Features

Convocation/State of the College

More than 300 faculty and staff members convened on August 21 for Convocation and a special message from President Hoi on the State of the College. Renowned psychological researcher Dr. Jean Twenge, author of *Generation Me: Why Today’s Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled — and More Miserable Than Ever Before* shared her educational insights with faculty members. The annual Teaching Excellence Awards were presented to Bill Kelley, Jr., Renee Petropoulos, and Harry Mott, three of the College’s finest faculty members.

President Hoi gave the first-ever State of the College Address. He outlined a pathway for continued success amid the challenges that are facing educational institutions today. His message conveyed a positive outlook for the College and presented a sustainable model that will promote Otis’ mission of providing educational excellence and promoting student learning and success.

Orientation and OWeek

We welcomed new students who came from all over the world and the U.S. (see masthead graphic at top). During orientation, they met faculty members, registered for classes, and toured Hollywood in a double-decker bus. OWeek culminated with OCamp, an overnight getaway where students met faculty, staff, and Peer Mentors (students trained to guide and assist new students). Among new first-year students is Lanaea Bowie from Minnesota. In a recent email, she explained why she decided on Otis: “It’s a happy coincidence that I visited L.A. during my junior year of high school, and was awestruck by all the beauty and opportunity I saw around me. I knew the city was one that embraced art wholeheartedly, even down to the graffiti on the buildings.”

Otis and LMU Joint Exhibition

Otis and LMU are jointly sponsoring exhibitions and related programs: TAPPING THE THIRD REALM. Alumni in the Maltz show include Kenzi Shiokava (’74 MFA), Annie Buckley (’03 MFA), and Rebecca Tull Yates (’13 MFA).

For schedule of related programming, check the Calendar.

Alumnus Kerry James Marshall in D.C. and abroad

The work of Kerry James Marshall (’78) is recognized with major shows in the U.S. and overseas. In the Tower: *Kerry James Marshall*, a retrospective exhibition, is on view at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. through December 8. *Kerry James Marshall: Painting and Other Stuff* open now at the Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen, Belgium, and travels through October 2014 to Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Denmark; Antoni Tapisies Foundation, Barcelona; and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid.

Ahmanson Foundation Supports Veterans

The Ahmanson Foundation selected Otis as one of 25 private schools for their Ahmanson Veteran Scholarship Initiative (AVSI), which provides assistance to student veterans as they assimilate into civilian life and complete their education. Participating student veterans gathered at Otis on September 22, where they met William H. Ahmanson, President of The Ahmanson Foundation, and alumni Kent Twitchell (’77 MFA) who served as an illustrator for the United States Air Force.

New York Times critic Roberta Smith appointed Fall Visiting Critic in Fine Arts

Fine Arts is honored to have Roberta Smith, art critic for the New York Times as fall visiting critic in residence. Smith has been one of the most prominent voices in art criticism since the 1970s, when she contributed to *Art Forum* and was editor of *Art in America*. She has been with The New York Times since 1986. Her public lecture *Art Criticism in an Expanded Field* will take place at the Moss Theater, New Roads School, Santa Monica, on Nov. 5 at 7:30.

Princeton Review’s “Best in the West”

The Princeton Review, an influential admissions consulting and test preparation company, selected Otis among 124 U.S. institutions for their 2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region/Best of the West; the colleges are unranked. In total, 643 schools received this “regional best” designation, representing only 25% of the nation’s four-year colleges.

This distinction follows Otis Fashion Design’s “#1 on the West Coast” ranking by FashionSchools.com and “Best US Design Schools” list by Graphic Design USA Magazine.
Alumni Profile: “Ragpicker” Roden

Alumnus Steve Roden’s (’86) practice defies definition. He is primarily known as a painter in the U.S., but he morphs into a sound artist in Europe. “I like to think of myself as just a guy who makes stuff in my garage,” says Roden, whose work incorporates his myriad interests—from drawings made using stencils manufactured by Mattel to video works featuring Martha Graham’s ephemera.

