End of Year Activities

Annual Exhibition Preview
The Annual Exhibition is a showcase for work by our 300 talented BFA and MFA graduating students. A special preview for Board members, alumni, representatives from cultural institutions and creative industries, takes place on May 10, 6-9 pm.

On Friday, May 11, 6-9 pm, the annual exhibition usually attracts several thousand family members and friends of the graduates.

MFA Public Practice graduates display their work from April 28-May 12 at the Pete & Susan Barrett Gallery, Santa Monica College. The closing reception is May 12, 4-6 pm.

Mark Your Calendars

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Mark Your Calendars

Commencement 2012
Approximately 300 students will graduate on May 12, at 10 am. This year’s valedictorian is Lexi Vay, a Digital Media major. This year’s Commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient is education, science and arts philanthropist Eli Broad. The ceremony will be live streamed at http://www.otis.edu/commencement

Top Image: Go Otis! Kite flying at the Santa Monica Kite Festival. April 14 and 15

2012 Annual Exhibition Preview
Open studios, featuring work by students in
Architecture/Landscape/Interiors, Communication Arts, Digital Media, Fashion Design, Fine Arts, Graduate Fine Arts, Graduate Writing, Product Design, and Toy Design

May 10
6–9 pm

6–7 pm Reception
7–9 pm Open Studios
RSVP otis.edu/preview
Questions (310) 846–2553
Elaine and Bram Goldsmith Campus
9045 Lincoln Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90045
Free parking
Student Leadership Awards
More than 30 students received leadership awards at the annual recognition dinner on April 26 in the categories of Clubs and Organizations, Residential Life and Housing, Academic Honors, Outstanding Service, Student Support Services, and School Spirit. Recipients and their guests celebrated hard work both inside and outside of the classroom.

Legacy Luncheon
At the Annual Legacy Luncheon on April 5, scholarship recipients shared examples of their work with Board members and scholarship donors, and spoke about how Otis is preparing them for their creative careers as artists and designers.

Jacci den Hartog wins Guggenhein Fellowship
The John S. Guggenheim Foundation named faculty member Jacci den Hartog as one of its 2012 fellows. The Foundation awarded fellowships to 81 scholars, artists, and scientists from a group of 3,000 applicants in the U.S. and Canada. The award is based on prior achievement and exceptional promise. Jacci, Program Director of Sculpture/New Genres in Fine Arts, is a sculptor whose work is inspired by the fleeting qualities of the landscape. She received her MFA from Claremont Graduate School, and her work is represented by Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica.

Otis faculty and alumni who have won Guggenheim Fellowships in the past include faculty members Meg Cranston (Chair, Fine Arts) and Carole Caroompas; former faculty members Peter Voulkos and Emerson Woelffer; and alumni John Baldessari ('58), Sandow Birk ('89), Robert Irwin ('50), Dorothy Jeakins ('36), John Lees ('67 MFA), Ruben Ochoa ('97), Alison Saar ('81 MFA), and Jeffrey Vallance ('81 MFA).

Hearst Foundation Grant
The William Randolph Hearst Foundation has awarded Otis a three-year grant of $600,000 for scholarships and in support of the Integrated Learning (IL) program. The annual grant of $200,000 will award $150,000 in scholarships and $50,000 for IL activities. This grant is among the largest Otis has received in the last ten years, and will open the doors to major grants from other national foundations.

The existing Hearst Foundation Endowed Scholarship program, established in 1990, has benefited 76 Otis students to date. The Foundation's enhanced support recognizes Otis' excellence, both in the strengths of our students and in our innovations in community-based learning.

Meticulosity Exhibition Opens
Thanks to the support of the Board of Governors and the Pasadena Art Alliance, Meticulosity features the work of 11 Southern California artists and 3 poets whose work ranges from painting to installation, ceramics and digital formats. In her LA Times review, Leah Ollman described the show as "a meeting of the mind and spirit." According to curators Meg Linton, Director of the Ben Maltz Gallery, and John David O'Brien, "The premise for Meticulosity is that these artworks are created in a meditative mode or through a trance-like process, and that the viewer perceives this painstaking exactitude along with the work's conceptual values. We connect this visual meticulousness to a sense of the ineffable or that which is beyond words, and to the meaning of beauty."


