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Calendar of events



April 8: KCAI's free weekly lecture series, "Current Perspectives," continues with a panel discussion about the exhibition "Arrival/Departure" at 7 p.m. in Epperson Auditorium. "Arrival/Departure" is on view at La Esquina through May 22 and is curated by Jonah Criswell ('05 painting) and Maria Buszek, assistant professor of art history. *Pictured: "Mind," Alexis Semtner, 2009 oil on canvas, 48 inches by 60 inches.*

April 13: ArtSounds presents “HEADSinTALES” at 7:30 p.m. in Epperson Auditorium. The performance features the members of “Creative Collaboration,” a UMKC Conservatory class drawing from departments at UMKC and KCAI.

April 15: Franklin Oviedo will give a presentation at 7 p.m. in Epperson Auditorium as part of the “Current Perspectives” free lecture series. Oviedo graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute’s School of Design in 2004. He is a partner at Liquid 9, a production and post house that handles all aspects of the commercial video production process, and :31, a creative boutique with its niche in the entertainment industry.

April 17-May 15: The “2010 B.F.A. Exhibition” opens April 17 at the H&R Block Artspace, 16 E. 43rd St. A sneak preview for KCAI students, faculty and staff will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. April 16. A closing reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. May 14 and the exhibition closes May 15.

Promotions for three members of KCAI faculty

Maria Buszek, Ph.D., assistant professor of art history, and Laura Berman, M.F.A., assistant professor of printmaking, have been granted tenure by the KCAI board of trustees and both have been promoted to the rank of associate professor. Diana Heise, M.F.A., special instructor in photography and digital filmmaking, has been promoted to special assistant professor. The actions were taken at the March 17 meeting of the KCAI board of trustees.

Book celebrates artist Margot Peet



Work by Margot Peet (1903-1995), who studied with painter Thomas Hart Benton at KCAI in the 1930s, is featured in "Discovering Margot Peet: The Artist and the Art World of Kansas City." Peet's daughter, Margot Peet Foster, recently donated two copies of the book to the Jannes Library. M.J. Poehler, library director, said, "This is really an important book and piece of scholarship."

Published earlier this year by Posterity Press in Chevy Chase, Md., the book includes a foreword by Marc F. Wilson, director of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and essays by art historian and curator Marianne Berardi, former director of the Albrecht-Kemper Museum in St. Joseph, Mo., and Henry Adams, professor of American art at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and former curator at the Nelson-Atkins Museum, where he directed the 1999 exhibition celebrating the centennial of Benton's birth. For more information about Peet, visit www.margotpeet.com. Pictured: "My Garden Path with Poppies," Margot Peet, 1955, oil on canvas board, 14 inches by 18 inches.

Here's your chance to receive an instant art review

The Urban Culture Project and Grand Arts will host art critic Lori Waxman April 15 through 17. Artists are invited to make appointments for an opportunity to be reviewed during her "60 wrd/min art critic" performances at the Urban Culture Project Space, 21 E. 12th St. "Brief, serious reviews guaranteed to all artists on a first-come, first-served basis," claimed the press release about the event. Starting April 6, artists can make appointments for reviews by contacting the critic at critic@60wradmin.org, at which point additional details will be provided. During her performances, Waxman will meet one by one with artists who have signed up for appointments. She will write a review of their work and post the review on the gallery wall, all within about 25 minutes per artist. The "60 wrd/min art critic" is a project of the Creative Capital/Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant Program. For details, visit <http://60wradmin.org/home.html>.

In memoriam

Word arrived this week from Mark Singer ('74 design) that Leonard Bacich, assistant professor of design at KCAI from 1969-75, died Feb. 3. Singer, who lives in Penn Valley, Penn., posted the following tribute to Bacich on his blog: "My mentor, colleague and very good friend Lenny Bacich has passed away ... For those who know me, know what a positive influence he had on my life ... I miss him already." For more information, visit <http://joshuabenlongo.blogspot.com/2010/02/leonard-bacich-has-passed-away.html>; <http://www.tributes.com/show/Leonard-Bacich-87884677>; or <http://home.earthlink.net/~lrbacich/lrbacich.pd>

Student updates: Ryan LaFerney and Brandon Lyon

Ryan LaFerney (senior, art history and interdisciplinary arts) has had an article reviewing Citygarden sculpture park in St. Louis published by Review.com, an online magazine. To read the review, visit

<http://ereview.org/2010/03/22/citygarden-civic-jewel-of-st-louis/>.