This September, Roden celebrates a first in his career, two shows running concurrently on either side of the country. Ragpicker alludes to a Victorian-era figure that salvages the city’s scraps and turns them into assets, as well as to the artist’s methods. Roden’s bi-coastal exhibition began with research in Berlin in philosopher Walter Benjamin’s archive. Academics might hone in on the text but Roden found meaning in the overlooked. He re-purposed the glyphs and markings from Benjamin’s original texts and turned them into dense, abstract paintings and drawings of bright colors and irregular geometries.

Where others see an archive as a sacrosanct source, with only so many options allowed, Roden finds a little leeway, a niche that begets a whole series of works. This venturesome attitude is a hallmark of Roden’s punk rock youth, which serves him well today. “It had a strong do-it-yourself aesthetic,” says Roden, “We had a band and we couldn’t play instruments. We would make flyers for our gigs on a Xerox machine. Somehow in the age of Facebook it’s a bit different. We were physically making things and taping them to telephone poles or leaving them in record stores. There was a sense of empowerment in doing things on a small scale—we didn’t want a record deal with CBS, we wanted to do everything our own way.”

At Otis, Roden’s way led him from violent, figurative works to abstraction while working with visual artist Roy Dowell in his senior year. “Roy was really the first abstract painter I really knew,” said Roden, “It was great to have someone to bounce things off, particularly as I didn’t have any true understanding of what an abstract painting could be.” Late artist Mike Kelley, an older punk rocker, was also in Roden’s orbit. The two worked together as Roden pursued graduate studies Art Center.

Where others might have stifled Roden’s evolving style, Otis provided an environment that encouraged exploration. He cites his final drawing class project made with good friend and late conceptual artist Ray Navarro as an example. The duo made a video filled with “as many offensive, ridiculous things we could possibly think of.” They earned A’s. The unexpectedly supportive response from his teacher Jill Gliegerich encouraged Roden’s perimeter-pushing practice.

Perhaps Otis’s most lasting influence is Roden’s late-blooming love for reading, which he found during an English class with novelist Bernard Cooper. “As a kid, I hated reading,” says Roden, “Now, everything I do comes from reading.” His exhibition at The Menil Collection last year even included a 400-page book. Like the ragpicker he is, Roden uncovers a stunning wealth of creative possibility from his explorations, often resurrecting and re-mixing old inspirations to form new works.

His fearlessness fuels his rich, multidisciplinary practice; it is a valuable lesson he’d like to pass on to younger artists. “Trust your instincts and don’t be afraid of making bad work,” counsels Roden, “An unsuccessful work can teach you a lot more than a good one; don’t be enamored of consistency. I think it is highly overrated!”

Ragpicker runs through October 17 at Susanne Vielmetter LA Projects in Culver City and at CRG Gallery in New York through October 19.

By Carren Jao

“first view”, 2013, Oil on linen, 14” H x 11” W
Courtesy of the artist, CRG Gallery, N.Y. and Susanne Vielmetter Projects, L.A. Photo credit: Robert Wedemeyer
Donghia Scholarships
Architecture/Landscape/Interiors seniors Thomas Acosta and Molly Hubley were selected as two of only twelve recipients of a $30,000 Angelo Donghia Foundation Senior Student Scholarship. A blind jury reviewed 77 student projects, and each institution submitted two, so Otis was two for two. Since the 2002 inception of the awards, Otis has claimed multiple scholarships: Case Flehrer and Gunawan Wibisono ('11), Sam Tanis ('10), Joem Sanez ('09), Billy Tam ('08), and Asami Tachikawa and Anya Phelps ('05).

Disney’s El Capitan displays fashion designs
Fashion design students, working with Disney Consumer Products, designed original costumes for three characters (Sulley, Mike, and Art) in the new Disney/Pixar Monsters University animated film. Their work was on display at the El Capitan Theater on Hollywood Blvd. through August 8. In this unique and exceptional educational collaboration, students designed street wear with sustainability for extended use, both athletic and off court, and to reflect the character in the clothing without using the character’s image. Their designs incorporate recycled materials such as household mops, sponges and repurposed fabrics.