Spotlight

Features

Glacial Speed, 2008
Paper-based polymerized modeling medium, steel. 22 x 50 x 31"
President’s Presentations and Award

In April, President Samuel Hoi presented a briefing about the findings of the 2011 Otis Report on the Creative Economy of the Los Angeles Region to the City Council’s Jobs & Economic Development Committee. President Hoi also addressed the newest class of Leadership Los Angeles on a panel that discussed the role of the arts in building a healthy economic, social and civic LA; and explored the creative economy with the Durfee Foundation’s Stanton Fellows. In addition, he was among the five honorees who received an Artistic License Award from the California Lawyers for the Arts (CLA) at a ceremony on April 29. According to CLA, “These awards recognize persons and organizations who have mastered their arts (intended in the broadest possible sense) in extraordinary ways for the communities they serve. This year’s honorees are examples of those whose acts of generosity and examples of innovation have inspired so many others to...take on the challenges of our time.”

Supporting the Community

Surf & Skate

Many members of the Otis community participated in “Surf and Skate,” an auction of skateboards and surfboards to benefit the Venice Family Clinic, presented by Boardriders for the annual Venice Art Walk.

Faculty News

Architecture/Landscape/Interiors faculty member Matthew Gillis’ project “TAUT” was the winning exhibition design entry for the 10-year anniversary of the AIA/LA 2x8 Student Exhibition. Matthew and a volunteer student team built prototypes.

Top: Matthew Gillis and his team take a little break before finishing up. Top, left to right: Rodrigo Zayas, Matthew Gillis, Ashley Lim, Dami Kim, Lori Choi, Steven Katz, and Derek Yi. Bottom: TAUT prototype with shrink-wrapped skin, lights, and project insert, in the Architecture/Landscape/Interiors studio.

Fine Arts faculty member Steven Bankhead (MFA ’01) and Jesse Benson (MFA ’03) organized Prince at the Forum at Inglewood’s Beacon Arts Bldg. through May 6 that includes work by faculty members Scott Grieger, Joshua Callaghan, and Alison O’Daniel, and alums Tami Demaree, Matt MacFarland, Chris Oatey and Joe Sola. Gallery director is alumna Renee Fox.

ACT/Graduate Public Practice faculty member S.A. Bachman, with her THINK AGAIN collaborator David John Attyah, had work included in Globalize THIS! International Graphics of Resistance at the Ben Maltz Gallery.

Dismantled, a project in which graduate students collaborated with ACT/Graduate Public Practice faculty members S.A. Bachman and Krista Caballero, was screened at ARTWORKS in Cleveland in February.

Communication Arts faculty member Rebecca Chamlee’s letterpress printed, hand-bound books “My Partial Tongue,” poems by Martha Ronk; and “A Reason of Water,” a poem by Communication Arts Assistant Chair Barbara Maloutas were chosen for the exhibition Artists Book Cornucopia III at Abecedarian Gallery in Denver, through June 2. “My Partial Tongue” was selected for the San Diego Book Arts Fourth National Juried Exhibition at UCSD’s Geisel Library, May 26 to July 8.

Fine Arts faculty member Phil Chang organized Affective Turns, at Pepin Moore Gallery (owned by alumna Genevieve Pepin) in Chinatown. Chang’s photographs are in Cache, Active, a solo exhibition at LA><ART.

Communication Arts faculty member Nancy Haselbacher lectured on March 30 at the Davis Museum at Wellesley College for the symposium, “French and American Lithography: History and Practice.”
Faculty News

Communication Arts faculty member Lalo Alcaraz is represented in the recently released “Latino USA: A Cartoon History.” He is now a contributor to NBC Latino, a news and commentary site for English-speaking Latinos, produced by NBC.

Communication Arts faculty member Lorenzo Hurtado (’07 MFA)’s “Papel Tejido 22” (10’ x 10’) was acquired by the Hammer Museum. Hurtado had a solo exhibition at CB1 Gallery of his woven paper constructions. L.A. Times David Pagel wrote about the show, “hinting at things proves to be more potent than laying them bare.”

