

ART DEPARTMENT

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

FALL 2021
SPRING 2022



Message from the Art Department

Hello, Alumni and Friends of the Gonzaga Art Department. This last year has entailed a number of changes for us with several new colleagues joining the department (including a new department chair for 2022-23, Dr. Rob Donnelly from the History Department), new course offerings, and a packed and exciting exhibition schedule at the Gonzaga University Urban Arts Center (GUUAC) in downtown Spokane. The 2021-22 academic year opened with an exquisite retrospective show of work by emeritus professor Mary Farrell at the GUUAC and concluded with an impressive senior art exhibit featuring the work of Brianna Bruce, Brang Dee, Opheila Duncan, Shannon Law, and Megan Rusby.

We look forward to another dynamic and inspiring year in the department as we begin the search for a new assistant professor in painting and drawing and graduate our first students in the B.F.A. program.

Be well!

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ART DEPT. HIGHLIGHTS

Spokane Print Fest, the annual celebration of prints and works on paper, had its fourth installment in April 2022. With activities happening at the GUUAC, the Spokane Print & Publishing Center, The Hive of the Spokane Public Library, and Terrain, the celebration included the Siete Printers, an artist collective comprised of seven artists from Texas and Spokane. The Siete Printers offered a series of workshops, lectures, and exhibitions at the different participating institutions. As part of the Spokane Print Fest, the GUUAC featured the Regional Student Print Invitation exhibition, showing works by students from Whitworth University, Eastern Washington University, Gonzaga University, Spokane Falls Community College, Boise State University, and Washington State University.

The Art Department hosted 19 visiting artists in 2021-22 who visited individual art classes and/or gave public lectures in the Jundt Auditorium or at the GUUAC.

Art faculty and staff supported and/or coordinated seven exhibitions at the GUUAC



Student Art from New “Art Fusion” Course

during AY 2022-23, with two of the exhibitions, *Home: Imagining the Irrevocable* (February 2022) and *No More Stolen Sisters* (March 2022), specifically focused on artists from marginalized communities. *No More Stolen Sisters*, guest curated by local photographer/videographer Jeff Ferguson, was especially conceived as a social justice action intended to bring greater community and Gonzaga-student awareness around the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). Well over 200 people attended the exhibit during its opening receptions on March 5 and 6.

A new mixed-media course, “Art Fusion,” was offered for the first time in spring 2022 to great success and will become a regular spring-semester offering. Adjunct instructor and local performance and mixed-media artist Jamie Nadherny taught the course. She led the students in a collaborative group project in which they each created a cast of one part of their body and assembled their castings--made from an array of materials (wax, paper, plaster, etc.)--into a single “body” displayed in the Art Dept.’s Shoe Box Gallery.

The film program has added another course to its curriculum. VART 272 Intro to Filmmaking will be offered for the first time in spring 2023 by Prof. McCormick. The Jundt 108 classroom (previously called the “design room”) is now a design Mac “lab” for the Digital Arts Foundation course (previously called “Design Fundamentals”).



Student Art from New “Art Fusion” Course

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Mary Farrell (emeritus) recently launched a website of her work: www.maryfarellart.com. In 2021, she had a solo retrospective exhibit at the Gonzaga University Urban Arts Center (GUUAC), and her work was included in six group shows. This year, her work was or will be featured in three invitational shows. One of her prints was used for the cover of the *Trestle Creek Review*, #37 / 2022, North Idaho College's literary magazine.

Reinaldo Gil Zambrano is the recipient of the Gold Alumni Award from his alma mater, The College of Idaho, and will be giving a lecture there in October. He participated in a group exhibition called "Nuestra Tierra/Our Land," curated by Joseph Velazquez, as part of the Latinx Heritage Month at York College Gallery in York, Pennsylvania. He co-curated an exhibition with Professor Carl Richardson titled "A Glimpse in the Matrix" at the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, featuring work from 12 national printmakers.

