



ACADEMY *of* ART UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN SAN FRANCISCO 1929 BY ARTISTS FOR ARTISTS

Academy of Art University

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CATALOG ADDENDUM 2

2025-2026 SP25 SU25 FA25 SP26 SU26 FA26

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND FACULTY

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME	TITLE
Dr. Nancy Houston	Chairman
Dr. Elisa Stephens	President
Jason Konesco	Director
Dr. Jamie Williams	Director
Carolyn Wente	Director
Charlotte Yates	Director
Caroline Daniels	Director
Richard A. Winn	Director
Dr. Kathleen Jordan	Director
Jennifer Walt	Director
Joseph Vollaro	Director
Tim Luing	Director

KEY INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES

KEY INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES

Academic Steering Committee

The Academy of Art University Academic Steering Committee (ASC) represents the faculty of the university and provides a formal channel for faculty input to the administration. The ASC is comprised of academic and faculty stakeholders throughout the university.

Committee Members

Bill Maughan (Chair), Director of Illustration
Jennifer Brock, (Secretary) Executive Vice President Online Education Academics & Services

David Goodwine, Chief Academic Innovation Officer & Executive Director of Game Development
Eileen Everett, Chief Academic Officer
Melissa Sydeman, Academic Vice President of Entertainment and Broadcast Media
Antonio Borja, Executive Director of Industrial Design
Catherine Tate, Executive Director of 3D Animation and Visual Effects
Neil Gilks, Executive Director, School of Fashion
Nicolás Villarreal, Executive Director of Visual Development, 2D Animation & Art Direction
Anna Nelson, Online Director of Painting & Printmaking, School of Fine Art
Fred McHale, Director, School of Interaction & UI/UX Design
Karen Seong, Director, School of Architecture

Contact: AcademicSteeringCommittee@academyart.edu

Executive Cabinet

The President's Executive Cabinet works as a cohesive team to oversee and coordinate institutional operations and improvement initiatives. It is comprised of members of the President's Executive Leaders (direct reports) and Senior Managers. The Executive Cabinet members represent, report progress on, and communicate back to the main institutional committees (WSCUC Steering Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Academic Steering Committee, Student Success Committee).

Committee Members

Chris Visslailli, Chief of Staff (Chair)

Elisa Stephens, President
Eileen Everett, Chief Academic Officer
Serita Sangimino, Chief Admissions & Student Affairs Officer
Brittney Drake, Executive Vice President, Financial Aid & Compliance
Edison Jarrin, Executive Vice President, Finance
Gordon North, Executive Vice President, Operations
Jennifer Brock, Executive Vice President Online Education Academics & Services
Brian Brashers, Vice President, Campus Safety and Lab Resources
Patrick Adsuar, Vice President, Information Technology
Victor Postemski, Associate Vice President, Housing & Residence Life

Contact: Cvisslailli@academyart.edu

Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee tracks and monitors progress on Academy of Art University's Strategic Plan 2022-2027. The Strategic Plan's focus areas (Institutional Effectiveness, Students and Faculty, Organization and Facilities and Finance and Regulatory Compliance) build upon the Academy's mission and vision. Assigned area leads are tasked with implementing and monitoring initiatives tied to critical success factors for each focus area. The Strategic Planning Committee meets on a quarterly basis to monitor and track progress on driving the strategic plan forward, in alignment with the annual budgetary approval process.

Committee Members

Torie Toler, Vice President, Operational Effectiveness (Chair)
Mahina Duran, Vice President, Academic Administration & Operations (Secretary)

Elisa Stephens, President
Nancy Houston, Chair, Board of Directors
Chris Visslailli, Chief of Staff
David Goodwine, Chief Academic Innovation Officer & Executive Director Game Development
Eileen Everett, Chief Academic Officer
Serita Sangimino, Chief Admissions & Student Affairs Officer
Brittney Drake, Executive Vice President, Financial Aid & Compliance
Edison Jarrin, Executive Vice President, Finance
Jennifer Brock, Executive Vice President Online Education Academics & Services
Patrick Adsuar, Vice President, Information Technology

Contact: StrategicPlanning@academyart.edu

Student Success Committee

The Student Success Committee brings together members from student-facing departments across the Academy to plan, drive, and measure initiatives for improving persistence and graduation rates by improving the student experience and enhancing student success. The Student Success Committee reviews and responds to disaggregated student data to inform its work, including monitoring and tracking actions taken in response to the results of the annual Student Satisfaction Survey.

Committee Members

Lauren Spain, Vice President, Student Affairs (Co-Chair)
Matt Druhe, Executive Director, Student Retention & Success (Co-Chair)

Andrew Gustafson, Director, Training & Development
Chantelle Ferguson, Director, Online Language Support
Jaime Hopper, Director, Student Operations
Jessie Eckardt, Director, Institutional Research
Leandro Ng, Director, Foundations
Jerald Santos, Associate Director, Financial Aid Processing
Becky Johnson, Sr. Manager and Career Services for Animation & Visual Effects Operations
Celina Pina, Department Manager, Schools of Game Development and Music Production & Sound Design for Visual Media
Jacki Stears, Manager, Online Helpdesk
Allyson Ritger, Full-Time Faculty, Liberal Arts

Contact: Mdruhe@academyart.edu

WSCUC Steering Committee

The WSCUC Steering Committee oversees, coordinates and monitors Academy of Art University compliance with WSCUC Standards and is responsible for the planning and coordinating of committees and teams through widespread engagement of campus stakeholders in the accreditation process. The WSCUC Steering Committee is responsible for driving the self-study, managing timelines and reporting and completion of all aspects of WSCUC accreditation (offsite review, peer review team visits, reaffirmation, mid-cycle review, annual report etc.) The Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) facilitates communication with our WSCUC Staff Liaison, engages participation in accreditation across campus and serves as an ongoing resource on accreditation.

Committee Members

Elisa Stephens, President

Nancy Houston, Chairman, Board of Directors

Chris Visslailli, Chief of Staff

Eileen Everett, Chief Academic Officer

Melissa Sydeman, Academic Vice President of Entertainment and Broadcast Media

Rachel Lawrence, Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness & WSCUC ALO

Contact: RLawrence@academyart.edu

KEY ADMINISTRATORS

KEY ADMINISTRATORS

Elisa Stephens	President, Academy of Art University
Eileen Everett	Chief Academic Officer
Serita Sangimino	Chief Admissions & Student Affairs Officer
Chris Visslailli	Chief of Staff
Jana Memel	Executive Vice President of Brand Storytelling and the Schools of Entertainment
Edison Jarrin	Executive Vice President, Finance
Brittney Drake	Executive Vice President, Financial Aid & Compliance
Jennifer Brock	Executive Vice President, Online Education Academics & Services
Gordon North	Executive Vice President, Operations
Erika Ryan	Executive Assistant to President
William Castañeda	Executive Assistant to the Chief Finance Officer
Brian Brashears	Vice President
Mahina Gonzalez-Duran	Vice President, Academic Administration & Operations
Raina Rorie	Vice President, Admissions
Joyce Gomez	Vice President, Admissions Operations
Bradley Jones	Vice President, Athletics
Anne Connors	Vice President, Compliance
Denise Cottin	Vice President, Curriculum
Hope Tompkins	Vice President, Human Resources
Patrick Adsuar	Vice President, Information Technology
Rachel Lawrence	Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness & WSCUC ALO
Torie Toler	Vice President, Operational Effectiveness
Karen Adams	Vice President, Strategic Marketing
Lauren Janusch	Vice President, Student Affairs
Stephen Newman	Vice President, Student Services
Melissa Sydeman	Academic Vice President of Entertainment and Broadcast Media
Victor Postemski	Associate Vice President, Housing & Residence Life
Samantha Black	Associate Vice President, Online Education Production
Aaron Schuyler	Associate Vice President, Online Education Systems
Brian Stoffer	Associate Vice President, Website Development & Digital Marketing

