

THE ANNUAL

SAAH Newsletter

SPRING QUARTER
April 2024



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01 SAAH Spotlight



Photo: Visiting artist Duane Michals (Left) with Jennifer Garner, Geoffrey Shamos, and Roddy MacInnes.
Photo Credit: Roddy MacInnes.

Legendary Photographer and DU Alumnus

In March, the Vicki Myhren Gallery brought renowned artist and alumnus Duane Michals (BA '53) to campus where he met with students in the Introduction to Photography class and then spoke to a standing-room-only crowd for an evening of conversation with Professor Roddy MacInnes.

McKenna Gale, a second-year art history graduate student and photographer, shared it was a privilege to attend the talk and that “it was inspiring to see that at 92-years-old, [Michals] still had the same passion and enthusiasm for photography as ever. Even after knowing that he had photographed a plethora of famous figures, I still found myself surprised. His fondness of René Magritte was particularly interesting to me, especially as someone who is currently studying Surrealism.”

Michals, who spoke candidly about his life and work during his talk with MacInnes, made an impression on Antonio Martinez, a third-year student minoring in art: “Experiencing Duane Michals share insights into his career and showcase his diverse body of work was incredibly inspiring for me as an aspiring photographer. Throughout the evening, Duane exuded a remarkable confidence, enabling him to express himself freely and inject humor into his discussions. His emphasis on embracing one’s true self and shedding the fear of judgment resonated deeply with me... by embracing our authentic selves, we liberate ourselves and unlock our creative potential.”

Message from the Director

This past week I was in Chicago at the College Art Association Meeting and found that I was sitting right next to Leo Mazow (BA '86), a former DU Art History student. After DU he went on to a career teaching at the University of Arkansas and is now the curator of American Art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. We had such a fun time reminiscing about his time at DU, and he spoke fondly of the professors who set him on his career path. That chance encounter reminded me of the amazing people that the School of Art & Art History has sent into the art world and the ones yet to come.



Photo: Annabeth Headrick (Center) with Roddy MacInnes, Jennifer Garner, Helen Davis, and Dean Sobel. Photo Credit: Roddy MacInnes.

Current students have kept our lobby full with their photographs and paintings displayed in rotating shows. In the Davis Gallery a group of student artists tackled issues of gender and fast fashion by reconstructing outdated clothing. The fashion show that accompanied the exhibition melded humor with thought-provoking content. McKenna Gale, one of our Art History Master's students aiming at a museum career, took over the gallery to curate an exhibition on 1960s poster art. In March, our alumni showcased their art as DU participated in Mo'Print, a monthlong celebration of printmaking in Colorado. Our printmaking students received a special treat when the artist, Kathryn Polk, came to campus as our very first Kelleher Visiting Artist. She gave a public talk on March 9th and collaborated with students in the studio during the following week. I'm looking forward to seeing the lobby walls filled with the results.

In photography, the Australian artist, Calista Lyon, is teaching two classes in photography as the Singer Visiting Artist. She has a multi-media performance planned at the end of the year which will feature several of our students. Gifts like those of the Kelleher family and Tony Singer allow our students to engage with artists of national and international renown, and the experiences are invaluable. Come by anytime you're in town to see what the students are up to, and do say, "hi," and we'd love to hear where your DU experience has taken you!

Annabeth Headrick
Director, School of Art & Art History
Associate Professor of Art History,
Indigenous Art of the Americas
Art History Graduate Advisor

02 In Memory Of



Photo: Helen Davis celebrates her 100th birthday in 2023. Photo Credit: Roddy MacInnes.

Helen Davis

Alumna Helen Davis (PhD '61), benefactor of [the Davis Gallery](#), passed away in September 2023. Davis's life was dedicated to people and art. She established an arts therapy program at Fitzsimons Army Hospital and led the Colorado Women's College art department, the Boulder Valley School District's art program, and helped develop the Boulder Arts Commission.

Davis's motivation to teach and advance art in the community derives from deceptively simple needs. "When I'm passionate about something, I want to share it," Davis says, "I'm passionate about art, so I have found ways to share it over my entire life." Davis's artist statement is simple: "I make things because I must." For her pioneering contributions, the University of Denver honored Davis with a Professional Achievement Award in 2009. For the event Davis gave a video tour of her studio and the university published an article.

Annabeth Headrick, Director of the School of Art & Art History, remembers "Alumna Helen Davis [as] a smart and funny woman who was a devoted benefactor to the students at the University of Denver. Helen's contributions changed the lives of our students by supporting the Davis Gallery and Davis Classroom at the School of Art & Art History."

The Davis Gallery, in the Shwayder Art Building lobby, opened in January 2022 and has featured dozens of creative and engaging exhibitions, largely emphasizing the innovative work of students in the School of Art & Art History.

John Madden, Jr.

John Madden Jr., benefactor of the **Madden Museum of Art** and **Madden Collection at the University of Denver**, passed away on January 19, 2024. A longtime real estate developer in Denver, Madden began his career in the 1970s, spearheading the construction of office buildings in Greenwood Village, including the space where the museum is located.

Among his many contributions to DU, Madden pioneered the establishment of the **Madden Challenge** within the Daniels College of Business, an initiative designed to provide venture capital for student entrepreneurs, empowering them to manifest their innovative ideas into reality.

