



2013 Commencement

At [Commencement](#) exercises on Saturday, May 11, Otis awarded BFA and MFA degrees to 358 artists and designers who are ready for their creative careers. President Hoi stated “You are equipped for success. Otis graduates leave with the individual style, vision, and specialized skills required to excel. For nearly one hundred years, alumni have risen to the top of their chosen fields.” The College also awarded an honorary degree to pioneering author, activist, critic, and curator Lucy Lippard. Carolyn Moskowitz, a Digital Media major, was named Valedictorian. A native Californian from Agoura Hills, Carolyn plans a creative career as a concept artist and illustrator for video games, films, books, trading cards, and multimedia. This year’s Commencement marked a new tradition of inviting the Alumni Council Chair to speak and welcome the new graduates to the alumni community. Chair Judithe Hernández shared a personal story about the value of staying connected to otis, and encouraged alumni to “pay it forward” by helping one another. Fifteen students earned distinction with academic excellence awards. Trustee Bronya Galef represented the Board of Trustees in the Commencement ceremony.



The 31st Annual Scholarship Benefit and Fashion Show

The 31st annual [Scholarship Benefit and Fashion Show](#) on May 4 raised more than \$1 million for scholarships. 70 professional models in more than 175 student designs for women, men and children walked the runway. Honorees were Kirk Nix of KNA Design, recipient of the Creative Vision Award, Sally Perrin of Perrin Paris, recipient of the first Style Icon Award. The event also included a special recognition of the Otis Sustainability Alliance and its inaugural members: Eddie Bauer, Disney, Quiksilver, Patagonia, Nike and Todd Oldham. Many thanks to the Trustees and Governors for their support, and thanks to the volunteer committee for their efforts. Selected garments from the Benefit runway show are displayed in the windows of Beverly Hills Neiman Marcus, Wilshire Blvd, through May 28. (see [highlights video](#) and [media coverage](#), pg 8)



Fashion Design #1 on the West Coast

Otis Fashion Design is #1 on the West Coast according to [Fashion Schools](#) listing of the top 10 Fashion Schools, based on academic reputation, selectivity, breadth of the program and faculty, and location.

Laura Daroca Director of Alumni Relations



Alumni Relations has been incredibly busy this spring providing Otis graduates with a variety of opportunities to stay connected to our robust alumni network and to their alma mater. The spring edition of our

newsletter gives a re-cap of all of our spring events, campus-wide news, and accomplishments of the entire Otis community. Help keep us updated on your accomplishments!

Mark Your Calendars

[Jun 22 – Aug 3](#) “3 Solo Projects” at the Maltz Gallery

O Salon

Otis alumni are invited to join alumna Linda Kunik (‘06) at her studio on **Friday, June 21 at 7pm** for a free monthly critique group she began after completing her degree at Otis. Consisting of approximately 150 members, three to five artists bring their work to each salon to be critiqued in a friendly, welcoming environment. Work can range from drawings or paintings, to photography, sculpture, performance art or installation, as well as video, film and writing. To join, contact Linda at lindakunik@gmail.com

Annual Exhibition Preview

On May 9, more than 600 guests including alumni, recruiters from design firms and representatives from cultural institutions, including Deutsch, Disney, DreamWorks, Fowler Museum, Imaginary Forces, Mattel, Spin Master, and Sony, viewed work by graduates at a special preview. Approximately 3,000 friends and family members viewed the work of graduating students the next night.

A Mess and a Pleasure: Practicing in Public, the Graduate Public Practice Exhibition, was shown at ForYourArt through May 11.



New Otis Job Board

<http://otis.experience.com>



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Ready for Creative Careers

I'd like to reflect on the students who completed their degrees this year.