Brandon Lyon (sophomore, graphic design) is one of four winners of Poster Clash 2010. A national panel of judges reviewed all the entries and narrowed down the field to 64 posters. Those 64 contestants entered an online competition where the public voted. The concept for this year's Poster Clash was "Change One Thing." *Pictured: Brandon Lyon's winning poster design.*

Alumni updates: Hector Casanova, Maria Creyts and Nicole Emanuel



Hector Casanova ('98 illustration), an illustrator for The Kansas City Star, has won first place in the illustrative graphics category of the National Headliner Awards, which are sponsored by the Press Club of Atlantic City, N.J. For more information about Casanova, visit www.hectorcasanova.net. Pictured: "Untitled," Hector Casanova, 2003.

Maria Creyts ('86 painting) has work on view through April 30 in a juried exhibition at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. She also wrote reviews, published at Review.com, about an installation by Holly Swangstu ('95 fiber) at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art in St. Joseph, Mo., and about batiks collected by Ann Dunham, mother of President Barack Obama. To read the reviews, visit <http://ereview.org/2010/02/14/brightness-warmth-enveloping/> and <http://ereview.org/2010/03/09/batiksof-fame/>. For more information about Creyts, visit <http://mariaaurora.net/home.html>.

Nicole Emanuel ('95 painting) has organized a group show that celebrates Kansas City women in the arts and explores "the unique experiences and challenges women artists face as they bring together motherhood, careers and artistic fulfillment." "Her Art: Who Does She Think She Is," a group visual art exhibition, opened Friday and continues through May 28 at the Leedy-Voulkos Arts Center, 2012 Baltimore Ave. A First Friday reception at the center is planned for 6 to 9 p.m. May 7.

Related events include a brown-bag lecture at noon April 7 in Room 303 at the Miller Nichols Library, 800 E. 51st St., on the campus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where Caitlin Horsmon, UMKC assistant professor of film and media arts, will give a lecture entitled "From Guy-Blanche to Bigelow: Women Behind the Camera in Hollywood Cinema."

The Tivoli Theater, 4050 Pennsylvania, Ave., will be the scene at 6:30 p.m. April 13 for a showing of the documentary “Who Does She Think She Is,” followed by a panel discussion. Tickets are \$4 and will be available at the theater box office. Women participating in the panel discussions include Maria Buszek, Ph.D., assistant professor of art history at KCAI; Ritchie Kaye, a Kansas City artist; Dr. Jennifer Martin, Hall Family Foundation Professor of Theater at UMKC; and Linda Rodriguez, vice president of the Latino Writers Collective and founder of the Kansas City Women Writers Series. The documentary trailer is available at www.whodoesshethinksheis.net.

Another discussion is planned for 6 p.m. April 27 at the Diastole Center, 2501 Holmes St., where the topic will be “Artist Salon: The State of Women in the Arts in Kansas City.” The facilitator will be Renee Blanche, host of “Night Tides” on KCUR-FM Radio. To attend the Diastole Center event, RSVP to 816-235-1638.

Faculty updates: Maria Buszek



Maria Buszek, assistant professor of art history, recently presented a lecture entitled “Feminist art, popular culture, and ‘the potential of desire’” at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh as part of their Women’s History Month events.