Summer Interns at more than 70 firms and organizations
Among the art and design organizations that hired summers interns were Abercrombie & Fitch, Badgley Mishka, BCBG, Blind Inc., Brand New School, Deutsch, Getty Museum, Guess, Halston, Hasbro, Hurley, Inner City Arts, J. Brand, Jakks Pacific, LACMA, LAX Weekly, Li & Fung, Lucky Brand, Mattel, MGA, Michael Smith, NBC Universal, Sony Bmg, Sony DADC, Splendid/Ella Moss, Stewart+Brown, Strottman International, and many more.

Converse Sneakers benefit Homeboy Industries and Creative Action
Homeboy Industries and Otis teamed to create hand painted sneakers, donated by Converse. The Creative Action: Integrated Learning course focused on identity and the way in which it is expressed: political, ethnic, and social identities that serve as markers for social mobility and control. The sneakers sell for $100 and the proceeds benefit Homeboy Industries and Integrated Learning classes. Contact Matthew Tecle (mtecle@otis.edu) to purchase these hand painted shoes.

Design for Palau Freedom Memorial nears completion
Since 2003 Otis students have visited the Pacific archipelago of Palau to design the Freedom Memorial, a public art project/monument that recognizes all Palauans’ who served and are serving in the U.S. military since the Vietnam War. Students spent two weeks working with community participants to finalize the design, to be built at Long Island Park in Koror.

Westchester Community Garden
“Food and Politics in L.A.,” a Creative Action: Integrated Learning class led by Claudia Hernandez, focused on food networks and politics. Students worked with the Holy Nativity Episcopal Church on West 83rd Street in Westchester to create a community garden that supplies fresh vegetables to the LAX Food Pantry.

Faculty & Staff News
Fine Arts Assistant Chair Alex Slade’s solo show What City Pattern? is featured at the Edward Cella Art + Architecture Gallery through October 26.

Fine Arts faculty member Farrah Karapetian’s work was featured in Rogue Wave at LA Louver in July. She is one of 26 artists featured in the Orange County Museum of Art California Pacific Triennale, along with alumni Mark Dean Veca ('85) and Michael Shin (90’) through November 17.
Grad Fine Arts Chair Roy Dowell’s work is featured at Various Small Fires Gallery, in L.A. through October 19.

Grad Fine Arts Assistant Chair Annetta Kapon (’85) showed her installation “Not Actual Size” at the PROXY Gallery in Culver City in May, and the video The Line Between Beverly Hills and Los Angeles 2013 was shown on all LA Metro buses on May 10.

Grad Fine Arts faculty member John Knight exhibited at Portikus in Frankfurt, Germany, from May 4 to June 30.

Fine Arts faculty member Dorit Cypis’ work was included in Folding Time Rhymes at Greene Exhibitions, L.A. through August 24.

Creative Action: Integrated Learning faculty members Lara Hoad and Todd Erlandson’s exhibition Windshield Perspective was featured at the A&D Museum, L.A.

Otis offered its first massive online open course (MOOC) in Art History, entitled “The Modern Genius: Art and Culture in the 19th Century.” The course, led by Parme Giuntini, Ph.D., ran for five weeks with 817 students enrolled. Otis is one of the first art schools to offer a MOOC course.

Fine Arts faculty member Joshua Callaghan’s work was featured in a group exhibition Neo Povera at L&M Arts in Venice, CA.

Perri Chasin, Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty member, was honored to have Ed Carter, Documentary Curator of the prestigious Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as guest speaker for “Reel Docs: Change Through Film” in September.

Fine Arts faculty member A.L. Steiner’s show at Deborah Schamoni Galerie We Made the Disaster Together opened in July in Munich.

Alumni News

The Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco is featuring special exhibitions of work by alumni Tyrus Wong (’32) and Camille Rose Garcia (’92). Water to Paper, Paint to Sky: The Art of Tyrus Wong (’32) runs through February 3, 2014, and Camille Rose Garcia: Down the Rabbit Hole ends November 3.

Kent Twitchell’s (’77 MFA) monumental mural of actress Ruby Dee was unveiled this summer in her hometown along the exterior wall of the Karamu House Theatre in Cleveland, OH.