Many of this year's seniors entered in 2009, the last year that I served as the Vice President of Enrollment Management. I worked closely with a number of students who were awarded their degrees during the May 4 Commencement ceremony. What is remarkable about the students and the parents who supported and encouraged them is that they entered college in the middle of this country's worse financial breakdown since the "Great Depression." Some of these students and their families faced job losses, foreclosures on their homes, and the almost complete demolition of the student loan market. Despite these factors, most found a way not only to enroll but more importantly, to stay and finish their degrees. They did so with creativity, desire, and old-fashioned hard work. Most of the students with whom I worked secured at least one internship, and many secured two. Most had to work part-time to help pay for school, and given the demands of our curriculum, neither internships nor part-time jobs were easy to do. And they did it with aplomb. Almost 20% of the BFAs graduated with honors or received an academic excellence award. My hat (and if you know me, you know I mean this literally) is off to this year's graduates and their families.

What are these students' prospects after Otis? I would say that they are very good. We know from years of alumni responses to surveys that on average approximately 70% of graduates receive their first job within three months of graduation. How do they do that? Remember the aforementioned internships? Many graduates go to work for companies, organizations or individuals with whom they connected in an internship. They also develop brilliant portfolios and reels to show a prospective employer. When I graduated from a liberal arts college, other than a cogent

letter of interest and a standard resume, I could not "prove" to a potential employer what I could do. When my daughter graduated from Otis in 2002, her striking portfolio and the confidence with which she could talk about both the designs and concepts allowed her to find work ranging from jewelry design to graphic design for movie collateral materials, packaging design for Mattel, and e-marketing, web design and in-store graphics for fashion firm BCBG. Eleven years later, she is co-owner and creative director for a branding and marketing firm. Among the students I know in the Class of 2013 are those who will work for an animation studio, serve as studio assistants to major fine artists, join community arts organizations, and others who have found positions at companies such as Eli Lilly and Sony Home Entertainment.

Although the economy has improved since the 2008/09 "downturn," it is still considered a tough employment environment. Yet the Surdna Foundation's SNAPP (Strategic National Arts Alumni Project) survey found that employment and employment satisfaction in the arts were as high as or higher than other fields of employment (2011 poll of nearly 40,000 who graduated with degrees in the arts).

Every year our Annual Exhibition reminds me what an Otis education does. The brilliant work on display in all majors impressed and amazed the more than 600 employers, collectors and alumni who attended the Preview Exhibition, and the nearly 3,000 family, friends and neighbors who were treated to exciting art and design work, much of which was developed with sustainability in mind.

Please join me in saying congratulations to the Class of 2013!!

If you have a question or a topic you would like to see addressed in a future Ask Dad Column please email "Dad" at eschoenb@otis.edu

Otis Job Board

[Click here for link](#)



Get on the Money with SALT

If your student is having difficulty keeping track of student loans, and needs advice about how to decrease their payments, expert loan counselors from SALT can answer questions with no charge. Students and alumni can contact a SALT loan counselor at 877.523.9473 or loanhelp@saltmoney.org, Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. EST, Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST, and Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. EST. SALT, created by American Student Assistance® (ASA), a nonprofit organization, financially empowers college students and alumni.

CE News

Franklyn Liegel Award for Teaching Excellence

Franklyn Liegel, exhibiting fine artist, Otis Continuing Education faculty member, and MFA alumnus, passed away in 2012. Otis created an annual award to recognize his of dedication to the College, commitment to education, and extraordinary ability to inspire others. One outstanding educator from Continuing Education and Pre-College Programs will be recognized annually for his or her commitment to Otis, clear, effective teaching, and ability to motivate and inspire the success of students.

The first recipient of this award is instructor Chris Warner, who teaches Continuing Education, Summer of Art, and Foundation.

Scholarship Benefit Runway Show

Left Column: Claire Pettibone ('89); Bob Mackie;
Christopher Wicks; Cynthia Vincent ('88)

Middle Column: Heather Brown ('04) for Urban Outfitters; Bob
Mackie; Billabong; EleVen by Venus Williams; MaryJo Bruno

Right Column: Cynthia Vincent ('88); Claire Pettibone ('89)

Photography by Nathan Gulick



2013 Teaching Excellence Award Recipients:

Bill Kelley (Graduate Public Practice)
Part-Time/Adjunct

Renee Petropoulos (Graduate Fine Arts)
Full-Time

Harry Mott (Chair, Digital Media)—
Distinguished Educator Award

Faculty member **Judie Bamber's** work was included in two books by Phaidon: *Vitamin D2: New Perspectives in Drawing and Queer Culture* (Themes and Movements Series) by Catherine Lord and Richard Meyer.