In other news, The Feminist Art Project’s day of sessions, curated by Buszek, was included in the “2010 Annual Conference Wrap Up” feature in the College Art Association newsletter. The special sessions featured panels that focused on pressing feminist issues in studio art, art history and art criticism. In the above photo, The Feminist Art Project volunteers are wearing T-shirts designed and

printed by KCAI printmaking juniors Danelle Boskovich, Naomi O'Donnell and Kelsey Pike. *Pictured: From left to right, art historian Joanna Gardner-Huggett of DePaul University, Erica Leohner ('08 painting and creative writing), Maria Buszek and James Hull, undergraduate art history major at DePaul University.*

Calls for artists

The RA Group, which is producing an event called "Goddess" for May 8, invites KCAI students to "get involved on a creative level throughout the event's development." Quixotic Fusion and PIQUEonline.com are two organizations that are collaborating on the event, which is described as "a fresh nightlife experience pairing fashion, digital projection and world class DJ Sophia Lin with the local artistry of Quixotic." The event itself starts at 9 p.m. May 8 at the Foundation, 1221 Union Ave., and continues until 2 a.m. the following morning. If you are interested in being involved, contact creative director Robert Anthony of the RA Lifestyle Design Group at robert@piqueonline.com.

Friends of Johnson County Development Supports is recruiting KCAI students to participate in its "Restyle Runway" competition May 7. The theme of the competition is reduce, reuse, restyle. Entrants will create collections of work-appropriate attire styled from garments from Goodwill stores. Contestants may submit multiple collections comprised of two to six ensembles. The deadline to submit collections is **April 7**. Submitted collections will be judged by local design and fashion professionals, with approximately 20 collections selected for the fashion show competition. Cash prizes of \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place and \$500 for third place will be awarded. Friends of JCDS is a nonprofit organization that promotes charitable giving to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities who live in our community. For more information, visit www.friendsofjcds.com or contact Brenda Youness, event chair, at brenda-youness@kc.rr.com.

The Kimball Art Center, a nonprofit community art center based in Park City, Utah, is accepting applications for the inaugural year of its RELEVANT 2010 artist-in-residence program. Undergraduate and graduate students working in the media of sculpture, painting and mixed media are eligible to apply for residency, which takes place Aug. 1-8. During the residency, students will be mentored by leading artists in their field, connect with industry experts and meet nationally acclaimed gallery owners. Students also will work on an individual project, which will be auctioned at the 41st Annual Park City Kimball Arts Festival. Applications are due **April 8**. More information is available at www.kimballartcenter.org/events/relevant-2010/.

The Northtown Art Market is accepting applications for artists to show and sell

their work at the Second Saturdays Art Market in North Kansas City. The events will be held May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14 and Sept. 11. Application deadlines are 30 days before the event. The deadline for the first Art Market is **April 9**. For more information and to download an application, visit <http://www.nkc.org/pview.aspx?id=341&catID=10>.

Hawthorne Plaza, located on the southwest corner of 119th Street and Roe Avenue, Leawood, Kan., is hosting a spring art fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 1. The deadline for entries is **April 16**. Late entries will be considered if space is still available. For more information, contact Susan Rix at s-scents@s-scents.com or 913-469-1737.

KCAI students, faculty and staff are invited to submit artwork to be included in a 125th anniversary time capsule. Two-dimensional artwork that is signed and dated on 11-inch by 17-inch paper will be accepted. Entries are due **May 14** to the Student Life Office or the Living Center Office. For more information, contact Gina Golba at ggolba@kcai.edu or Zoe Pedziwiatr at zpedziwiatr@kcai.edu.

The Scott Joplin Foundation in Sedalia, Mo., has announced a contest for an original piece of cover art for the 30th annual Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival and the Sedalia Sesquicentennial. The artwork will be used on 50 limited-edition copies of the winning entry to the Ragtime Composition Competition. The musical piece will be entitled "The Train Town Rag," in tribute to Sedalia's history as a railroad center. The winning artist will receive \$250. The deadline to submit artwork is **May 31**. Preliminary judging will take place prior to the annual Scott Joplin Festival (June 2-6). Finalist artwork will be on display throughout the festival, and the winner will be announced in a live setting Sunday afternoon, June 6. Entries must be 17 inches wide by 22 inches tall, may be black-and-white or color, and must be able to be reproduced cleanly to 8.5 inches wide by 11 inches tall. Entries should be sent to the Scott Joplin Foundation, 321 S. Ohio, Sedalia, MO 65301, ATTN: Composition. For more information, contact ragtimer@scottjoplin.org.