John Weeks	Assistant to the Vice President of Business Operations
Candice Rollerson	Executive Director, Academic Administration
Sparsha Ananda	Executive Director, Enrollment
Matthew Druhe	Executive Director, Student Retention & Success
Allen James	Executive Director, Transportation
Brian Del Grande	Senior Director, Domestic Undergraduate Admissions
Charles Barrett	Senior Director, International Admissions & Partnerships
Ashley Fowler	Director of Undergraduate & Graduate Student Services
Heather King	Director, Accessibility Resources
Michael Young	Director, Campus Safety
Christina Titus	Director, Curriculum Systems and Support
Naishya Punzalan	Director, Domestic Undergraduate Admissions
Gina Ramirez	Director, Domestic Undergraduate Admissions
Robert McDonald	Director, English for Art Purposes
Patricia Turney	Director, Grievance & Student Code of Conduct
Monica Rosiles	Director, Human Resources Operations
Jessica Eckardt	Director, Institutional Research
Edwin Vargas	Director, Lab Resources
Rikki Moore	Director, Library
Jessica Stewart	Director, Registrar
Sasha Zohreh	Director, Student Financial Services
Jaime Hopper	Director, Student Operations
Andrew Gustafson	Director, Training & Development
Chantelle Ferguson	OL Language Support Director
Liam Alequire	Production Director
Diane Gaskin	Resident Director
Donald Hoffman	Resident Director
Dan Emerson	Senior Associate Athletic Director, Compliance & Student -Athlete Development
Patricia Shelabarger	Associate Director Financial Aid Processing
Kathryn Bumala	Associate Director, Academic Labs & Shops
David Stark	Associate Director, Academic Labs & Shops
Claude Buck	Associate Director, Automotive Restoration Program
Jerald Santos	Associate Director, Financial Aid Processing
Crucita Polizzi	Associate Director, Liberal Arts Administration

Katherine McEvoy

Assistant Director, Housing Operations and Resident Life

Shaina Dabney

Title IX & Compliance Coordinator

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FULL-TIME FACULTY INFORMATION

SCHOOL OF ACTING FULL-TIME FACULTY

Jana Sue Memel

Executive Vice President of Brand Storytelling and the Schools of Entertainment

Academy Award-winning producer and writer.

Jana Sue Memel is an Academy Award-winning producer and writer. Ms. Memel has produced over 25 movies and over 65 half-hour, live-action shorts that have played as television series in more than 30 countries. The films she has produced have won Writers Guild and Directors Guild Awards, Emmys, CableACE Awards and the Humanitas Prize.

Educational Background: USC Law School; Pitzer College (BA-Sociology & BA-History)

SCHOOL OF ADVERTISING FULL-TIME FACULTY

Douglas Van Praet

Executive Director, School of Brand Communications

Doug is a leading branding expert, brand strategist, management consultant and industry best-selling author. He's recognized as a pioneer in the application of behavioral science to brand and marketing innovation. Doug's applied psychology methodology for inspiring and optimizing data-driven brand growth and change management draws from Unconscious Behaviorism and is grounded in evolutionary and social psychology, behavioral economics, and cognitive science.

Doug has positioned some of the world's most iconic brands through results-oriented, award-winning campaigns with demonstrable financial and social ROI (Return on Investment). His proprietary approach has helped generate billions of impressions in earned media and hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue growth. He has worked with leading advertisers and brands like Volkswagen, Procter & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson, General Motors, Toyota, Lexus, Nike, Burger King, AB InBev, Dr Pepper, Snapple, Neutrogena, DIRECTV, Bank of America, City National Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Mitsubishi, etc. He has also worked with leading nonprofit brands including World Vision, Mercy Ships, Concern Worldwide, International Center for Missing and Exploited Children, etc.

Inc. Magazine named his book, *Unconscious Branding: How Neuroscience Can Empower (and Inspire) Marketing* one of the "Top Ten Marketing Books." Book Authority ranks it the "6th Best Branding Book of All Time" out of a list of 55 books, based on public mentions, recommendations, ratings, and reader sentiment. Best Marketing Degrees.Org ranks *Unconscious Branding* the "4th Best Book on Branding" based upon customer ratings and the relevance of the author to develop an understanding of the branding discipline. His book is available worldwide in five languages. Doug was named a top 10 branding leader by Superbrands Worldwide, the world's largest independent arbiter of brands.

He is a writer for *Psychology Today* and a contributor for *Fast Company*. Doug has also been featured in national and international news media including: *Time Magazine*, *Forbes Magazine*, *Inc. Magazine*, *Business Insider*, *UK Telegraph*, *BBC News*, *Scotland Herald*, *The Economic Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *NPR: National Public Radio*, *SiriusXM*, *Contagious Magazine*, *Advertising Age*, *Huffington Post*, *NonProfit Times*, *Big Think*, *Khaleej Times*, etc.

Doug is a sought-after keynote speaker on the topic of human insights and the role of emotions and nonconscious factors in consumer decision making. These venues include: The Association of National Advertisers Creativity Conference in New York, Neuromarketing World Forum in Barcelona, South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, the ANA Nonprofit Conference in Washington D.C., the American Marketing Association of Account Planning Conference in Miami, and the Content Marketing Conference in Las Vegas.

Doug attended Syracuse University and received two degrees, a Bachelor of Science in Advertising from Newhouse School of Public Communications, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the College of Arts & Sciences. He is currently completing a Master of Arts in Psychology at Pepperdine University.

Educational Background: Syracuse University (BS-Advertising)

Anna Villano

Executive Director, School of Brand Communications and School of Graphic Design

Anna is a trained graphic designer with a background in architecture. From managing design departments to leading creative teams at digital agencies her career has spanned many areas in marketing communications. She's been on the forefront of the evolution from pre-digital to post-digital and the use of various social media platforms for ad campaigns.

She was a Creative Director at VaynerMedia, a disruptive award-winning social media agency led by digital pioneer Gary Vaynerchuk. At VaynerMedia Anna oversaw multiple creative teams to create some of the most innovative and successful ad campaigns. She's an expert in understanding how the social media and ad machine really work and how they influence viewers' buying decisions.

In addition, she's worked at top-tier agencies such as Deutsch, FCB and Rapp. She's worked with big name clients like Volkswagen, Taco Bell, Microsoft, Neutrogena, Unilever, Naked Juice, Sonic Drive-In, Toyota, City National Bank and P&G, to name a few. She was a judge for The Addy Awards, one of the leading award shows in advertising. Anna helped create one of the biggest QSR (Quick Service Restaurant) campaigns to date, the Taco Bell Doritos Loco Tacos campaign. It was Taco Bell's most successful product launch in history and helped build Taco Bell's fanbase on social media to 1.2 million Instagram followers and 10 million on Facebook.

She was a professor at the University of California Los Angeles teaching graphic design and digital media. Her passion is helping students find their direction in the creative space and guiding their career choices.

She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Berkeley in Architecture and a Master of Fine Arts in Media Design and Communications from Art Center College of Design.