In January 2016, the University of Denver was pleased to accept the Madden Collection as a permanent addition to the University's holdings. John Madden Jr. and his wife Marjorie generously donated 133 artworks to the University of Denver and financial support for graduate students in the School of Art & Art History to gain hands-on experience in museum settings. Such hands-on experiences are central to the Museum Studies program, where students develop a robust set of skills that complement their art history education, to support them in a career in the art world. We are immensely grateful for the Madden family's extraordinary generosity.

John Madden Jr.'s impact resonates deeply within the DU community, and his unwavering commitment to fostering creativity, entrepreneurship, and scholarly pursuits will continue to inspire and enrich our campus for years to come.



Photo: John Madden Jr. Photo courtesy of the University of Denver



After a multi-year renovation, the Madden Museum of Art reopened to the public with "Fleeting Presence: The Liminal Art of Daniel Sprick." The opening reception on January 19, 2024 was a great success and was attended by several hundred people.

Photo Credit: Antonio Martinez

Proposals for the Davis Gallery

the **DAVIS**
gallery

*Applications Due April
19th, 2024 at Noon*

The Davis Gallery welcomes proposals from students for the 2024-2025 academic year. Please review the Davis Proposal Submission Checklist and Supplemental Info form for more information. Feel free to reach out to davisgallery@du.edu with any questions.



Photo Credit: Bernd Klutsch at Unsplash.

Art History Research Grant

*Applications Due May 1st,
2024*

Through an endowment started by alumni of Art History, the School of Art & Art History supports graduate students who are pursuing research for their Masters Research Papers (MRP). The grants are awarded up to \$750. Graduate students at all stages of their MRP are invited to apply. Applicants must meet with their MRP advisor for guidance prior to submitting their application. To apply, fill out the application and submit to Professor Bilha Moor at bilha.moor@du.edu.

Apply for the Jack Nathan Award



Photo Credit: Priscilla Du Preez at Unsplash.

*Applications Due May 1st,
2024*

The Jack Nathan Award annually funds student art projects that address mental health in a therapeutic manner. The projects may include an entrepreneurial component as part of its overall vision for positive engagement with the world. To apply, fill out the application and email SAAH Director Annabeth Headrick at annabeth.headrick@du.edu.



Photo Credit: Nick Morales at Unsplash.

DU ART Student Research Travel Grant

*Applications Due May 1st,
2024*

The DU ART Student Research Travel Grant supports travel aligned with your artistic endeavors and professional aspirations. Grant awards, available up to \$1,500, are open to both undergraduate and graduate students who are current majors in the School of Art & Art History or Emergent Digital Practices. Eligibility requires ongoing enrollment at the university at the time of travel. To apply, fill out the application and submit to SAAH Director Annabeth Headrick at annabeth.headrick@du.edu.

03 Student Opportunities

04 Spring Events



23rd Annual DU Art History Student Symposium

Friday, April 5th, 2024, at 2 PM, Shwayder Art Building (SAB), Room 119

The DU Community is cordially invited to attend the 23rd Annual DU Art History Student Symposium. This event will showcase selected students presenting topics derived from completed class research papers and presentations.

The event is free and open to the public. We look forward to your attendance or participation at this enriching event.

Photo Credit: Sincerely Media at Unsplash.

Fleeting Presence: The Liminal Art of Daniel Sprick

November 2, 2023, - May 3, 2024, Madden Museum of Art

Organized by a cohort of sixteen students from the School of Art & Art History at the University of Denver, this exhibition explores formal and thematic tensions in the work of Colorado artist Daniel Sprick.

Curated by: Lauren Anuszewski, Sydney Barofsky, Alex Blom, Seb Brady, Lexi Ferenzi, Morgan Fleetwood, McKenna Gale, James Grau, Allene Leak, Patrick Lucas, Sydney McCain, Anna McDonald, Claire Motsinger, Andrew Nadeau, Emily Oxford-Pickeral, and Jordan Reed.

Catalogs for this exhibition are forthcoming.



Photo Credit: Antonio Martinez.

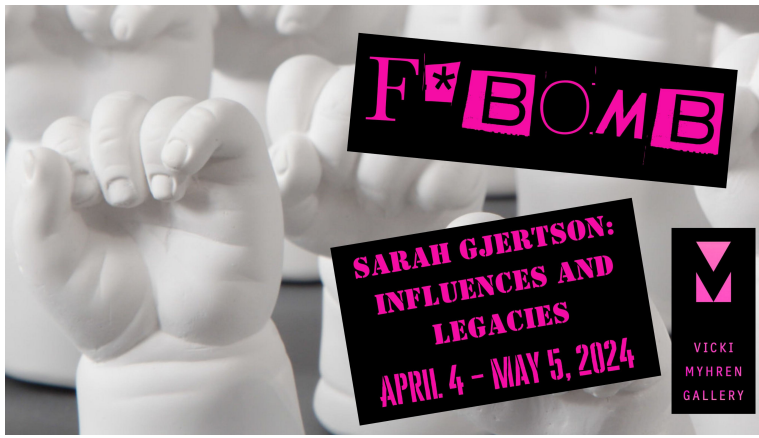


Image courtesy of the Vicki Myhren Gallery.