Local KCAI-related exhibitions



Blue Gallery – A group exhibition of select works from gallery artists is showing through May 3 at Blue Gallery, 118 Southwest Blvd. Alumni Rich Bowman ('91 design) and Brad Williams ('09 painting) are featured in the show. For more information, visit <http://bluegalleryonline.com>. Pictured: “Danielle (Echo),” Brad Williams, oil on canvas, 47 inches by 70 inches.

Dolphin – “Sky Way,” an exhibition of work by James Brinsfield, a lecturer in the painting department, and “Cosmos,” featuring work Jim Leedy, retired professor of sculpture, are showing through May 8 at the Dolphin Gallery, 1600 Liberty St. For more information, visit www.thedolphingallery.com.



La Esquina – “Arrival/Departure” opens with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. April 9 that will feature a performance by Leone Reeves ('03 ceramics and creative writing) and gallery talks with the artists. The exhibition, which is curated by Maria Buszek, assistant professor of art history, and Jonah Criswell ('05 painting), “brings together early career artists who recognize Kansas City as the site of their first significant contact with the art world, and as the place that launched them on careers as professional artists,” said Kate Hackman, associate director of the Charlotte Street Foundation. Artists featured in the show include Cortney Andrews ('05 photo/new media), Anthony Baab ('04 painting), Jonah Criswell, Peter Demos ('04 painting), Dennis Doty ('05 interdisciplinary arts), Rachel Frank ('03 painting), Lauren McEntire ('03 fiber), Martin Murphy ('05 interdisciplinary arts), Shawn Powell ('05 painting and art history), Leone Reeves and Alexis Semtner ('06 painting). “Arrival/Departure” will remain on display through May 22. *Pictured: “Four Wigs,” Cortney Andrews, 2009, C-print, 20 inches by 30 inches.*

Jan Weiner Gallery – In honor of the 125th anniversary of the Kansas City Art Institute, work by KCAI alumni and faculty will be on view at Jan Weiner’s studio, 4800 Liberty St., through April by appointment (816-550-1188). Featured artists include Christopher Leitch ('84 fiber); Joe Keesee ('09 photography); John Pittman ('02 illustration); Sherry Cromwell-Lacy ('72 painting); Jonah Criswell ('05 painting); John Ferry ('92 illustration); Gary Sutton, professor of photography; Wilbur Niewald (B.F.A. '49 and M.F.A. '53, painting), professor emeritus of painting; Russell Ferguson ('88 printmaking), associate professor and director of the School of the Foundation Year; Stretch ('87 sculpture); Michael Smirl ('67 painting); George Timock, professor of ceramics; Yvonne Rosser ('76 fiber); John Ochs; and Robert Russell ('61 painting).



KCAI Crossroads Gallery – “Defining *things*, not words,” an exhibition of work by Andrew Lyles (senior, painting), is showing from 6 to 9 p.m. April 9 and 16 at the KCAI Crossroads Gallery, 1908 Main St. Lyles describes the show as “very open to the viewer's interpretation of what is presented by myself. It's like having a collection of marbles and suddenly they drop before you. You begin to pick them up, but you start out by choosing your favorite marbles. In that act of picking up your marbles you begin to define things and not words.” *Pictured: “Untitled,” Andrew Lyles.*

Monarch Gallery – The third annual “Glee Medicine Show: curing cynical disorders in art” is on view through April 16 at Monarch Gallery, 3829 Main St. Curated by Lori Bury ('09 interdisciplinary arts), Amanda Bowles (senior, painting) and Christina Carnes, the exhibition “seeks to provide an art experience that engages the senses and soul of both the ‘savvy gallery goer’ and ‘normal joe,’” said the curators. The gallery is open by appointment. For more information or to make an appointment, call 816-304-9208.