Product Design/IL/Com Arts/ACT faculty member Patty Kovic, and Interdisciplinary Studies/ACT Director and IL faculty member Michele Jaquis taught a two-day participatory workshop based on their IL course NEIGHBORGAPBRIDGE at “Designing for the Divide: A Conference on Community Action Across Lines of Difference” in March at West Virginia University’s School of Art and Design, in Morgantown. http://neighborgapbridge.tumblr.com/archive

Communication Arts faculty member Lauren Mackler’s firm, Public Fiction, is included in Transmission LA: AV CLUB curated by Mike D, a multidisciplinary festival at MoCA, April 19–May 6.

Chair of Communication Arts and MFA Graphic Design Kali Nikitas acted as moderator at the TYPO San Francisco conference. Among the pioneering designers, university professors, creative people, scientists, scholars, and artists who spoke was Communication Arts and MFA Graphic Design faculty member Juliette Bellocq.

LAS faculty member Jeanne Willette and Digital Media senior/Community Arts Engagement minor Gabriel Uriarte Garcia represented the ACT Program at Create CA (Core Reforms Engaging Arts to Educate) at Coronado School of the Arts, San Diego.

For the Medellin 11 Biennial, Graduate Public Practice Chair Suzanne Lacy and anthropologist Pilar Riano used the Museo Antioquia as a space to revisit their 1999 collaboration in that city, engaging human rights activists, community members, artists, and public intellectuals on finding alternatives to violence. Lacy’s work was included in several PST exhibitions, including Orange County Museum of Art, LACE, MOCA, 18th St Arts Center, and the Getty Research Institute, in addition to the Ben Maltz Gallery. Her work is featured in the exhibition Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art at the Smart Museum, Univ. of Chicago, through June 10.

Students in an Integrated Learning/LAS course, with faculty member Heather Joseph-Witham, spent the semester studying the Getty Museum exhibition, The Life of Art. Their responses to the exhibition for the Getty’s annual College Night included animated gifs and modern displayed objects, an exquisite corpse, and a zine. Visitors explored how stories are told about museum objects, and interacted with new, ephemeral narratives.
Eight MFA Graphic Design students worked in Berlin and Amsterdam with COMA studio on the “Winddrinker,” a project in Somalia for clean drinking water. Students Jordan Darby and Nic Sanchez are at The Sandberg Institute, Amsterdam, for three months.

Amy Gantman, Dean of CE and Pre-College Programs; Inez Bush, Associate Director of Pre-College Programs and Professional Development; and Michele Jaquis, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Artists, Community and Teaching Program, presented at the University Professional Continuing Education Association conference in Portland, OR on March 29. “Developing Creative Human Capital Through Arts Education” connected the Otis Report on the Creative Economy, 21st Century learning skills and arts education in developing a creative and innovative workforce. http://www.upcea.edu/2012annualconference/index.html

The Library has acquired The Gnomon Workshop DVD collection of tutorials by renowned designers in digital matte painting, character modeling, digital sets, vehicle design, creature rendering or maquette sculpture.

Otis Books/Seismicity Editions continues its commitment to publish innovative works of contemporary fiction, poetry, essays, creative non-fiction and translation in high quality, trade paperback editions with two compelling new volumes: Tlemcen or Places of Writing, by Mohammed Dib and Opera Omnia or, a Duet for Sitar and Trombone, by the Roman poet Luxorius, translated from the Latin by Art Beck.

A/L/I students Lori Choi and Rodrigo Zayas won second place in the 20th Anniversary AIA/LAIAC 1:2 Student Competition for “Bo Bounce,” an inflatable, quickly deployable wrapper for a pop-up food truck.

International Student Services took 70 students to Disneyland during spring break.

Swimwear designer Rebecca Virtue (’90) collaborated with Furnishing Hope to help displaced military families to create a comfortable environment in which they can recover from their injuries and start a new life. Her “Red, White, and Blue” swimwear and cover-ups honors these wounded warriors.

Students in “Designing the Political,” an Integrated Learning class taught by Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty members Kerri Steinberg and Guy Bennett, curated an exhibition of political posters from the collection of the Center for the Study of Political Graphics (CSPG), and produced designs that were included in the exhibition Globalize THIS! International Graphics of Resistance at the Ben Maltz Gallery.

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Michael Richards was appointed as a Directorate Body Member of the ACPA (Association of College Personnel Administration) Commission for Student Conduct & Legal Issues for a three-year term.