F*BOMB Opening Reception

Thursday, April 4th, 2024 at 5 PM, Vicki Myhren Gallery

Join the Vicki Myhren Gallery on Thursday, April 4th, 2024 at 5:00 PM for the opening reception of F*Bomb featuring the artwork of former DU professor, Sarah Gjertson, alongside her mentors and students. We hope to see you there!

On view until May 5th, 2024.

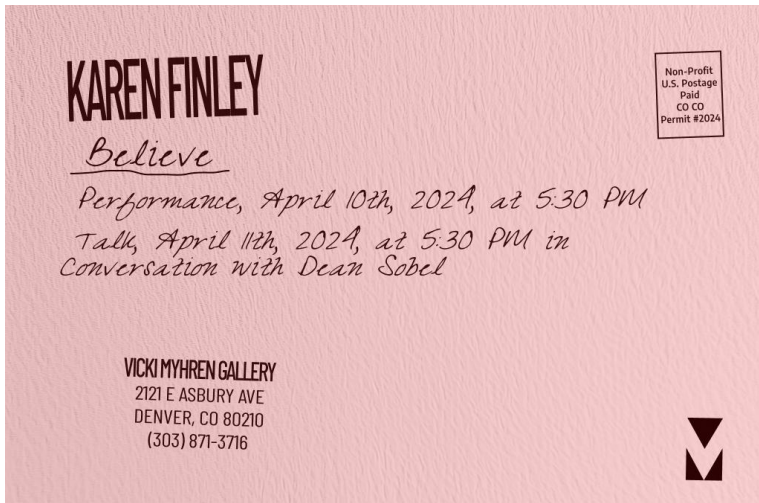


Image: Inspired by an invitation to Finley's installation "A Woman's Life Isn't Worth Much" at the Franklin Furnace, 1990.

Visiting Artist: Karen Finley

Wednesday, April 10th, 2024, at 5:30 PM, Reiman Theater

Karen Finley, a well-known American performance artist, musician, poet, and educator, will perform Believe on Wednesday, April 10th, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the Reiman Theater (Room 113), Margery Reed Hall.

Finley will also give a talk on Thursday, April 11th, 2024, at 5:30 PM in conversation with Dean Sobel at the Vicki Myhren Gallery.

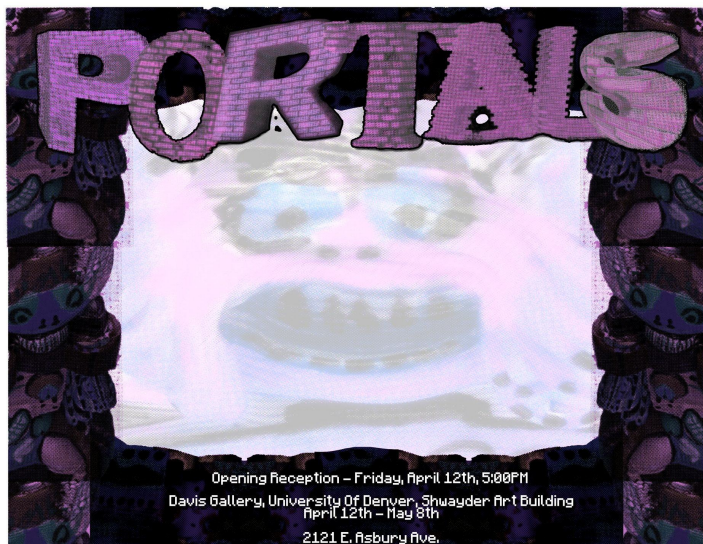


Image courtesy of Zac Abero and Luke Penton.

Portals Opening Reception

Friday, April 12th, 2024, at 5 PM, Davis Gallery

Please join us to celebrate the opening of the exhibition Portals in the Davis Gallery. Portals is a multidisciplinary exhibit focused on otherworldly gateways and the things within them. On view from April 12th through May 8th, 2024.

An exhibition curated by Zac Abero and Luke Penton.

Singer Artist-in-Residence & Visiting Professor in Photography: Calista Lyon

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024, at 6 PM, Shwayder Art Building (SAB), Room 119

Please join the School of Art & Art History for a lecture by Calista Lyon. Lyon's lecture, "Rituals of Re-Connection: Unlearning Colonial Legacy," will provide an overview of her practice.

Photo: Film still from "Where Our Vanished Days Secretly Gather," 2018, Performance, 30 minutes. Photo Credit: Calista Lyon



BFA and BA Spring Exhibitions

Thursday, May 23rd, 2024, from 5 PM to 8 PM, Shwayder Art Building

Join the Vicki Myhren Gallery for an exhibition extravaganza across three spaces: Vicki Myhren Gallery, Davis Gallery, and the Shwayder Lobby.

Photo Credit: Sergey Shmidt at Unsplash.

SAAH Graduation Celebration and Award Ceremony

Friday, June 14th, 2024, at 10 AM, Vicki Myhren Gallery

Join the School of Art & Art History to celebrate the accomplishments of our students at the annual Graduation Celebration and Award Ceremony.

Photo Credit: Giorgio Trovato at Unsplash



05 Stories for Students



Photo: Emma Lynn Lehman conserving "The Alma Mater." Photo Credit: Samantha Hunt-Durán

Lehman and Elgarat conserved a variety of pieces during their internships. Most notably, Lehman conserved the outdoor bronze statue, *The Alma Mater*, sculpted by DU faculty member Enrico Licari in 1928. The statue can be seen in the Haper Humanities Garden on campus.