Paragraph Gallery and Project Space – “You’re Such a Good Sport” is showing through May 6 at Paragraph Gallery and Project Space, 21 and 23 E. 12th St. Michael Schonhoff, assistant curator, community outreach and exhibition management at the H&R Block Artspace, is the project’s manager and curator. The exhibition is divided into two parts, a group show in Paragraph Gallery and “The Training Room” in Project Space.

The group show at Paragraph includes work Robert Heishman ('09 photography and art history), Megan Mantia ('06 printmaking and art history), Mike Hill ('96 photography), Miki Baird, former adjunct professor of sculpture, Brett Reif,

assistant professor in the School of the Foundation Year, and Megan Gallant ('02 sculpture).

“The Training Room” at Project Space will host a series of consecutive short-term projects that exemplify dedicated “practice” or investigate relationships between art and sport in a participatory, time-based manner. The schedule includes: “Camp Fan” by Jaclyn Senne (junior, painting) and Stephen C. Proski (senior, painting) on April 8 and 9; “Baseball Project Live” by Mike Hill ('96 photography) on April 10; “Every Body Has Community” April 13 and 14; and “60 wrd/min art critic” by Lori Waxman April 15 through 17. In conjunction with the exhibition, WHB 810 Sports Radio will broadcast live from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 9 at Paragraph Gallery. For more information, visit www.charlottestreet.org.



Piper Lofts Space – “Alchemy” is a group exhibition of recent work by KCAI photography and digital filmmaking seniors Sarah Ahrens (photography), Claire Condon (digital filmmaking), Abbe Findley (photography), Helio León (photography exchange student), Megan Lennertson (digital filmmaking), S. Lewis (photography), Jori Nicole (photography), Katy Osterwald (photography) and Chelsea Perry (photography). The show will open with a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. April 16 at Piper Lofts Space, 117 W. 20th St. The exhibition will continue through May 8 with a closing reception to be held from 6 to 10 p.m. May 7.
Pictured: “Untitled,” S. Lewis, 2010.

Red Star Studios – “Correlations,” an exhibition of work by Mike Jabbur and Michael Fujita ('05 ceramics) is showing through April 17 at Red Star Studios,

821 W. 17th St. Both Fujita and Jabbur are former residents of Red Star Studios. Jabbur will host a workshop entitled “Porcelain Pots for Contemporary Culture” from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 17 and 18. The fee to participate is \$75 for one day or \$130 for both days. To attend the workshop, call 816-474-7316 or e-mail gallery@redstarstudios.org. Jabbur also will give a public slide presentation at 2 p.m. April 17.

Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art – “Primping and the Currency of Worth,” an exhibition of sculptures by Misty Gamble, special instructor in ceramics, is on view through April 24 at Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, 2004 Baltimore. For more information, visit www.sherryleedy.com.

The Writer’s Place – “Kings,” a portable collection of principal figures by Lori Raye Erickson (’89 design), is on display through June 27 at The Writer’s Place, 3607 Pennsylvania. According to curator Jennifer Boe (’01 painting), “This new collection of assemblage work focuses on a hand-picked group of what public society sees as kings as well as the artist’s personal thoughts on the titles.” The Writer’s Place is a literary community center, library and gathering place for writers, readers and the general public. For more information, visit www.writersplace.org.

KCAI at 125 — a look back



In 1935, KCAI gained national attention when the college hired Thomas Hart

Benton to head the painting department. Benton was one of the most famous artists in the nation at the time and had recently been featured on the cover of TIME magazine. His appointment had an immediate impact on enrollment, which increased to 438, the highest since 1931. While working at KCAI, Benton painted his famous mural at the Missouri Capital in Jefferson City as well as his iconic painting “Persephone,” which is in the collection of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Benton remained on the faculty until 1941, when the board of trustees voted not to renew his contract. *Pictured: Thomas Hart Benton, circa 1957. Image courtesy of The Independent, Kansas City’s Journal of Society.*

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