Diana Bonilla, Diana Felix and David Roy are recipients of the Spring 2012 ACT Assistantship Awards for paid student teaching positionss at the K-12 school or arts organization where they interned.
Spring Break 2012

Student Travel
During spring break, students traveled to Rome and Paris. Currently, MFA Graduate Graphic Design students are studying in Germany and the Netherlands. Other students have studied in Paris and Canada. Next month, Integrated Learning students will go to Ningbo, China, and Palau, an island nation in the Pacific Ocean, to continue the Freedom Memorial project.

Otis In the News

The focus during the last month has been on the upcoming Benefit, and on Eli Broad’s honorary degree. Our Creative Economy Report was cited in House Beautiful, Huffington Post mentioned Otis in a piece about art colleges and sustainability, and the kite festival was featured in local press.


**BENEFIT ADVANCE PRESS:**
3.23 CA Apparel News http://www.apparelnews.net/blog/detail?id=2182
3.27 BlackTie International http://www.blacktiemagazine.com/save_the_date_2012/30th_Annual_Otis_Benefit.htm
4.6 Westside Today http://www.westsidetoday.com/n7085/#.T4xEX0qatI.email

**ELI BROAD HONORARY DEGREE**
Stats:
138 pick ups by press //
1,026 reads //
70,854 news feed impressions //
7,093 deliveries by newswire

4.5 SF Gate
4.5 Albany Times Union
4.14 ArtnowMAG.com

**KITE FESTIVAL**
4.12 Argonaut (cover)

**GRADUATE GRAPHIC DESIGN**
3.29 Design NL blog, a Dutch design website, ran a feature about the three-week project that involved Graduate Graphic Design students and Dutch design firms.

On June 16, Graduate Graphic Design hosts the 2nd International Symposium, “Untitled: Variations in Design Practice.” During the preceding week, eight international visiting designers will conduct workshops with the students, and propose a rebranding for the City of Inglewood. Inglewood Mayor James Butts will attend the final workshop presentation on June 15.
A parent asked me “What goes on during the student’s final year, and how does Otis celebrate the conclusion of a student’s studies?” and it’s a darn fine question.

Otis’ seniors spend their senior doing a thesis project. Working with a faculty adviser, they begin research in the junior year and write a proposal that incorporates all of the information and skills that they have learned. In critiques or “crits,” faculty, fellow students and invited artists and designers provide feedback. During the annual exhibition at the end of the year, they present these projects to representatives from cultural institutions, creative industries, alumni, family and friends. Fashion Design seniors present their work on the runway at the annual Scholarship Benefit and Fashion Show at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Even after attending fifteen annual exhibitions, I never ceased to be amazed by the quality and the diversity of our graduates’ work. The crowds (3-4,000) who attend are eager to see the work by the next generation of artists and designers. More than one employer has told me that the quality of the work in this exhibition clearly demonstrates that our students are ready to enter the professional worlds of art and design.

The day after the Annual Exhibition, we celebrate our graduating students at the commencement ceremony. One might assume that an art school commencement ceremony would be different. Otis’ ceremony includes all the best aspects of the traditional college commencement (processional, recessional, valedictory speech, conferring of honorary degrees, a speech by an honorary degree recipient, etc.) with some of our own traditions. The ceremony is followed by a reception with light refreshments for the graduates and their families and guests. Then it’s pictures and hugs from family, friends, faculty and staff. Our former students are now honored alumni – creative professionals ready to change the world.

What does the future look like for Otis Grads?

To learn more about how the workplace looks now and in the future, visit www.otis.edu/econreport to read the 2011 Otis Report on the Creative Economy, a study by the Los Angeles Economic Development Council commissioned by Otis. The data from businesses, corporations and organizations that hire artists and designers provides proof that creativity is serious business. I’m confident that you will find this report to be both interesting and informative.

Feel free to email any questions or topics you would like to see covered in “Ask Dad”!
eschoenb@otis.edu
In the Community

Otis Kite Festival Highlights
Designer Tom van Sant ('57) and kitemakers Melanie Walker and George Peters, with children from Urban Compass, Junior Blind of America, and St. Jude’s Hospital, gathered with Otis students and alumni at the Santa Monica Pier with festival-goers to fly kites on this very windy April day.