Elgarat conserved a 1930s painting by Dorothy Lee Everett, addressing a tear located in the bottom left corner. When asked what both students learned from this internship, Lehman noted "The internship focused on making sure that we understood [the] many different parts of conservation and we understood how to work on different types of art."

While Elgarat said, "It was an interesting experience approaching art as a conservator and not as an artist, seeing my work come together from a different perspective and rather than creating art, preserving it, and understanding its artist and history."

DU's Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Pre-Art Conservation combines studio art, art history, language, chemistry, and conservation techniques. Students in the program explore artistic styles and concepts and learn how to protect cultural artifacts for future generations.

Bridging Education & Experience: Pre-Art Conservation Internship

Pre-Art Conservation students, Emma Lynn Lehman and Danielle A. Elgarat, had the opportunity to work with the University Art Collections during a 10-week internal internship in the spring quarter with DU alumna and owner and founder of Mountain Museum Management, Samantha Hunt-Durán. Samantha served as their supervisor while working on projects involving the University Art Collections. Conserving is the act of preserving or restoring an object from loss, damage, or neglect.



Danielle A. Elgarat conserving a painting by Dorothy Lee Everett. Photo Credit: Samantha Hunt-Durán.



Photo: Students view artwork during the opening reception of the "Leap Day" Exhibition. Photo Credit: Antonio Martinez.

Davis Gallery: Leap Day Exhibition

Participating alumni included: Alex Blom, Justin Bravo, Faith Williams Drysten, Alyson Kotarsky, Tanner Minnock, Wangui Maina, Lizzy Pfohl, and Mikaela Fortune.

Students in Professor Catherine Chauvin's course, Topics: Collaborative Printmaking, had the opportunity to extend their artistic boundaries beyond the classroom's scope.

Under the thematic umbrella of March as the "Month of Print," an ode to the rich history of printmaking and its vibrant community of artists, students spoke with and observed DU alumni as they created artworks for Leap Day, an exhibition on view from February 29th to March 24th, 2024, at the Davis Gallery. The exhibition encouraged participating alumni to think about synchronicity with astronomical events, celestial alignments, seasonal changes, and the overarching idea of leaping into new transitions.

Emma Lynn Lehman, a fourth-year undergraduate Pre-Art Conservation student, reflected on how the process of printmaking enabled her to "transform an existing image into something entirely new or even more beautiful."

Theo Hansen, a fourth-year undergraduate Art and Environmental Sciences major, emphasized that the "reproducibility of printmaking makes it easy to create prints and experiment with the final product."

This immersive experience, from inception to finalization, fostered creative collaboration between students and alumni, and provided students with a look at the possibilities available to them post-graduation. As the students interacted with the alumni they gained insights into the professional art world, setting the stage for their continued growth and success beyond the classroom.



Photo: Artist Kathryn Polk speaks with students in the Topics Printmaking class. Photo Credit: Antonio Martinez.

Inaugural Kelleher Visiting Artist: Kathryn Polk

Kathryn Polk, an esteemed American artist renowned for her mastery in printmaking, delves into profound themes such as identity, equality, and liberty through her vibrant imagery. Her artwork serves as a catalyst for important conversations, sparking meaningful reflections in viewers.

Recently, Polk captivated audiences with an enlightening lecture at the Denver Botanic Gardens, offering insights into her career and showcasing a portfolio rich with artistic evolution.

After her lecture, Polk spent a week in March 2024 at the School of Art & Art History, engaging directly with art students to foster their growth and exploration. Through hands-on collaboration, she imparted invaluable wisdom and introduced innovative techniques, empowering students to realize their artistic potential.

One student expressed gratitude for Polk's genuine investment in the next generation of artists. Her mentorship exuded a profound dedication, evident in her enthusiasm, patience, and passion for the craft. Under Polk's guidance, students were encouraged to embrace curiosity, ask questions, and create art that resonates authentically with their identities.

Polk's impactful engagement with the students enriched their educational journey and inspired them to become thoughtful and dynamic contributors to the artistic landscape.

The School of Art & Art History thanks the Kelleher family their generous support. Polk is the first Kelleher Visiting Artist since the Endowment was established in 2023.

Assistant Professor Bilha Moor honored as the 2023 John C. Livingston Lecturer

Photo Credit: Antonio Martinez



06 Faculty & Staff

On October 18, 2023, Assistant Professor of Art Bilha Moor was honored as the John C. Livingston Lecturer. The talk, titled “Shah Abbas I and ‘The Concourse of the Birds’: A New Reading for a Royal Persian Painting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art,” explored manuscript painting in Isfahan (Iran) in the early 17th century when the imperial city was referred to as “half of the world” and attracted European ambassadors, traders, and travelers. “Professor Moor’s research offers important insights into the cultural, artistic and diplomatic relations between China and Persia at a key period of history and we’re pleased to honor her as this year’s Livingston Lecturer,” said Annabeth Headrick, Director, School of Art & Art History.