Hello Print Friend, a bilingual printmaking podcast hosted by **Miranda Metcalf** and **Reinaldo Gil Zambrano**, has reached 12,000 weekly downloads and more than 200 episodes. This year, Reinaldo added a video docuseries featuring studio visits with 18 print artists from a 5,000+ miles road trip across the United States. The docuseries releases a new episode on YouTube on the first Friday of the month and can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hGOVcPJpgw&t=16s-Spokane>

This August **Tobe Harvey** displayed paintings in two separate locations. His recent paintings were exhibited at Saranac Art Projects alongside the work of the artist collective, Datum (Harry Mestyanek, Dustin M. Regul, & Richie Masias). His work was also included in the Terrain Gallery Fundraiser event in

Spokane. You can find his paintings reviewed at Dog and Pony. <https://www.dogandpony.art/dp-critz> In May of 2023, Tobe will be creating an installation for the Jundt Art Museum's Drawn to the Wall event.

Alexandra Iosub is our fall adjunct in printmaking. She has been creating a new body of work inspired by her stay in California in 2021 and 2022. Some of these pieces will be on display in October at Emerge Gallery in Coeur d'Alene. This past August, her small tapestries were exhibited in the fiber art show at the same gallery. You can find more of her work at www.alexandraiosub.com.

Lena Lopez Schindler became a lecturer in the department in Fall 2021. She has had work in four exhibitions since January 2022, including two exhibitions at Saranac Art Projects. Currently she has artworks in Over the Line at Lewis and Clark College Center for Art and History in Lewiston, Idaho and in 10 x 10 x 10 Tieton, at Tieton Arts & Humanities, Tieton, Washington, through October 7, 2022. This is the second time her work has been accepted in this annual juried international exhibition. Lena hosted four Kreielsheimer visiting artists during spring 2022 and helped organize the senior exhibition at the GUUAC last April.

In 2021, **Matt McCormick** was awarded the Preservation-Fund Award from the Sundance Institute to remaster his 2001 16mm short film *The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal*. The award is given to 2-3 filmmakers each year, allowing them to update an older film and bring it to contemporary technical standards. *The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal* is a short experimental documentary that received worldwide acclaim 20 years ago and purports a mock hypothesis to address questions of privilege surrounding aesthetic value. Upon

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS *continued*

completion, the film was then invited to screen at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival as part of their 40th anniversary shorts program.

The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal originally premiered at the 2002 festival. *The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal* has received positive reviews from media outlets around the world, including *The New York Times* and *Art Forum*.

Lastly, his short film *The Deepest Hole*, which premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, continues to screen at festivals around the world.

More information about *The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal* can be found here: <https://www.mattmccormick.art/subconscious-art-of-graffiti-removal/>

More information about Sundance's 40th Anniversary Shorts Program can be found here: <https://www.sundance.org/blogs/what-to-watch-at-the-2022-festival-40-short-films-celebrating-our-40th-anniversary-2/>

In August, **Harry Mestyanek** displayed recent ceramic works at the Saranac Art Projects Gallery as a member of the artist collective, Datum (Harry Mestyanek, Dustin M. Regul, & Richie Masias). On September 8th, Harry exhibited some of his sculptural ceramic works, including his interactive piece, 'Your Town', at Chewelah's Art Walk in their Spotlight Gallery. In December, Harry will display works in Trackside Gallery's annual Cup of Joy Invitational Show. He is currently preparing for the July 2023 Saranac Art Projects gallery show, exhibiting alongside Mariah Boyle. Harry was also recently hired as the department's new art technician.

Shalon Parker co-led the Gonzaga study abroad program Spirituality and the Arts of England in London during late spring 2022 and traveled to Germany and Italy with her family. While in Italy, she had a chance to experience the Venice Biennale for the first time. In February 2023 she will be giving a talk for the University of Memphis Department of Art and Art History.