Faculty member **Adam Berg's** solo exhibition *Consensual*, opened at [Edward Cella Gallery](#) on May 4.



Faculty member **Joshua Callaghan**, is participating in the first [Bienal del Sur in Panama](#).

Fine Arts Chair **Meg Cranston** was awarded the [Artadia prize](#) for her work in the NADA New York fair. The work was also pictured on May 10 in the [New York Times](#). Her show at LAXART, "Emerald City," was selected by [Artforum](#) as a critic's pick, and featured in the [LA Weekly](#).

MFA Fine Art Chair **Roy Dowell's** work was included in the group exhibition *LOCAL FISH* at [Ernie Wolfe Gallery](#) in Los Angeles.

Faculty member Siri Kaur is featured on [KPCC's new arts and culture blog](#).

18th Street Arts Center presented a speaker series and publication "**Social Practice in Questions**" on Social Practice at the MFA Public Practice Studio. These events act as a culmination of independent curator, theorist and Public Practice faculty member **Bill Kelley Jr.'s** year-long curatorial residency at 18th Street Arts Center.

MFA Fine Arts acting chair **Annetta Kapon's** ('85) video *The Line Between Beverly Hills and Los Angeles 2013* was shown on all LA Metro buses in May, organized by LA Freewaves.

MFA Fine Arts Faculty member **John Knight's** work is exhibited at [Portikus](#) in Frankfurt, Germany through June 30.

MFA Public Practice Chair **Suzanne Lacy** discussed *La Piel de la Memoria (The Skin of Memory)* with youth and human rights groups in Medellin, Colombia as a precursor to the launch of *Collective Situations: Readings in Contemporary Latin American Art 1995-2010*, an anthology coedited by Public Practice faculty member **Bill Kelley Jr.** and Grant Kester, at 18th Street Arts Center.

Faculty member **Cathy Lightfoot** has a show at XVY Art & Design. L.A. through June 1.

Alumni News

Annie Buckley ('03 MFA) curated [On Seeing-Divination](#), an exhibition series in The Huffington Post that features emerging and established artists from around the globe.

Daniel Phillips ('08) and Kim Karlsrud ('07)'s Greenaid slingshots were featured in *Sunset Magazine's* March issue.

Hazel Mandujano ('03), faculty member and alumnus JT Steiny ('84), and Amy Fortunato ('12) participated in the the LA Zinefest, February.

Chris Oatey (MFA '06)'s exhibition *Performing Methods* at CB1 gallery was reviewed by David Pagel in the *LA Times* on March 14.

Sergio Bromberg ('10)'s Venice 6114 Gallery hosted an exhibition of work by Jesse Benson ('03 MFA), April 13-May 4.

John Mason's ('57) "Blue Wall" is on display through October 13 at the Laguna Art Museum

[The New York Times](#) featured Architect and Interior Designer Steven Learner ('86), the Founder and Creative Director of Collective, a new design fair held in New York, May 8-11.

[Apartment Therapy](#) profiled Erin Adam's ('87)'s store, Brainworks Home.

Corrie Gregory ('91) was featured in [TR3's](#) online article entitled "Where the Wild Things Are...Now".

Marco Rios ('97) wrote [Fifteen Seconds of Fame: The Andy Warhol Polaroids](#) for KCET's Artbound in conjunction with an exhibition he curated at Cal State LA's Luckman Gallery through June 1.

Tofer Chin's ('02) second solo show, *Ar*, is on view at Lu Magnus in NYC through June 29.

Michelle Chong ('06 MFA) curated *Bussi Baba*, a show at Elephant art space featuring five artists from Vienna.

Faculty member and alumnus Tucker Neel ('07 MFA) participated in the MAK Center's recent exhibition, *Plan your visit*.

J.A.W. Cooper's ('09) solo exhibition "Laid Bare" was featured at La Luz de Jesus Gallery, April 5-28.