Bilha Moor, Ph.D., concentrates on Islamic figurative painting, mainly illustrated manuscripts, c. 1300-1700, and on early Islamic Arabic inscriptions in architectural, historical, and religious contexts. At the University of Denver, Moor teaches classes on over a thousand years of art, architecture, and material culture in the Islamic lands, from Spain in the west to India in the east.



Two of Professor Deborah Howard’s bas-relief sculptures are now on view in the Gregg Kivstad Special Events Room in Anderson Academic Commons, Room 290. The installation team included Tom Ward (Mural Artist), Madison Sussman (Assistant Professor - Exhibits Librarian), Damary Beltran (SAAH Studio Tech), and Laurel McMechan (Artist & SAAH Studio Adjunct). Photo Credit: Laurel McMechan



Annette Stott granted Professor Emerita

Congratulations to Professor Annette Stott who was granted Emerita status in June 2023.

Professor Emerita Stott shares on her website bio: “Before retiring from classroom teaching in fall 2022, I taught the history of American Art from the Colonial period to the present with an emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. My approach was racially and ethnically inclusive (Native American, Latinx, Asian American, African American, Euro American are all equally American) and I have a particular interest in women in art (as subjects, creators, patrons, and viewers) as well as the intersection of American religions and art. I served as Advisor for the BFA in pre-Art Conservation, Graduate Director for Art History, and Director of the DU-Iliff Joint Doctoral Program in the Study of Religion.”

Chinn Wang Granted Full Status as Teaching Professor

Congratulations to Professor Chinn Wang who was granted full status as Teaching Professor in June 2023. This significant accomplishment reflects Professor Wang's dedication to excellence in teaching and recognizes the impact she has made within the academic community.

Professor Chinn Wang, MFA, instructs courses in Art Foundations and Printmaking, along with leading advanced-level topic-based studio seminars. Professor Wang's artistic practice explores themes of erasure, lineage, and superstition, in addition to complicated transitions in desire, chance, and mortality. She employs coded visual language and symbolic iconography to further her investigation of legacy, history, and the tethered and cyclical experience of many immigrant families.



Catherine Chauvin promoted to Full Professor

Congratulations to Professor Catherine Chauvin, who has achieved status as a Full Professor in June 2023.

Professor Chauvin, Master Printer and MFA, specializes in lithography, printmaking, and drawing, offering courses on printmaking at the SAAH. Professor Chauvin's artistic focus revolves around the examination of landscapes and human interruptions of landscapes. Her works delve into dialogue about the west and human interaction with our landscapes, creating works that incorporate traditional and experimental printmaking processes.



Baylee Willford

Baylee Willford joined the School of Art & Art History in October 2023 as the Collections Manager of the University Art Collections. She holds an M.A. in Museology and a B.A. in Art History and Art Practices. Willford's post-graduate research focuses on identifying opportunities to include Critical Race Theory and Indigenous Decolonizing Methodologies in museum practices.

In her role, Willford oversees both the physical and digital aspects of the University Art Collections. Working closely with staff, Willford manages various projects including intake processing, surveys, rehousing, conservation, and preservation efforts. She also takes charge of maintaining the collections database and object files. Additionally, Willford plays a crucial role in supporting campus exhibitions by handling transportation, condition reporting, and the unpacking of artworks.

Willford is a notorious hobby hoarder, and can be found crocheting, painting, journaling, and learning her next language (Korean).



Lauren Anuszewski

Lauren Anuszewski serves as the Exhibitions and Events Manager at the Vicki Myhren Gallery and a Research Fellow for the University Art Collections.

Born and raised in Colorado, Lauren's research focuses on the arts of the American West with an emphasis on the intersections of art and settler colonialism. Her Master's Research Paper examined how artist Frank Mechau's use of East Asian artistic influences to represent local Colorado landmarks bridges the local and global and further reflects a modern globalized sense of place. Lauren holds an M.A. in Art History and Museum Studies from the University of Denver and a B.A. in Art History from Barnard College, Columbia University.



Ellen Macfarlane

Welcome to Assistant Professor Ellen Macfarlane who joined the School of Art & Art History in September 2023.

Ellen Macfarlane is Assistant Professor of Art History in American and History of Photography. In her research and teaching, she explores visual culture in the modern era (1900-present), from popular print images to well-known paintings and photographs in the history of art. She received her B.A. from the University of Southern California (2006), an M.A. from Rutgers University (2011), and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University (2018). Her work has been supported by numerous fellowships, notably from the USC Visual Studies Research Institute, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the ACLS/Luce Foundation, the Huntington Library, the Center for Creative Photography, and the Terra Foundation. Her essays have appeared in *American Art*, *Southern California Quarterly*, and in numerous exhibition catalogues.

Welcome to the SAAH!

07 Alumni Updates



Justin Bravo

Justin Bravo (BFA '23) is the Business Coordinator at First@DU, situated within the University of Denver's Student Affairs and Inclusive Excellence (SAIE), Dean of Students Office. First@DU is an initiative dedicated to supporting first-generation, minority, and underrepresented students navigating the university's academic landscape. In his role, Bravo is responsible for managing the administrative tasks, communications, and logistical aspects of the program.

As a first-generation graduate of DU, Bravo understands the significance of fostering a sense of belonging, particularly among students of diverse backgrounds. Hailing from western Nebraska, Bravo obtained an Associate of Arts from the Community College of Denver before pursuing his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Arts at the University of Denver.