Alumni Carlos Almaraz (’74 MFA), Otis Alumni Council Chair Judithe Hernández (’74 MFA), and Patsy Valdez (’85) and are included in Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C. from October 25, 2013-March 2, 2014. This exhibition of work drawn from the Smithsonian’s collection will tour throughout the U.S. until 2016. Hernández’ Ni Una Mas was recently acquired by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.


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Foundation Coordinator Matthew Penkala’s second solo exhibition There’s No Shame In It was at David Richard Gallery, Santa Fe, this summer.

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An exhibition of new work by Alison Saar (’81 MFA), Slough, is featured at L.A. Louver in Venice through October 5. Her exhibition Still… originated by the Ben Maltz Gallery, is on view at the Driskell Art Center, College Park, MD, through December 13, following the Figge Museum, Davenport Iowa.

Fine Arts faculty member Christine Frerich’s first solo exhibition was featured at Gallery Klowden Mann, Culver City through June.

Fine Arts faculty member Rick Bahto recently finished two new super 8 films, Finale and World to accompany songs by Julia Holter. His exhibition Which Comes and Goes As It Pleases opened in September at Et Al. Gallery in San Francisco.

Creative Action Faculty and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies Michele Jaquis’ work was included in Past Tense Future Imperfect: an exhibition on the subject of memory as time travel curated by Kóan Jeff Baysa at Art Share LA.

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The year 2013 marks the professional anniversaries of a handful of outstanding alumni. A monograph celebrating 20 years of work by Mark Dean Veca (’85) is accompanied by an exhibition at Western Project, Culver City, co-owned by alumna Erin Kermanikian (’00 MFA). Veca’s work is also included in the Orange County Museum of Art Pacific Triennial through November 17, along with the work of alumnus Michael Lin (’90). Ingred Sidie’s (’89) Design Ranch, a nationally recognized design agency based in Kansas City, MO, celebrates 15 years. Lines started by fashion design alumni Cynthia Vincent (’05) and Red Carter (’92) both celebrate a decade of success. (below, left to right)

Alan Nakagawa’s (’86) Organ of Corti, a vibratory sound experience, premiered at East LA Rep on September 21.

Liz Craft (’94) created a sculptural installation entitled The Temple of Folly for the West Hollywood Park on view through October 2013.

Otis alumnus and former faculty member Ruben Ochoa (’97), and Fine Arts faculty members Anna Sew Hoy and Lincoln Tobier received 2013 CCF Fellowship for Visual Artists. Among the 23 artists who received the prestigious award this year is Audrey Chan whose work was included in the summer Ben Maltz Gallery exhibition.

Shana Mabari (’98) and Flora Kao (’08) are two of 11 recipients of the Center for Cultural Innovation’s Artists’ Resources for Completion (ARC) grant which is designed to enhance the careers of Los Angeles artists.

Mario Ybarra, Jr.’s (’99) work is featured at The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia this fall.

Greg Wilken (’04) received a creative arts Fulbright Grant to pursue a photographic study of land use in the Republic of Kiribati, an island nation in the central Pacific.

Glued to the Seat: Revealing Hidden Realities, curated by 2012-14 Ben Maltz Gallery Curatorial Fellow Jeseca Dawson (’12 MFA), featured work by Lili Bernard (’14 Otis MFA Public Practice candidate), Channing Martinez (’13), image at left, Jessica Minckley (’13 MFA), Silvia Juliana Mantilla Ortiz (’13 MFA), Hyung min Rhee (’13 MFA), and Susan Slade Sanchez (’13 MFA).
Otis in the News

*Animation Career Review* ran an interview on the current state of education in the entertainment field and digital media with Asst Chair Kathleen Milnes.

The *LA Times* featured alumnus, swimwear designer and current fashion design mentor Rod Beattie’s ('86) Pasadena house in its L.A. at Home section.

*Home Town News* featured the partnership of the Ben Maltz Gallery and LMU’s Laband Art Gallery in its fall exhibition and associated public programs for *Tapping the Third Realm*.

*The Argonaut* ran a review of the summer exhibition at the Bolsky Gallery.

