable upgrade that will improve the program's usable workspace. We havefallen short, however, on funds to complete the kiln building.
- Art Development Fund / ARTIST: This fund will be used to underwrite the production of this newsletter, as well as keep all known alumni informed of upcoming School of Art-related lectures, seminars, and exhibitions.
- Art Discretionary Fund / CANDAR: Our Discretionary fund is used to cover shortfalls in other funds, and fund improvements to the School that our normal operations cannot handle.
- Program Support Fund / ARTIP: A Schoolwide program fund that provides programs typically for use visiting lecturers, field trips, art supplies, and improvements to teaching tools.

MFA Thesis Exhibition: Funds received will help underwrite this June's thesis exhibition at the Henry Art Gallery.

Other:

- There are many other funds at the School of Art, including specific program support funds and scholarship funds. Feel free to contact our Administrative and Development Office, Simon Martin, at 206-685-2552 for a list of other listing funds in the School of Art.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Day phone

Evening phone

School of Art Alums/(Alum) No Yes

Program

Employer (or any sponsor) I will match my gift. The company's form is enclosed.

Want my gift to remain anonymous.

Enclosed is my gift to $ of the School of Art.

Make check payable to the University of Washington Foundation.

Please charge my VISA Mastercard

Account number:

Expiration date

Signature

Return this form with payment to:

School of Art CONTRIBUTORS

University of Washington Seattle, Washington 98195-3440

School of Art ALUMS TAKE EXHIBITION BY STORM

The Seattle Art Gallery in downtown Seattle recently produced an exhibition featuring works in a variety of media by contemporary Northwest artists to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the University of Washington School of Art.

The exhibition, which ran from September 2 to November 22, featured works by more than 30 artists representing a wide range of artistic styles and techniques. The exhibition included paintings, sculptures, photographs, and installations, all created by faculty members, students, and alumni of the School of Art.

The exhibition was curated by Jack Beck, the director of the Seattle Art Gallery, and the School of Art's director of art exhibitions, Barney Martin. The exhibition was supported by the School of Art's student organization, the Seattle Art Club, and the University of Washington's Office of Student Affairs.

The exhibition was a tremendous success, with more than 5,000 visitors in attendance during the exhibition's run.

The School of Art at the University of Washington is a leader in art education and is committed to providing high-quality art education to its students. The School of Art is well known for its diverse range of courses and programs, including painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, and digital media.

The School of Art's faculty includes many well-known artists, including Jack Beck, Charles Lisk, and Barbara Welty. The School of Art is home to the School of Art Gallery, which is one of the largest and most respected art galleries in the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to its comprehensive curriculum, the School of Art offers a variety of opportunities for students to engage with the art world, including internships, artist residencies, and participation in exhibitions.

The School of Art is proud to offer a diverse range of majors and programs that allow students to explore their creative passions and develop the skills necessary for success in the arts.

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