Educational Background: University of California, Art Center (BA-Architecture, MFA-Media Design and Communications)

Ross Patrick

Director & Creative Lead, School of Advertising

Ross began his career as a graphic designer at Nike. He went on to become the Director of Advertising & Design at Capitol Records creating some of the most iconic tour posters, print ads, TV spots and album covers for Radiohead, Paul McCartney, and Foo Fighters along with a host of others. As Senior Vice President, Design Director, at Deutsch LA, he was responsible for numerous brands such as Old Navy, DIRECTV, Mitsubishi, Tesco and TGI Fridays.

As Global Creative Director for The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf he oversaw all brand and advertising communications across all media.

As Executive Creative Director at DDW SF, Ross led his creative teams on award-winning branding and advertising campaigns for Campbells Soup, Anheuser-Busch, Decathlon Sports, Starbucks and many more.

More recently, he was the founder of XTRA BOLD AGENCY, a leading-edge social media advertising agency specializing in TikTok and eCommerce integration.

No stranger to the Academy, Ross has collaborated with the School of Graphic Design as a guest lecturer and portfolio reviewer, hired interns and graduates from both the Advertising and Graphic Design departments, and has a son who attended the Academy.

He's an avid musician, who lives in Marin County with his wife and two sons.

Professional Background: Capitol Records (Director of Advertising & Design), The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (Global creative Director), DDW SF (Executive Creative Director)

SCHOOL OF ANIMATION & VISUAL EFFECTS FULL-TIME FACULTY

Catherine Tate

Executive Director of 3D Animation & Visual Effects, School of Animation & Visual Effects

Catherine Tate is an accomplished Visual Effects Artist and Composer who has worked on some of the industry's most recognizable films and video games. Catherine Tate is currently the Compositing Lead in the Animation & Visual Effects department at Academy of Art University where she has been teaching since 2004. She established a collaborative class in 2006 at ACADEMY OF ART UNIVERSITY known as ""Studio400A"" which has produced visual effects on numerous independent films. Her objective is to connect visual effects students to filmmakers to create a more real world experience in the classroom. Some of Studio400A's most recent work includes Beasts of the Southern Wild, which was nominated for four Academy Awards including best picture, 2013 Sundance and Festival de Cannes winner Fruitvale Station, and the feature Bluebird, which opened the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival. Studio400A also worked on the features Half-Life and Circumstance, along with the short Crazy Beats Strong Every Time, which were also official selections at the Sundance Film Festival.

Professional Background: Industrial Light + Magic (1991-1995 and 1997-2003), The Orphanage (2003-2004), ESC Entertainment (Contractor). Visual Effects Supervisor: "Beasts of the Southern Wild", "Crazy Beats Strong Every Time", "Exposure", "Circumstance", "Midnight Son", "Dear Lemon Lima". Partial list of feature films compositor: "Synecdoche, New York", "Hulk", "Men in Black II", "House of Wax", "Wild Wild West", "Perfect Storm", "Minority Report", and "AI". Additional studio feature film credits include: "Contact", "Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace", "Sleepy Hollow", "Galaxy Quest", "Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones", and "Hellboy".

Nicolás Villarreal

Executive Director of Visual Development, 2D Animation and Art Direction, Schools of Visual Development and Animation & Visual Effects

Villarreal graduated with honors from the Master's program at Academy of Art University in 2002. He has worked as a traditional animator, character designer, sculptor, and Visual Development artist for film and video game companies, including Walt Disney Studios, Sony Computer Entertainment, Jim Henson Studios, Sega, Digital Domain, Reel FX, and Amazon Studios.

He has given presentations and screened his films at Pixar Animation Studios, DreamWorks Animation, Blue Sky Studios, the Sydney Opera House and several universities in South America and Europe.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Illustration); Instituto de Arte Cinematográfico de Avellaneda (BFA-2D Animation)

Michael Parks

Associate Director of 3D Animation, School of Animation & Visual Effects

Michael has worked in animation for thirty years, including eight years at Pixar Animation Studios. Credits there include Toy Story 2, Finding Nemo, and The Incredibles. He started his career in stop motion, working on projects for ABC, PBS, and Disney. He then transitioned into 3D animation at Pixar, where he worked on shorts, commercials, and five feature films. Michael has also worked in many other areas of animation, including motion capture (A Christmas Carol), stop motion, (Robot Chicken), previs and postvis (Thor Ragnarok), video games(Dead Space 3), as well as freelance projects.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (BA-Filmmaking, Animation Emphasis)

Derek Flood

Associate Director of Visual Effects and Technology, School of Animation & Visual Effects

Derek Flood received his BFA in Painting from University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. He has also had intensive training at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago where he focused on classical and computer animation. He has over 10 years of experience in character animation, directing, and photorealistic lighting/texturing. Prior to becoming full-time faculty, Derek was an Independent Director and Animator at Sharktacos Studios, which he founded in 2003. Derek has also worked at DreamWorks and various companies in Munich and Berlin. Film credits include The Pianist and Shrek2. Derek has been the recipient of the Audience Favorite at Animago, Germany's premier CG animation award. His Say Cheese has been an official selection at festivals and they include SIGGRAPH Electronic Theater, World Animation Celebration, Anima Mundi in Brazil, Edinburgh International Film Fest in the UK, Art Futura in Spain, Hiroshima in Japan, and many more. Say Cheese has been aired on television programs in Holland, Japan, the UK, and the US.

Educational Background: University of Illinois Urbana (BFA-Painting)

Michael Raphaelovich

Online Coordinator, School of Animation & Visual Effects

Michael Raphaelovich is a Visual Effects Match mover and a Layout Artist. Michael also works as a texturing, lighting and look development artist. His background is in 2D and 3D animation and practical miniature effects. Michael received his bachelor's degree from "Excelsior" college in Albany New York and he has a master's in fine art from the "Academy of Art University", where he focused on Visual Effects match moving and compositing. Right After graduating from the "Academy of Art University" in San Francisco, he found work at "Mechnology" VFX LLC where he worked as a junior compositor for various projects. Afterwards, he continued to work as a freelance VFX artist in the San Francisco Bay Area for various Visual Effects studios and he also started teaching at the "Academy of Art University". Michael is teaching classes in Visual Effects Match moving, Texturing, and lighting, Studio X and more.

Educational Background: Excelsior College (BSL – Animation); Academy of Art University (MFA-Animation & VFX)

Aaron Guadamuz

Stop Motion Lead, School of Animation & Visual Effects

Aaron Guadamuz is a Bay Area native, illustrator, animator, musician, photographer and handyman who lives and works in San Francisco, CA. He has worked closely with a number companies, organizations, and record labels including the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, Trouper Films, Sega of America, Sony, Namco, Napster, Stones Throw, Sargent House and Insect Records.

Always with an ear to the ground for the strange and obscure, he works with a variety of underground and mainstream artists and filmmakers. He is one third of the art rock outfit Father Howl and a contributing writer and editor for Gowanus Film Society in Los Angeles.

Professional Background: Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, Trouper Films, Sega of America, Sony, Namco, Napster, Stones Throw, Sargent House and Insect Records

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE FULL-TIME FACULTY

Karen YunJin Seong

Director, School of Architecture

Karen Seong is the Director at the School of Architecture, Academy of Art University, where she advocates for under-represented students. She is a proponent of online education as a means to meaningfully diversify the architectural profession. Her pedagogy of examining identity formation in architectural spaces, published by Axel Menges, asks students to tell their personal stories through studio projects. Prior to teaching, she held leadership positions with Skidmore Owings and Merrill in New York and in San Francisco working collaboratively with large international teams on award-winning projects ranging from high-rises to institutional buildings in the US and in the Middle East. She has previously taught at UC Berkeley and has been a guest critic at various institutions in the US and in Korea. She holds a Master of Architecture with distinction from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture with high honors from UC Berkeley. She was born in South Korea and lived in Malaysia before immigrating to the US at age 19.