During his time at DU, Bravo forged meaningful connections with faculty and staff. These connections provided him with a sense of belonging, opportunities to celebrate milestones, room for experimentation, and acceptance of mistakes.

Additionally, DU gave him the space to be heard and create change within the university community.

Throughout his academic journey, Bravo has been the recipient of a series of prestigious grants such as the DU Art Travel Grant, the CAHSS Research Grant, and the Partners in Education Grant (PiNS) where his research focused on exploring stereotypes, equity, and racial issues. In spring 2023, Bravo's painting *Come and Take It* received the SAAH "Director's Choice Award" and is now installed in the CAHSS Dean's Suite. He says that "These are really special landmarks that not all artists get to experience, so taking time to be proud and excited about where my work can take me is very meaningful."

Bravo shared this about the painting: "*Come and Take It* is a piece that responds to the Insurrection of January 6th. Thinking about my own shock at the events, and [the] collective sense [of] vulnerability felt throughout the nation, made me personally wish for a kind of protection. I wished for a barrier, an army of Chihuahuas that could be there, could protect this symbol of our democracy, could taunt 'Come and Take It' fiercely, fearless."

Sarah Martin



Sarah Martin (MA '19) is the manager of the Art Bridges Collection Loan Partnership at the Art Bridges Foundation in Bentonville, Arkansas. Martin earned a Bachelor in Art History and Computer Science from the University of Boulder in 2017 and her Master in Art History and Museum Studies from the University of Denver in 2019.

Alice Walton founded the Art Bridges Foundation with the goal of increasing access to American art. As the manager of the Art Bridges Collection Loan Partnership, Martin works with other organizations to enable long-term loans to other museums, increasing the amount of their collection that is visible to the public.

Since 2021, Martin has worked with institutions such as Joslyn Art Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the American Folk Art Museum, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, The Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. These collaborations aim to bring greater access to their collections and new opportunities for museums to borrow their artworks.

As the program's manager, Martin said she was “so excited to see the growth of this program and the impact these artworks have in new communities when they might otherwise be in storage.”

Reflecting on her time at DU, Martin highlighted how DU provided her with invaluable hands-on experience at the Vicki Myhren Gallery and Madden Museum of Art. Through these roles, she was able to “gain experience installing artworks, curating exhibitions, developing programming, working with artists, and caring for collections. The breadth of these skills has been so impactful in [her] career and allowed [her] to pursue multiple facets of working in the arts.”

Megan Adams



Megan Adams (MA '22) is the Kenneth R. Trapp Curatorial Fellow at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Oklahoma State University and a Master of Art History and Museum Studies from the University of Denver.

As an art historian, Adams takes an interdisciplinary approach to art scholarship, reflecting her deep-seated interest in exploring relationships between humans and the environment across time, with a special emphasis on contemporary ecological and environmental art. With over four years of experience in curatorial and collections work, with notable contributions to institutions such as the Hampden Art Study Center, Madden Museum of Art, Denver Botanic Garden, and Colby College of Museum of Art.

As a Kenneth R. Trapp Curatorial Fellow, Adams began an 11-month residency collaborating with the Arrowmont gallery and program team to develop and mount exhibitions, conduct collections research, rehouse collection artifacts and archives, care for and maintain the collection, oversee collection projects conducted by 2023-24 Artists-in-Residence, market the gallery and exhibitions, develop artifact provenance, write publications, engage in public speaking, and develop educational materials.

Since 2024, Adams curated an exhibition from Arrowmont's permanent collection titled *Crafting a Collection: The Art Collections of Artist-Collectors Nellie Bergh, Jerry Drown, and Bill Griffith*, showcased in the Sandra J. Blain Galleries from January 8th to March 8th, 2024. Additionally, she coordinated an ancillary exhibition titled *Crafting a Collection: Artist-Collectors* at Arrowmont, which was held at the Arrowmont Gallery in Knoxville throughout the month of January.

Brianna Hayes

Brianna Hayes (BFA '15) is now Exhibitions Project Manager at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas. After completing an Associate of Arts in Photography from San Antonio College, Hayes earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a focus on Photography and Art History from the University of Denver. She went on to complete a Master of Arts in Art History from Studio Arts College International (SACI) and a Master of Arts in Interior Design from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).

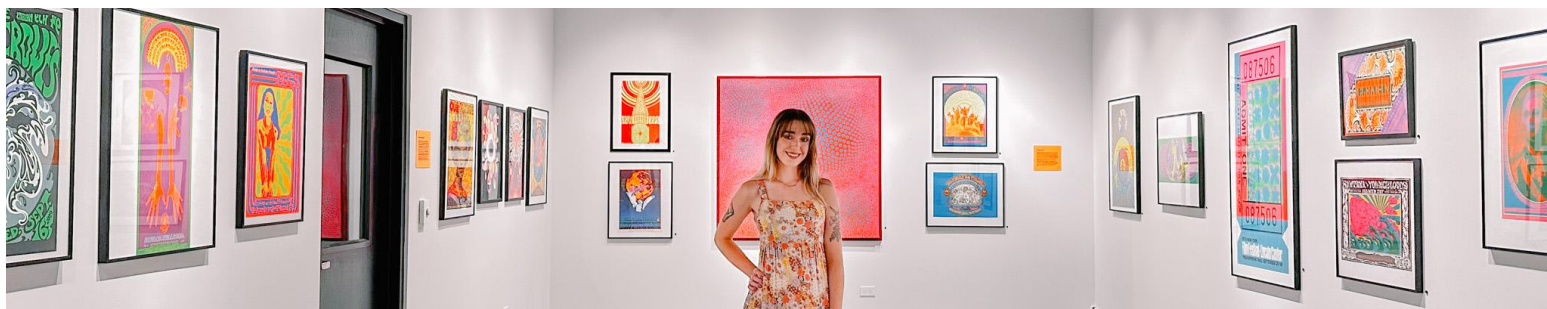
As the Exhibitions Project Manager at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Hayes oversees exhibition planning and execution, including temporary exhibitions, outdoor sculpture installations, permanent gallery rotations, large travelling exhibitions, museum expansion, and gallery installations. Hayes's responsibilities also extend to close collaboration with museum leadership, artists, curators, and vendors to ensure seamless coordination and successful delivery.