CE instructor Patricia O’Laughlin was quoted in *Time* magazine’s August story on married couples and children.

*Blue&Green Tomorrow* mentioned Nike’s partnership in Otis’ Sustainability Alliance in its story on Nike’s new sustainable iPhone app.

The *Beach Reporter*’s story on the new El Segundo Art Museum included the Otis artist in residency program.

August *Highbrow Magazine*’s piece on L.A.’s cultural richness cited the Otis Report on the Creative Economy.

*Learn out Loud* featured the 2-hour, 27-episode art history timeline mini-course on YouTube, created by faculty member Jeanne Willette.

Celebrity alumni Rick Owens and Kim Gordon made headlines in early Sept with fashion week and a N.Y. exhibition of Gordon’s artwork. [www.wmagazine.com](http://www.wmagazine.com)

*The Fairfax MD Times* ran a story on the traveling exhibition of alumna Alison Saar’s work, originated by the Ben Maltz Gallery.

*Huffington Post*’s “Inside the Artists’ Studio” featured two alumni: Sandow Birk ('89) and Annie Buckley ('03 MFA).

California State Summer School Arts (CSSSA) Foundation reports in its current enewsletter about their Bridge to College Program and new partnership with Otis. Otis provides scholarships to students for the Summer of Art program which allowed CSSSA alumna Jessie Ko Pei Lo to attend this summer. As the inaugural scholarship recipient, Jessie, a high school senior from Diamond Bar, plans to pursue a career in digital media or fine art.

Otis Press Releases

6.14.13
Disney•Pixar Hollywood Premiere to Showcase Otis Student Fashion Designs Inspired by “Monsters University”. (at left, bottom)

6.26.13
Design Symposium Draws International Talent

6.27.13
Students Design Public Memorial for Pacific Island Country of Palau

7.9.13
Political Artist and Graphic Agitator Emory Douglas to Speak at Otis

7.29.13
Toy Industry Association Awards $50,000 to Otis College of Art and Design

8.27.13
Otis College of Art and Design and The Ahmanson Foundation Partner in Support of Military Veterans

8.27.13
Exploring the Spiritual, Metaphysical, and Alchemical in Contemporary Art

Major outlets include:

Social Media

YouTube channel most popular

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Summer Internships

Dear Parents,

The fall semester is in full swing, and it is hard to believe that midterms are looming. As the school year moves along, I want to remind you that the Otis curriculum is very demanding, and even the best students can sometimes feel pressure as they try to manage their academic and artistic assignments as well as their lives. Trained professionals on staff are dedicated to supporting student success. If you feel your student needs some help or just some extra attention, please contact the Dean of Students Office, and we can team together to support your student’s success.

This month’s question posed to Ask Dad:

What kinds of internships are available, and how do students go about getting them?

This summer Otis interns worked at more than 70 different companies, institutions and organizations, including BCBG (fashion design), Deutsch (advertising, marketing, design), Getty Museum (fine art), Halston (fashion design), Hasbro (toy design), Herzog & de Meuron (architecture), Li and Fung (fashion design), Mattel (toy design), NBC Universal (digital media), Nike (product, fashion design, graphic design) Sony (digital media, illustration) and Trailer Park (digital, graphic design, advertising design, illustration).

Internships usually take place in the summer (because the rigors of the curriculum makes internships during the academic year very difficult), between junior and senior years when students have really begun to bloom in terms of their skills and creativity. Over the years I have known students who have done as many as three internships but most do one or two, and these should be carefully planned by the student and their advisors, the Department Chairs and the Center for Creative Professionals (Otis’ career services office). Even students in the Foundation first-year program should start to explore internship opportunities.

Internships allow students to have real experience at companies, organizations and institutions for which they may be interested in working after graduation. Students begin building a professional network, and the internship allows both the student and the organization to see if this is a good match. One reason for our above-national-average employment rate for first jobs before or within three months of graduation is that many students become employed where they interned. So when your student comes home for Thanksgiving, discuss summer internships. Refer them to the Center for Creative Professionals to begin their exploration of this exciting opportunity.