Educational Background: Columbia University (M.Arch-Architecture); University of California Berkeley (BA-Architecture)

Eva Chiu

Assistant Director, School of Architecture

Eva Chiu was born and raised in New York City. She received a Bachelor of Architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master of Architecture from Harvard University, Graduate School of Design where she was granted the Alpha Rho Chi award. Eva's academic achievements included a Fulbright Award followed by a Fulbright Fellowship in Hong Kong, PRC. She worked previously at Richard Meier & Partners in New York, and Skidmore Owings and Merrill in San Francisco before starting her own firm, Clad Studio with her partner, Antonio Lau, in Oakland, California. Before joining the first year design studio faculty at the Academy of Art University, Eva taught at University of California Berkeley and was a guest lecturer and reviewer at other institutions in the US and abroad.

Educational Background: Harvard University (Master of Architecture)

Doron Serban

Emerging Technology Coordinator, School of Architecture

Doron Serban is a full-time faculty member and the undergraduate emerging technologies coordinator. His research focuses on how the transdisciplinary role of visualization in architecture can reshape the boundaries between logical and intuitive decision processes.

Besides teaching, Doron Serban is a designer working in the Bay Area. Through Doron Serban Design, his professional work navigates building design, design competitions, photography, cinematography, motion design, branding, and architectural visualization. Outside of architecture, he is a co-owner and coach of CoCo CrossFit in Concord, CA.

Educational Background: Syracuse University (M.Arch-Architecture); University of California, Riverside (BA-Music)

SCHOOL OF ART EDUCATION FULL-TIME FACULTY

Matthew Sweeney

Director, School of Art Education

Matthew Sweeney received his Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Vermont, where he also earned a bachelor's degree in Studio Art, Political Science, and German. His teaching career has spanned a variety of educational environments, including public, charter, and alternative middle and high schools in Vermont and California, where he taught art with a particular interest in utilizing the arts to empower at-risk youth and students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Since joining the faculty of the Academy of Art University in 2006, he has also supported students as an Academic Coach and has taught in the School of Art Education since the program began.

Matthew is a strong advocate for art education as our greatest tool for teaching critical thinking and the other skills essential to thrive in the 21st century. He has embraced the spirit of innovation in San Francisco to explore the intersection of technology, art, and teaching through a number of ventures. Beyond his many years integrating technology into his own arts classroom, he served as the Visual Arts Educator for the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, where he created one of the first interactive museum guide applications, and consults for Bay Area startups in the education technology sector.

Educational Background: University of Vermont (M.Ed.-Curriculum and Instruction & BA-Studio Art, Political Science, and German)

Catherine Rice

Associate Director, School of Art Education, Art Teaching Credential Program

Catie Rice received her Bachelor's Degree in Art Education with a Minor in Art History from California State University, Chico, and her Master's Degree and Single-Subject Credential from the Academy of Art University. She is excited to be back at the university that gave her a strong foundation to start her career in education. Before being Associate Director at the Academy of Art, Catie was a high school Art Teacher in Oakland, California, and a Graduate Instructor at the Art of Education University. Additionally, she has worked with museums, non-profits, and summer camps across the Bay Area. Catie's educational philosophy is based on relationship building, high expectations, and culturally relevant projects. She believes in strong communication by sharing personal experiences, learning about interests and goals, and providing concrete and supportive feedback.

Educational Background: California State University, Chico (Bachelor's in Art Education); Academy of Art University (Masters)

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY FULL-TIME FACULTY

Euan Robson

Director, School of Art History

(Bio TBA)

Educational Background: *(TBA)*

David Riffert

Full-Time Faculty, Liberal Arts

David has been teaching since 1983. His articles have been featured in print and publications, including exhibition catalog essays (2019 for an exhibit at the Mihaly Munkacsy Fine Art Museum, "Paintings of Tibor Simon-Mazula; "Dawning" at the Shooting Gallery, San Francisco). Colleges where David has taught include The Pennsylvania State University, Principia College, and Academy of Art University. David received his BA in History and Art History from Principia College, and earned his MA in Art History from The Pennsylvania State University. David helped initiate the Liberal Arts Study Abroad graduate curriculum and has traveled to Europe numerous times with Academy students since the late 1990s and has authored numerous online graduate classes. He also served six years (2014-19) on the board of an architectural preservation organization for the City of Berkeley's only National Historic Landmark edifice.

Educational Background: The Pennsylvania State University (MA-Art History); The Principia College (BA-History / Art History)

Stephen Williams

Full-Time Faculty, Liberal Arts

Stephen Williams earned a BA and an MA in history at San Francisco State University where his graduate work included the study of civilization from antiquity through the Renaissance and the art of the early Italian Renaissance in Venice. His research projects included the representation of St. Francis of Assisi in literature and art, the graphic art and text of the "Hypnerotomachia Poliphili" of Colonna and its representation of Renaissance pagan ideals, as well as the evolution of early Christian iconography. In 2017 he presented a paper on the Hellenistic "Old Market Woman" sculpture at the College Arts Association conference in New York City. Other topics of interest and research include the French Revolution and World War I. He studied Italian and history at the Scuola Leonardo Da Vinci in Rome. Mr. Williams has been teaching courses on art history and western civilization at the Academy since 2001 and lead students on study abroad trips to Europe including Italy.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (MA-History); San Francisco State University (BA-History)

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA TECHNOLOGY FULL-TIME FACULTY

Douglas Van Praet

Executive Director, School of Brand Communications

Doug is a leading branding expert, brand strategist, management consultant and industry best-selling author. He's recognized as a pioneer in the application of behavioral science to brand and marketing innovation. Doug's applied psychology methodology for inspiring and optimizing data-driven brand growth and change management draws from Unconscious Behaviorism and is grounded in evolutionary and social psychology, behavioral economics, and cognitive science.

Doug has positioned some of the world's most iconic brands through results-oriented, award-winning campaigns with demonstrable financial and social ROI (Return on Investment). His proprietary approach has helped generate billions of impressions in earned media and hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue growth. He has worked with leading advertisers and brands like Volkswagen, Procter & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson, General Motors, Toyota, Lexus, Nike, Burger King, AB InBev, Dr Pepper, Snapple, Neutrogena, DIRECTV, Bank of America, City National Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Mitsubishi, etc. He has also worked with leading nonprofit brands including World Vision, Mercy Ships, Concern Worldwide, International Center for Missing and Exploited Children, etc.

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Educational Background: Syracuse University (BS-Advertising)

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Educational Background: University of California, Art Center (BA-Architecture, MFA-Media Design and Communications)

SCHOOL OF FASHION FULL-TIME FACULTY

Neil Gilks

Executive Director, School of Fashion

For over 25 years, Neil Gilks has committed his career to design and its education.

As a fashion designer, Gilks worked through the ranks to Design Director for brands in London and New York. He thrives on building – whether working on launching new labels or recognizing the needs and areas for evolution in established companies.