Previously, Hayes worked at the Denver Art Museum, Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum, and Colorado Photographic Arts Center. During her time at SACI, Hayes founded SACI Gallery, the New York City branch of Studio Arts College International – Florence, where she focused on "improving enrollment in the graduate degree programs and undergraduate study abroad programs while Curating Contemporary Art & Aiding people to apply for Higher Education in Visual Art." Hayes also oversaw the New York Chelsea-District Gallery Space dedicated to emerging and established artists. Hayes is deeply invested in sharing knowledge and fostering dialogue surrounding fine art.

Professor Deborah Howard shares that "[Hayes] has come so far, and we believed in her 100% along her journey! But I am not surprised by her progress! She has incredible strength, focus and perseverance and passion."

Do you have an alumni update to share? Submit your request to AboutArt@du.edu. We will add it to the next edition of The Annual SAAH Newsletter to be published in April 2025.

Hey!



"Psychedelic Legacies: Poster Art from the 1960s to Today" curated by McKenna Gale
Photo Credit: McKenna Gale



Photo: Deborah Howard speaks about her artwork on display at Whitwell Middle School. In collaboration with Laurel McMechan, Howard created photo-montages which combined images of the paperclips and box car with Howard's portraits of Holocaust survivors.

Deborah Howard Engages with Students about the Holocaust

Last year Deborah Howard was invited to participate at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Children's Holocaust Memorial and the Paper Clips Project in the Whitwell, Tennessee with an exhibition of her artwork. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to the crisis in the middle east.

However, Howard still traveled to Whitwell in December 2023 to speak with the children about her portraits of Holocaust survivors now on display in Whitwell Middle School. Howard shared insights about her art and led an art project with a group of students that was centered on butterflies, a choice inspired by the butterfly sculptures surrounding the memorial. These sculptures draw from the poem "I never saw another butterfly" composed by a Jewish boy before his death. The poem is now engraved in stone at the memorial. Professor Howard played a pivotal role in helping students understand the profound connection between art and remembrance.

The Paper Clips Project began in 1998 in Whitwell, Tennessee. At the request of Whitwell Middle School Principal Linda Hooper, language arts teacher Sandra Roberts and associate principal David Smith initiated a voluntary after-school Holocaust education program to teach tolerance and diversity. When the students were confronted with the enormity of the Holocaust's six million victims, they decided to collect six million paper clips to symbolize each person who perished. The choice of paper clips stemmed from the student's discovery that Norwegians wore paper clips as a silent protest and a symbol of resistance against Nazi occupation during World War II.

Over the years, the project has expanded, culminating in the 2001 unveiling of a Children's Holocaust Memorial, featuring an authentic German boxcar filled with a portion of more than 30 million paper clips eventually collected. The Paper Clips Project transformed a mundane office supply into a powerful emblem of resistance.



Photo: German boxcar, Children's Holocaust Memorial at Whitwell Middle School, Whitwell, Tennessee.

Peggy Keeran Retires



Farewell to Peggy Keeran, Arts and Humanities Reference Librarian, who has decided to embark on a well-deserved retirement after 35 years of dedicated service to the University of Denver. In recognition of her many contributions to the SAAH community, Catherine Chauvin presented Keeran with a framed print of her work on behalf of the School of Art & Art History.

Michael Levine-Clark, Dean of Libraries at the University of Denver, shares that “Peggy came to what was then Penrose Library in 1988 as the Business Librarian, a role she held until 1991, when she became the Arts and Humanities Reference Librarian – the position she has today. She has always stepped in to support the library in whatever way she could, often learning new skills to help fill a gap.”



Lanius Lecture Recap: Lee Ae-ryung

Lee Ae-ryung (이애령), the Director of the National Gwangju Museum (국립광주박물관) since 2003, took the stage on March 12th, 2024, as the presenter for the school’s sixth Lanius Lecture.

“Early in her time at DU, Peggy was responsible for setting up our first LAN and earliest CD-ROMs. At various points she was facilitator of the reference department, the Interim Access Services Librarian, and the interim Collections Librarian. She has chaired countless committees – especially notable is the Faculty Appointments, Promotions, and Appeals (FAPA) Committee which she led for many years.... Throughout her time at DU, Peggy has been a tireless advocate for students and faculty, especially in the departments she serves in CAHSS, and many of the resources in our collections and the services we provide are there because she responded to a need expressed by students or faculty.”