Joong-Han Lee ('09) was selected to join the prestigious jewelry label *Chi ha paura...?*, founded by Gijs Bakker. His designs were exhibited in Milan and at the Stedelijk Museums' Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands.

Christopher Fong ('13) has been named a 2013 [Windgate Fellow](#) in mixed media/product design by The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design. The \$15,000 Award, among the largest and most prestigious offered nationally to graduating seniors, is given to ten recipients from a field of 115 nominees from 68 institutions. Faculty mentor for the competition was Joan Takayama-Ogawa. The award will support Chris to enroll in workshops at the Domaine de Boisbuchet in Southern France, researching graduate schools in Europe, and wood and blacksmithing courses at Penland School of Crafts, N.C.

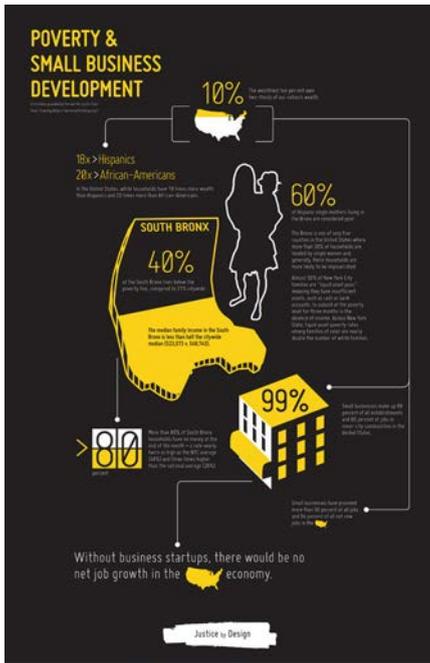


The Center for International Education sponsored **Connect LA: China** on April 26, in which students discovered the rich history of Chinese culture, worked with local and alumni artists, and enjoyed traditional cuisine.

MFA Fine Arts Sandberg Residency exchange fellow **Arnar Asgeirsson** did a two-month residency, hosted by **ESMoA** (El Segundo Museum of Art).

Fashion Design student **EunYoung Lee** won a 2013 TALA (Textile Assoc of L.A.) scholarship.

Graphic Design students George Martinez and Eric Nishioka won awards for their campaign "Justice by Design" in the **One Club Young Ones** Competition, one of the most acclaimed advertising, interactive and design student competitions. This year's competition offered two briefs aimed at creating solutions for social change.



Spring Fest 2013's festivities included the opening reception of *Freeway Studios #1 This side of the 405*, Graduate Studios Open House, and the 2nd Annual Kite Festival. Tom Van Sant ('57), Melanie Walker, George Peters, Ron Gibian and Bobby Stanfield were among the kite designers who participated. Children from Urban Compass, St. Jude's Hospital and Children's Hospital and many others flew the 2,000 kites donated by Art 4 Moore.

Students, Faculty and Staff participated in **College Night at the Getty Center** April 15.

The annual **Kite Festival** made it on the **KTLA morning news**, with updates all morning from Santa Monica beach. Other press on the event included *LA Parent*, *Santa Monica Mirror*, *Argonaut*.

Faculty member **Sammy Flores** appeared on **MSNBC's "The Cycle"** on March 1 to speak about the Catholic church and evil.

Program Director of Photography **Soo Kim** was profiled in *Art Ltd* on March 13.

Alumna **Heather Goldberg's** new fashion line, "Haber," was featured in *Paper* Magazine on April 1. and in *Elle* on April 18 On April 6, *El Ay Made* ran a story on the launch.

Fashion designer **Rick Owens**, who attended Otis for two years, was profiled in *Style Moda* Fashion on April 2.

The fashion design jury exhibition received attention from **Heather Fonseca's ('89) blog, The Style Confessions**

Culver City Crossroads featured the "Life Stages" class taught by faculty member **Sandra Coopersmith** on April 16.

The **Graduate Public Practice** annual exhibition was the subject of a piece by Sue Bell Yank in *ForYourArt* on April 24.

Los Angeles Magazine's April feature on L.A. artists "Art of the City" by Doug Harvey included profiles of two alumni, **Juan Capistran ('99)** and **Jeffrey Vallance ('81 MFA)**.