Beyond creating menswear and womenswear collections for the global markets, a dedication to fashion design education has allowed Gilks to attain leadership roles with top-tiered fashion design programs globally. As Director of Educational Initiatives with the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), Gilks was charged with creating opportunities and mentorship for students and faculty within 21 design institutions domestically.

Gilks cites continuing his own artistic practice as crucial – allowing him to retain a creative outlet while further exploring the space where his art, commerce, and social commentary intersect.

Since his arrival as Executive Director of the School of Fashion at Academy of Art University in the Fall of 2022, Gilks has been learning how his experience and insight can best serve our community. The learning experience is of the utmost importance to Gilks, as he strives towards making it the most robust and successful time for faculty and students alike.

Educational Background: Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design (BA-Womenswear Design, MA-Womenswear Design, MA-Menswear Design)

Gary Miller

Director, School of Fashion

Gary Miller has experience in New York and London as a fashion director, with career beginnings from the mid-nineties. His design scope encompasses building and maintaining a brand's identity, initiating a start-up concept, reinvigorating an existing line, and nurturing an ongoing successful brand. For many years, he worked as a Design Director for the men's sportswear division at Macy's Merchandising Group in New York. Previously, he worked at The Men's Wearhouse, Wilke Rodriguez, Here and There (now part of The Doneger Group), Helen Story and Michiko Koshino. Miller holds a BFA in Fashion Design with Textiles from Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication in the UK and an MFA in Fine Art Painting and Drawing from Academy of Art University.

Educational Background: Ravensbourne College of Design & Communication (BFA-Fashion Design & Textiles), Academy of Art University (MFA-Fine Art Painting and Drawing)

Jinah Oh

Director of Fashion Merchandising, School of Fashion

Jinah Oh has extensive experience in international fashion and luxury brands and fashion education. With Escada Asia, she developed business and market strategies, managed merchandising and buying for multiple brands, and pioneered and initiated brick-and-mortar and e-commerce channel development. Later with Cartier, Richemont Korea Ltd., Oh led retail operations and all aspects of retail marketing activities for the Korean market. After joining the Academy's School of Fashion, Oh built and continues to oversee the Fashion Business programs, including Merchandising, Marketing, and Product Development programs.

Educational Background: Golden Gate University (MBA-Marketing); Ewha Women's University (BS-Clothing & Textiles); Ewha Women's University (BA-Philosophy)

Iliana Ricketts

Online Director, School of Fashion

Iliana Ricketts was appointed Director of Online Fashion in 2014. She was previously Assistant Director of Online Fashion in 2009 and held the position of Fashion Department Coordinator since 2005. Prior to arriving in the US, Ricketts was an established designer in her country of Bulgaria.

Ricketts received her MFA in Fashion Design from Academy of Art University. In 2002, she launched ILYA, a designer ready-to-wear label sold nationally in stores such as Henri Bendel. Her line was also seen on the HBO television series, Sex and the City. In 2004, she helped launch the product line GGblue. Under her creative direction, GGblue became one of the most successful fashion-forward brands in the golf and leisure industry.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Fashion Design); Training Centre Calagia (BFA)

Yuko Fujishima

Associate Director of 3D Design, Construction, Draping & Flat Pattern, School of Fashion

Yuko Fujishima has been a design educator since 1998. She has taught at Bunka Fashion College, where she also received her degree in Apparel Design. Now teaching full-time at Academy of Art University's School of Fashion, Fujishima has rebuilt CDFP/3D Design classes, regularly renovates class content, and works closely with MFA students on their thesis collections. Areas of expertise include designing, pattern-making, sewing, and draping.

Educational Background: Bunka Fashion College of Japan (Apparel Design Technique)

Jennifer Jeon

Future Textiles Coordinator, School of Fashion

Jennifer Jeon started her career at Zandra Rhodes Studio in London, and her designs have been used by many fashion and textile design companies in both the US and South Korea. Jeon joined the School of Fashion as a full-time faculty in 2008. In addition to her time at Academy of Art University, Jeon has worked with a number of companies in both Korea and the UK for print design consulting. Her work has been shown through international solo and group exhibitions. Jeon's work has been published in magazines including WWD, Vogue, and L'Officiel-Paris.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Textile Design)

Banu Reynolds

Styling and Art Direction Coordinator, School of Fashion

Banu Reynolds sprouted her ambitious career while designing, creating, and styling her own clothes after moving to New York City in the early 1980s. After a few years of chasing opportunities and extensive networking, her "unique eye" and abilities began to blossom – allowing her to break into the fashion and media industry. By the mid-1980s, she began to work as a wardrobe and music video stylist at MTV, as well as a freelance fashion stylist, celebrity stylist, and consultant. Reynolds has created work for various media, music, and entertainment organizations such as MTV, Showtime, TMC, Comedy Central, VMA's, Atlantic Records, Mirabella, Elle, and the Grammys. Growing her career, Reynolds is now an instructor at Academy of Art University in San Francisco, teaching and inspiring the next generation of stylists.

Educational Background: State University of New York Empire State College (Bachelors)

SCHOOL OF FINE ART FULL-TIME FACULTY

Craig Nelson

Executive Director of Painting & Printmaking, School of Fine Art and Sculpture

For more than 30 years, Craig Nelson has depicted figures, landscapes, California coastal vistas, and various environments in rich, vibrant oils. He has painted countless movie posters, including the one-sheets for Slap Shot, The Monster Squad, and The Incredible Journey; many book covers; and album covers for the likes of Natalie Cole (Thankful) and Rick Nelson (Country). Some of his most prestigious works have been his Broadway production posters for Neil Simon's Lost in Yonkers and Proposals; both originals are in the playwright's private collection.

During his illustrious career, Nelson has won more than 200 awards of excellence in various shows, as well as five gold medals and four silver medals from organizations including the Society of Illustrators and the California Art Club. In 1996, one of his paintings was chosen for the Communication Arts Annual cover.

Educational Background: Art Center College of Design (BFA-Illustration)

Carolyn Meyer

Director of Painting, School of Fine Art

Carolyn Meyer launched her career as an art director for Gardner Communications Inc., an advertising agency in San Francisco, and was one of the founding principals of Paris Printing, a large-size printing company in Northern California. Her works are on display at local galleries—including ArtHaus, William Lester Gallery, and Hang Gallery—and in galleries across the United States. A 1995 graduate of the Academy of Art University Painting MFA program, Meyer also teaches landscape painting and abstract painting courses in the School of Fine Art.

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Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Fine Arts); Academy of Art University (BFA-Advertising)

Daniel Burt

Director of Sculpture, School of Fine Art

Daniel lives in the Mission District in San Francisco with his wife and two children, where he has been a professional artist and a college-level educator at the Academy of Art University since 2007. Daniel has a passion for the plastic arts and has focused much of his professional career on figurative abstractions and arts education with expertise in mixed-media art, Human anatomy, ceramic sculpture, mold making, and casting. He has his Artwork shown on permanent display in San Francisco alongside Ruth Arsa and DeLoach Winery and has shown throughout San Francisco, at the Deyoung museum, Luna Rienne Gallery as well as galleries throughout LA, and New Mexico. Daniel graduated with BFA from the University of New Mexico with a focus in Painting and sculpture in 1997 and then received his Masters from the Academy of Art University in 2007. He is recently taking a position as Director of Sculpture at the Academy of Art University and has nurtured an inclusive creative space for the development of personal ideation, and refining key foundational skills for all students.