Aubrey Susens joined the Art Department as a Program Assistant in August 2022. She has previously worked at Providence in Health Information Management. She has a bachelor's degree in Conflict Management from Kent State University. Spokane is home and she's happy to be here at Gonzaga. Welcome, Aubrey!



New Program Assistant
Aubrey Susens

ALUMNI NEWS

After a 22-year career developing visual effects for feature films in Los Angeles (*Spider-Man 2* and *3*, *X-Men 2*, *Megamind*, *Big Hero 6*, *Moana*, *Spider-Man into the Spideverse*), **Aaron McComas** ('97) moved into academia. In February 2021 he was appointed to the position of Associate Chair of Visual Effects for the Savannah College of Art & Design at the Atlanta campus.

Kelli Wescott McCannell ('02) recently took on the role of the first Executive Director of Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!), a national organization mobilizing elders to support abortion access. Kelli also bought a home in Rockland, ME, and lives with her three sons and husband. To keep her art alive, she quilts, cross stitches, and dances.

Cat Dazé ('08) illustrated a children's book which addresses the topic of home and was inspired by a Jesuit Volunteer corps year in service working with homeless youth in Portland, OR. A book sample and author write-up are available on Handbyhandmade.com.

Steven Prohira ('09), an assistant professor of physics at the University of Kansas, was recently awarded a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, one of the most prestigious honors bestowed on scholars, artists and writers in the United States. Steven received the award to fund his research on the development of new tools that can detect subatomic particles. More information about his research can be found at: <https://www.macfound.org/fellows/class-of-2022/steven-prohira#searchresults>

Congratulations, Steven!



SENIOR ART AWARD

This year's Senior Art Award recipient is Opheila Duncan. Opheila is from Spokane, Washington and is pursuing a B.F.A. in Art and a minor in English and will graduate in the fall of 2022. Opheila didn't grow up making art on her own. The art that she made was always an assignment for a class, so it was not something that stood out to her until her senior year of high school when she had to start thinking of her next step in life. Art was always in the back of her mind, and it wasn't something she thought she could seriously do until her first art teacher at Gonzaga, Laura Truitt, encouraged her. Professor Truitt made her believe that doing art was a career possibility. Opheila's unique and powerful art was displayed in the 2022 Senior Art Show at the GUUAC last spring and will be on display again in the fall in her B.F.A. solo exhibit.

SENIOR SHOWCASE

A senior art exhibit at the Gonzaga University Urban Arts Center (GUUAC) open to the general public finally happened this year! The global pandemic prevented the general public from seeing in-person the senior art exhibits of 2020 and 2021. The artist walk-through of the exhibit on May 6 had over 50 people in attendance. The senior art majors created an outstanding exhibit that was truly thoughtful in presentation and execution.





Brang Dee



Shannon Law



ART STUDENTS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Over the past two semesters, three Gonzaga art students Sage Steele, Elena Stoll, and Brianna (Bri) Covert have interned at Gonzaga Family Haven, a new housing community in the Logan Neighborhood for low-income and/or previously homeless families. Last spring Sage and Bri curated and installed artwork by local artist Jamie Thompson in the community space at Gonzaga Family Haven and, as of September 2022, Olivia Evans is the featured artist. Elena and Sage have been able to curate an exhibit around Evans's work focusing on themes of family and motherhood, as well as connections to nature, which align with permanent artworks in the space by Spokane tribe members. Based on the art on display in the community space, Sage and Elena have been designing and leading after-school art-making activities for the children and parents who live at Gonzaga Family Haven.

Bri Covert also has been working as a Color Your Dreams art instructor at the Juvenile Detention Centers (ESD 101) in Spokane County and Medical Lake since January 2022. She spends her Friday afternoons teaching a small group of students how to use a variety of mediums, engaging them in a range of techniques. It is Bri's goal to create a low-risk environment that encourages creativity, experimentation, and exploration. Additionally, Bri hopes her Friday art lessons provide not just the opportunity to learn new techniques and engage with new materials, but to offer a lighthearted and stress-free space for the students.