Benefit related:

Joan Mangum's column in the *Beverly Hills Courier* on March 8 featured the 2013 Benefit committee members.

The *L.A. Times* quoted fashion design mentor Mary Jo Bruno in a piece about lingerie published on March 29 and reprinted by the *Chicago Tribune* on March 31.

On April 29, **Ellen Olivier's Society News LA** featured the May 4 Benefit. One week later, a **recap** on the event appeared.

Many outlets ran stories about the sustainability alliance:

- [California Apparel News](#) May 3
- [Environmental Leader](#) May 6
- [Blue and Green Tomorrow](#) May 8

Major Benefit Press:

- [WWD](#) May 9
- [Modern Luxury](#) May 12
- Huffington Post "Style" May 1 (by committee member Cynthia Occelli)
- LA Times* "All the Rage" May 6
- [California Apparel News](#) May 10
- Huffington Post "Weddings" May 9

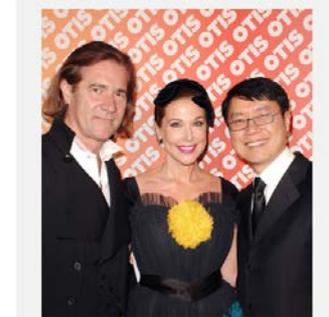


All The Rage

MUSINGS ON THE CULTURE OF KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

Otis gala honors Sally Perrin with inaugural Style Icon Award

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May 10, 2013 HUFF POST WEDDINGS

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Claire Pettibone, Bridal Designer, Mentors Otis College Students (PHOTOS)

The Huffington Post | By Stephanie Hallett | Posted: 05/09/2013 4:37 pm EDT | Updated: 05/10/2013 12:31 pm EDT

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Otis press releases:

Massive Online Open Course Reinterprets Contemporary Art
112 PICKUPS 6,705 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS.

Sustainability Alliance Promotes a Sea Change in the Fashion Industry
151 PICKUPS 20,373 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS

2nd Annual Kite Festival at Santa Monica Beach
97 PICKUPS 24,170 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS

Legendary Antwerp Designers to Speak at LACMA
126 PICKUPS 43,029 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS

L.A.'s Premier Runway Show Celebrates Progressive Fashion Design, Opens Doors for Emerging Talent
98 PICKUPS 35,091 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS

Internationally Acclaimed Designer, Author, and Educator Shashi Caan to Speak at MOCA
**123 PICKUPS 139,013 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS
752 ONSITE IMPRESSIONS**

Major outlets include

KCET News, Digital Journal, Fox News, San Francisco Chronicle, Yahoo News, KCET, International Business Times, CBS 5, United Press International, Boston Globe, San Jose Mercury News, United Press International, Miami Herald, and Houston Chronicle

Social Media

On Twitter, Bob Mackie retweeted our release on the Benefit, and live tweets from the event came from Santa Monica Place, Cameron Silver, *CA Apparel News*, Disney Living, and Perrin Paris. Mentor and alumna Claire Pettibone blogged about the event.

On GQ.com, author Jonathan Franzen cited Graduate Writing Assistant Chair **Sarah Shun-lien Bynum's** *Ms. Hempel Chronicles* as one of the "21 books from the 21st century every man should read."

 **Otis College of Art and Design** shared a link. 2 hours ago

Otis Grad Writing Assistant Chair Sarah Shun-lien Bynum

Jonathan Franzen picks Sarah Shun-lien Bynum's "Ms. Hempel Chronicles" in GQ: The New Canon: The 21 Books from the 21st Century Every Man Should Read

Read More <http://www.gq.com/entertainment/books/201304/21-books-for-the-21st-century#ixzz2PzZZY1I4>



The 21 Books From the 21st Century Every Man Should Read: Books: GQ
www.gq.com

These are GQ's hands-down, most emphatically favorite works of fiction from the new millennium, numbered, but not ranked, plus all the books from

Donghia Master Class Video



Creative Action: Integrated Learning Program Video



Benefit Runway Show Highlights