Educational Background: University of New Mexico (BFA-Painting and Sculpture); Academy of Art University (Masters)

Annamarie Nelson

Online Director of Painting & Printmaking, School of Fine Art

Annamarie Nelson, also known as Anna, started teaching still life painting in 1992 for the summer Art Experience program at Academy of Art University and has been a member of the faculty ever since. She graduated from UCLA with a degree in Italian Language and Literature, worked for the Italian Department at UCLA as well as various travel agencies acting as a tour guide for students studying in Florence, Italy.

She attended Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA as an illustration major and after six terms began accepting freelance work and commission paintings. Anna continues to contribute work to the annual Academy of Art University Faculty + Alumni Fine Art Auction to help raise scholarship money benefiting Academy students.

Educational Background: University of California, Los Angeles (BA-Italian Language and Literature)

SCHOOL OF GAME DEVELOPMENT FULL-TIME FACULTY

David Goodwine

Chief Academic Innovation Officer and Executive Director, School of Game Development

David Goodwine is a graduate of the Academy of Art University's animation program and a 20+ year veteran of both the film and video game industries. His credits include work as a producer, manager, and director on game projects like Legacy of Kain Defiance, the Lord of the Rings the Two Towers, the Return of the King, Project Snowblind, and Tomb Raider Legend. In 2009, David returned to the Academy of Art to help start the School of Game Development. With his extensive experience in all aspects of the game production pipeline, he co-developed a curriculum to teach concept art, animation, 3D modeling, and game design. Since 2012, David has been instrumental in not only running the department as its executive director, but also introducing new technologies like augmented and virtual reality and establishing a game programming degree. Today, David splits his time between managing the department, bringing in new technologies and partners as the Chief Academic Innovations Officer, and also broadening the scope of online education through course offerings and virtual classes that bridge the gap between onsite and remote learning. BFA and MFA graduates from the program have gone on to work at game and film companies across the industry like Electronic Arts, Activision, Epic, and Sony PlayStation.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (BFA-Illustration); San Diego State University (BS-Exercise Physiology/Kinesiology)

David "Rez" Graham

Director of Game Programming, School of Game Development

David "Rez" Graham is currently Director, Game Programming at the Academy of Art University's School of Game Development. Most recently, he was the Lead Artificial Intelligence Programmer at Electronic Arts. He has worked in the gaming industry as an engineer since 2005 spending most of that time working on various kinds of AI, from platform enemy AI to full simulation games. Prior to working at EA, he was at PlayFirst, Slipgate Ironworks, and Planet Moon Studios. He is the co-author of Game Coding Complete, 4th Edition and regularly speaks at The Game Developers Conference as well as various colleges and high schools. Rez spends his free time performing improv and running tabletop RPGs.

Educational Background: Heald Institute of Technology (AS-Electronics/Computer Technology)

Brian Hess

Director, School of Game Development

Brian Hess received his BS in Media Arts & Animation from the Art Institute of California. During his career he has worked at a wide variety of studios such as Thrasher Magazine, Atlantis Resorts, Zynga, Digital Chocolate, TinyCo. And Little Passports. He has also created original comics at Action Lab Comics and most currently Red 5 Comics.

Educational Background: Art Institute of California (BS-Media Arts and Animation)

Scott Berkenkotter

Programming Lead, School of Game Development

After earning a BA degree in Linguistics at UC Davis, Scott Berkenkotter realized his true passion for game design and returned to his home town of Fremont, CA to earn a Certificate in Game Design at Ohlone College. Scott was the Founding President of the Ohlone Game Developers Club for two years, and led a team of five to build an interactive educational experience in Second Life. He has since worked his way up from a tester at Electronic Arts to working as Lead Engineer at independent studios such as Millionants Productions and Foam Robot, Inc. Prior to joining Academy of Art University, he developed the English-learning app Idiom Power for web, iOS, and Android.

Educational Background: UC Davis (BA-Linguistics); Ohlone College (Certificate-Game Design)

Mark Girouard

Game Design Lead, School of Game Development

Upon graduating from the Academy of Art in 1991 with an Illustration degree, Mark ventured out into the world sketching, illustrating and painting everything and anything that stimulated the creative mind. A passionate game player since the Atari 2600 Mark had an epiphany upon playing Resident Evil 1. "Video Games were becoming an art form that would rival any form of artistic expression." With some Photoshop and 3D Max training Mark landed his first gig on an unreleased PC RPG. Through his twenty year career Mark has worked with many publishers including Sega, Activision and numerous small independent studios.

Educational Background: BFA from University of San Francisco and Academy of Art dual degree majored in Illustration

SCHOOL OF GRAPHIC DESIGN FULL-TIME FACULTY

Douglas Van Praet

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Educational Background: University of California, Art Center (BA-Architecture, MFA-Media Design and Communications)

Mary Scott

Director Emerita, School of Graphic Design

School of Graphic Design Director Emerita Mary Scott can usually be found teaching the programs's signature portfolio class to both grads and undergrads. This gives her a bird's-eye view of the students as they launch their careers in design. Prior to coming to the Academy in 1999, Mary taught at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, where she was one of the first recipients of their "Great Teacher Award". She later taught at Otis College of Art and Design just before coming to Academy of Art University. Mary has been teaching since 1981 and continued doing so throughout her career starting at Capitol Records in 1964.

Her professional life was spent as partner and creative director at Maddocks & Company in Los Angeles, where her projects for Sony Entertainment, Sony Playstation, Procter & Gamble, Hitachi, Disney, Microsoft, Max Factor, Avon and Vidal Sassoon. The firm had offices in New York and Los Angeles and has won numerous design industry awards.

Mary has served on the national board of AIGA, was chapter president in Los Angeles, and received the AIGA Fellows Award from the San Francisco Chapter in 2006. In 2012 she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Academy of Art University. Her hobby is landscape and garden design.

Educational Background: UCLA and Mount St. Mary's University

Professional Background: Maddocks and Company (Vice President and Director of Creative Operations, 25 years), Audio Magnetics, a division of Mattel Toys, Sony Superscope, William Pereira and Associates Architects, and Capitol Records. (she loves to say that's where she met the Beatles on their Revolver tour)

SCHOOL OF ILLUSTRATION FULL-TIME FACULTY

William Maughan

Director, School of Illustration

A professional Illustrator since 1973. A partial client list includes General Motors Corporation, CBS Television, Wells Fargo Bank, Boston Beer, Captain Morgan and Dream Works. His illustrations have also graced the pages of T.V. Guide, Cosmopolitan, Field and Stream, Boys Life, Yachting, and Golf Digest. He has created numerous paperback book covers for New American Library, Torra, Pinnacle, Doubleday, and Harlequin, as well as Children's books for Knopf, Oxford University Press, Dutton, and Crown Publishers.

His Fine Art career began in the early 1980s William is represented nationwide. His work hangs in the Booth Western Museum, Cartersville, GA. And the Vernon Filley Art Museum, Pratt KS. He is the author of "The Artist Complete Guide to Drawing the Head". Published in French, English, Turkish, Spanish and Chinese.

Educational Background: Art Center College of Design (BFA-Illustration)

Jeannie Brunnick

Online Director, School of Illustration

Jeannie is an adept illustrator who has gained national recognition for her work with clients such as: Universal/MCA, MGM Studios, 20th Century Fox Studios, Sony Pictures, Warner Bros. Studios, Disney Imagineering, and Mattel Toys. Jeannie was a featured illustrator in Outstanding American Illustrators and has been awarded by the Society of Illustrators in Los Angeles.