In lieu of a retirement celebration, Keeran suggests considering financial donations to the SAAH. When contributing under any designation, kindly note in the comments that this contribution is intended for the “SAAH gift” and check the box to honor someone, adding Peggy Keeran’s name to it.

The presentation titled, “The Beauty of Buncheong Ceramics.” The lecture explores buncheong (분청), a traditional form of Korean stoneware. The art flourished in kilns across South Korea for approximately 150 years during the early Joseon (조선) dynasty before yielding to white porcelain. This exquisite art form encapsulates Korean spirits, aesthetic sensibilities, and everyday life in a manner distinct from other ceramic traditions. Director Lee (이관장님) delved into the unique allure of Buncheong ware (분청사기), shedding light on its historical context and the artisans behind its creation.

Director Lee Ae-ryung's fascination with Korean buncheong traces back to her involvement in the 1992 Gyeryongsan Hakbong-ri Kiln Site Excavation (공주 학봉리 요지), a collaborative effort between the National Museum of Korea (국립중앙박물관) and the Hoam Art Museum (호암미술관). Since then, she has dedicated much of her career to publishing numerous research reports on the topic. Director Lee Ae-ryung's Instagram can be found [here](#).

The Lanius Lecture series is a platform for distinguished artists, scholars, and curators specializing in areas historically marginalized by historical art and institutional museum narratives to share their insights with the DU campus. By spotlighting these often-overlooked areas of focus, the lecture series underscores DU School of Art & Art History’s commitment to amplifying diverse voices and perspectives.

Vicki Myhren Gallery: Looking Back

Hung Liu: Control and Freedom

Hung Liu (1948–2021) grew up in China during the Communist regime of Mao Zedong before immigrating to the United States in 1984. Liu’s artwork brings together historic photographs, Socialist Realist murals, and the artist’s signature paint drips to recover the histories of people with “no name, no bio, and no story.” In her empathetic portrayals of refugees, prostitutes, soldiers, and laborers, Liu reinstates those who have been erased from Chinese memory and imbues them with dignity and humanity. Her works reveal art as a tool of control as well as freedom, with the ability to both perpetuate and reframe official historical narratives. Produced over the last thirty years, the paintings, prints, and tapestries featured in this exhibition underscore the depths of Liu's talent and demonstrate her incredible range as she perfectly captures the humanity of her subjects.



Photo: Opening reception for “Hung Liu: Control and Freedom,” January 11, 2024.
Photo Credit: Antonio Martinez



We Are Us: Drawings of Lee Conklin

Though best known for his concert posters, Lee Conklin (b. 1941) is first and foremost a draftsman. *We Are Us* cast new light on Conklin’s rich career and showcases his varied styles over fifty years. A playful visionary, Conklin fashions worlds of exploration for the viewer’s pleasure. His drawings are whimsical, profound, and generous. They invite the viewer to play, uncover stories and explore adventures in their imagination.

We Are Us: Drawings of Lee Conklin was curated by Professor Scott B. Montgomery.



Photo: Opening reception for “Gonkar Gyatso: Intimacy and Immediacy,” at the Vicki Myhren Gallery, Sept. 28 - Nov. 26, 2023. Photo Credit: Isaac Maldonado

Gonkar Gyatso: Intimacy and Immediacy

This exhibition featured nearly 200 drawings by the acclaimed contemporary Tibetan artist Gonkar Gyatso. These “daily doodles” reflect the massive impact of COVID-19 (and its subsequent political implications), other global events, and personal reflections. In addition to the drawings, the artist constructed three new contemporary Buddha sculptures, *The Great Equalizer*, specifically for the DU exhibition.

We were pleased to have the artist attend the opening reception and host a tour for the Tibetan Association of Colorado. The exhibition will travel to Southern Utah University in Summer 2024.

Gonkar Gyatso: Intimacy and Immediacy was curated by Assistant Professor Sarah Magnatta.



Installation view of “Gonkar Gyatso: Intimacy and Immediacy” at the Vicki Myhren Gallery, Sept. 28 - Nov. 26, 2023. Photo Credit: Antonio Martinez

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DU ART is a volunteer organization composed of community members, artists, art historians, collectors, educators, DU alumni, and SAAH faculty who passionately support the School of Art & Art History (SAAH) at the University of Denver. Providing scholarships, travel grants, special equipment, educational experiences, and an endowment for ongoing programs supporting SAAH. DU ART also organizes art-related events, hands-on art experiences, and opening receptions at the Vicki Myhren Gallery.

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Ragnar, the Portuguese Water Dog, wants to know... do you have a story idea for The Annual SAAH Newsletter? Or an announcement, event, or opportunity to promote to the faculty, staff, or students of SAAH? Please submit your request to [AboutArt@du.edu](mailto>AboutArt@du.edu). The next edition of The Annual SAAH Newsletter will be published in April 2025.

Stay up to date with the latest School of Art & Art History happenings by subscribing to The Annual SAAH Newsletter.

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This year's newsletter was made possible through the dedication of graduate student employee Amya N. Moore, Digital Media & Design Specialist, and undergraduate student Photographers Antonio Martinez and Isaac Maldonado. A big thank you to all who contributed their time, stories, and images!