Educational Background: Art Center College of Design (BFA-Illustration)

SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN FULL-TIME FACULTY

Tom Matano

Director Emeritus, School of Industrial Design

Mr. Matano has almost 30 years of experience in the automotive industry, holding design positions at General Motors in Detroit, Michigan, GM Holden's Ltd. in Melbourne, Australia, and BMW in Munich, Germany. In 1983, he joined Mazda's North American studio as a Chief Designer. From there, he went on to become Executive Vice President of Western Operations for Mazda R&D North America, Inc., and Executive Designer & Director of Mazda North American Operations. From 1999 to 2002, Mr. Matano worked at Mazda's headquarters in Japan as an Executive Designer in the Global Advance Studio, overseeing efforts for Japan, Europe, and North America; and eventually he was named General Manager of Mazda Design in charge of all Chief Designers. His accomplishments at Mazda include the 1989 Miata, 1993 RX-7, in addition to many other projects produced by the design teams he built and managed. Since 2002, Mr. Matano has been committed to becoming an educator, using his diverse knowledge and experience to enhance the Industrial Design program at Academy of Art University in San Francisco, CA, constantly ranked Top 10 in the Red Dot World Ranking of Industrial Design schools.

Educational Background: Art Center College of Design (BS-Transportation Design)

Antonio Borja

Executive Director, School of Industrial Design

Antonio Borja received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of Industrial Design in 2004. After launching his professional career as a freelancer, he joined General Motors as a creative designer, returning to his alma mater as an instructor in 2009, to teach Design Drawing, Transportation Design, and Digital 3D modeling courses. Since then, he has led a collaborative class that has been sponsored by companies such as Nissan, Peugeot, and Jaguar.

In 2014, he became associate director of the School of Industrial Design, where he works with Tom Matano on many initiatives, including the integration of the latest rapid prototyping and visualization methods into the design curriculum.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (BFA-Industrial Design)

Lloyd Buck

Associate Director, Automotive Restoration Program

Lloyd Buck is an award-winning classic car restoration expert with more than 45 years of industry experience. In 1975, he started his apprenticeship at Sano Autobody while attending high school. In 1985 he joined Auto Europa, and a year later, he began maintaining and restoring vehicles for the Keller Collection at the Pyramids, one of the most significant auto collections in the world. He then became the Keller Collection's manager until 2012, when he joined Academy of Art University as a mechanic for its celebrated Automobile Museum collection.

Professional Background: Sano Auto Body; Auto Europa; Keller Collection (Manager); Academy of Art University (Mechanic)

SCHOOL OF INTERACTION & UI/UX DESIGN

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Educational Background: University of California, Art Center (BA-Architecture, MFA-Media Design and Communications)

Fred McHale

Director, School of Interaction and UI/UX Design

Fred has over 20 years of experience as a designer, developer, and program manager. After graduating with a degree in Computer Science, he focused his energy in the area of design and emerging technology. He works with numerous high profile clients in the Bay Area to design and develop web applications, mobile applications, interactive experiences, and manage teams of designers and developers.

Fred enjoys speaking at industry events, contributing to the open source community, major league baseball, and playing guitar in his free time.

Educational Background: California State University Bakersfield (BS-Computer Science)

SCHOOL OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN FULL-TIME FACULTY

Kathleen Valkuchak

Director, School of Interior Architecture & Design

A native of California, Katie Valkuchak received her BA in Art History from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2003, and her BFA in Interior Architecture and Design from Academy of Art University in 2006. After working for several firms in the Bay Area, including Backen Gillam Kroeger Architects, and later as an independent Design Consultant, Katie returned to Academy of Art University in 2010 to teach and share her experiences.

Since then, Katie discovered that she had a great passion not only for design, but also for teaching and found the perfect opportunity to pursue them both here at the Academy.

Educational Background: UC Santa Cruz (BA-Art History), Academy of Art University (BFA – Interior Architecture & Design)

Tom Collom

Capstone Coordinator, School of Interior Architecture & Design

Tom has a B.A. Degree in Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley and is a licensed architect (AIA) and a Certified Interior Designer (NCIDQ). Tom's experience spans many design fields including city and regional planning, architecture, interiors, landscape and industrial design.

Since 1993, Tom has worked closely with Bruce Slesinger through their partnership in BAT Design Partners in helping to define architectural and brand images for clients worldwide through the design of commercial offices, retail stores, restaurants and even furnishings and fixtures.

In 2012, Bruce and Tom developed two of their own successful retail brand concepts, Small Foods and The Market on Market in San Francisco. Expansion plans for these two concept stores are being explored for a nationwide roll-out.

Since 2016, Tom has expanded his design focus by educating the next generation of designers. Tom is currently the Capstone Coordinator instructing and developing curriculum both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, folding in his extensive knowledge of the design profession.

Educational Background: UC Berkeley (BA-Architecture)

Kathleen Roche

Design Fundamentals Coordinator, School of Interior Architecture & Design

Design Fundamentals Coordinator, School of Interior Architecture & Design Kathleen Roche is known for excellence in high-end residential, retail, restaurant, and commercial projects, having collaborated with a number of design firms including Barbara Colvin & Co. and Juliana Carlsen Interiors. She has unique experience in graphic design and market research, a Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education, and studied Interior Architecture and Design at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2009, in conjunction with continuing her design practice, she joined the School of Interior Architecture team at Academy of Art as an instructor. Kathleen has supported the department with developing curriculum, assessment activities and accreditation efforts. In 2018 she transitioned to a full-time role as the Design Fundamentals Coordinator.

Educational Background: University of New Hampshire Plymouth (BS Art Education); University of California - Berkeley (Postbaccalaureate certificate in interior Architecture and Design)

SCHOOL OF JEWELRY & METAL ARTS FULL-TIME FACULTY

Charlene Modena

Director, School of Jewelry & Metal Arts

Charlene Modena received her MA in Metal Arts from San Francisco State University and MFA in Sculpture from Academy of Art University. She has participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions throughout the world, including the American Institute of Architects, the University of Guanajuato (Mexico), the Butler Museum, Elements Gallery, Velvet da Vinci Gallery, the Biennale Internationale-Limoges (France), and the Ueno Royal Museum (Tokyo).

Her work is included in the collections of the Xerox Corporation, the American Crafts Museum, and Ann Rockefeller-Roberts. She is also listed in World Who's Who of Women and was a Marin Arts Council Grant prize winner. She has been published in Design Magazine, American Crafts, Metalsmith Journal, several Lark Books 500 Series, and more.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (MA-Sculpture with an emphasis in Metal Arts); Academy of Art University (MFA-Sculpture)

SCHOOL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Karen YunJin Seong

Acting Director, School of Landscape Architecture

Karen Seong is the current Acting Director at the School of Landscape Architecture, Academy of Art University, where she advocates for under-represented students. She is a proponent of online education as a means to meaningfully diversify the architectural profession. Her pedagogy of examining identity formation in architectural spaces, published by Axel Menges, asks students to tell their personal stories through studio projects. Prior to teaching, she held leadership positions with Skidmore Owings and Merrill in New York and in San Francisco working collaboratively with large international teams on award-winning projects ranging from high-rises to institutional buildings in the US and in the Middle East. She has previously taught at UC Berkeley and has been a guest critic at various institutions in the US and in Korea. She holds a Master of Architecture with distinction from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture with high honors from UC Berkeley. She was born in South Korea and lived in Malaysia before immigrating to the US at age 19.

Educational Background: Columbia University (M.Arch-Architecture); University of California Berkeley (BA-Architecture)

Crucita Polizzi

Associate Director, Liberal Arts Administration

Crucita Polizzi holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from the School of Visual Arts and a Master of Science in Education from Keiser University. For more than eighteen years, Crucita has worked in education and as a freelance photographer, focusing on interior, architecture and design photography. Clients and publications include HGTV, The North face, Ladies Home Journal, Mountain Living Magazine and California Design Magazine. Crucita's passion for education and the arts has enabled her to genuinely appreciate the creative processes of the University's student population of emerging artists.

Educational Background: Keiser University (BFA - Photography, Master of Science in Education)

SCHOOL OF MOTION PICTURES & TELEVISION FULL-TIME FACULTY

Jana Sue Memel

Executive Vice President of Brand Storytelling and the Schools of Entertainment

Jana Sue Memel is an Academy Award-winning producer and writer. Ms. Memel has produced over 25 movies and over 65 half-hour, live-action shorts that have played as television series in more than 30 countries. The films she has produced have won Writers Guild and Directors Guild Awards, Emmys, CableACE Awards and the Humanitas Prize.

Educational Background: USC Law School; Pitzer College (BA-Sociology & BA-History)

SCHOOL OF MUSIC PRODUCTION & SOUND DESIGN FOR VISUAL MEDIA FULL-TIME FACULTY

Brad Hughes

Director, School of Music Production & Sound Design for Visual Media and Faculty Athletics Representative

Brad has been with Academy of Art University since 2007. He has over 30 years of experience as a professional in music and audio production as an instrumentalist, music creator, and sound designer. His credits include work for HBO, DreamWorks, Mattel, Skywalker Sound, and 20th Century Studios. He is a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, which hosts the annual Grammy Awards, and has served on the Education committee of the Recording Academy.

Educational Background: UCLA (BFA - World Arts & Cultures), California Institute of the Arts (MFA - Music)

SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHY FULL-TIME FACULTY

Tamara Hubbard

Director, Online, School of Photography

Tamara Hubbard is a fine art photographer and educator based in Northern California. She has worked for the Academy of Art University since 2007, and has been in her role of Associate Director of Online Photography since 2010. Her educational emphasis as an instructor includes travel photography, photography concept, and portfolio development. As an instructor online, she has had the unique opportunity to work with students from six continents and countless countries, guiding students in achieving their individual goals in the field of photography. In addition to immersion as an instructor in the program, Tamara oversees the graduate-level photography curriculum, serves as the MFA Thesis Committee Chair and is the School of Photography Study Abroad Coordinator. She received her MFA degree in Photography from the Academy of Art University with top honors in 2007, and continues to be active as an exhibition juror and community art advocate.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Photography); Southern Oregon University (BS-Psychology); College of the Redwoods (AA-General Education)

Timothy Archibald

Director, Onsite, School of Photography

Timothy Archibald long believed that photography and the arts are a path based on a lifelong relationship to the medium. As a person who was introduced to photography by a strong mentor in his teens, Timothy have always attempted to create a community of mentorship within his commercial and artistic careers. A working commercial photographer, Timothy's commercial work has been celebrated in Communication Arts Photography Annual, American Photography Annual, Popular Photography and Photo District News. His various commercial clients include Facebook, McDonald's, American Express, Netflix and Botox Therapeutics. His personal projects have resulted in lectures and exhibitions at spaces as diverse as SFMOMA, Emory University, The Museum of Sex in NYC, and in the permanent collection of Le musée Français de la Photographie, Bievres, France.

Educational Background: Pennsylvania State University, 1989 (BA-Art)

Kimberly Mowbray

Associate Director, Online, School of Photography

Kimberly Mowbray is a fine art photographer based in Santa Rosa, California. She has an MFA degree in Photography from Academy of Art University. Kimberly works primarily in alternative processes. Through her photographs she explores the understanding of self and how that interacts with a given environment.

By using the photographic medium she is able to show the beauty and serenity in various locations and pair that with her own figure reacting and responding to the stillness of the landscape. Kimberly is an active member in Society for Photographic Education and exhibits her work nationally.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Photography); Sonoma State University (BA-Psychology)

SCHOOL OF VISUAL DEVELOPMENT FULL-TIME FACULTY

Nicolás Villarreal

Executive Director of Visual Development, 2D Animation and Art Direction, Schools of Visual Development and Animation & Visual Effects

Villarreal graduated with honors from the Master's program at Academy of Art University in 2002. He has worked as a traditional animator, character designer, sculptor, and Visual Development artist for film and video game companies, including Walt Disney Studios, Sony Computer Entertainment, Jim Henson Studios, Sega, Digital Domain, Reel FX, and Amazon Studios.

He has given presentations and screened his films at Pixar Animation Studios, DreamWorks Animation, Blue Sky Studios, the Sydney Opera House and several universities in South America and Europe.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Illustration); Instituto de Arte Cinematográfico de Avellaneda (BFA-2D Animation)

Chris Carman

Associate Director, School of Visual Development

Christopher Carman is a versatile and collaborative graphic artist with a strong background in web/mobile based games and apps for the entertainment, education, and design industries. A 2006 graduate of Academy of Art University, Christopher joined our faculty in 2007 as an instructor for courses focused on sequential art, perspective, anatomy, and character design.

He accepted the role of Associate Director of the School of Visual Development in 2013. He's previously worked as an art director, conceptual artist, and animator for clients including Adobe Systems, Zynga, MTV Games, and Electronic Arts.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (BFA-Illustration)

SCHOOL OF WRITING FOR FILM, TELEVISION & DIGITAL MEDIA FULL-TIME FACULTY

Jana Sue Memel

Executive Vice President of Brand Storytelling and the Schools of Entertainment

Jana Sue Memel is an Academy Award-winning producer and writer. Ms. Memel has produced over 25 movies and over 65 half-hour, live-action shorts that have played as television series in more than 30 countries. The films she has produced have won Writers Guild and Directors Guild Awards, Emmys, CableACE Awards and the Humanitas Prize.

Educational Background: USC Law School; Pitzer College (BA-Sociology & BA-History)

SUPPORT DEPARTMENT: ACADEMY RESOURCE CENTER

Chantelle Ferguson

Director, Online Language Support

Chantelle Ferguson has been teaching for nearly 20 years. After earning a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a master's degree in English, she moved to South America where she taught English at a private university and developed one of the first online academic writing courses offered in the region. She has since designed and taught numerous on campus and online courses at universities in the United States. In addition she has worked as a Spanish instructor, newspaper journalist, and yoga instructor. She has been at Academy Art University since 2003 and director of Online Language Support since 2005.

Educational Background: California State University, East Bay (MA-English)

Heather King

Director, Accessibility Resources

Heather joined the Academy of Art University in 2018 as an Accessibility Representative supporting students with disabilities and working to create an inclusive and accessible learning environment. Heather graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in Social Work and went on to earn her master's certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management at Arizona State University. Prior to her role at the Academy of Art University, Heather worked at Arizona State University in Student Engagement to create a welcoming and inclusive student experience. She also worked with foster children with disabilities in Salt Lake City coordinating wrap-around care for her clients.

Educational Background: Arizona State University (Master's Certificate Nonprofit Leadership and Management); the University of Utah- (BWS Social Work, Magna Cum Laude)

Lisa Chou

Online Language Support & Online Writing Lab Coordinator, Academy Resource Center

Lisa Hsu holds a BA in Psychology from UC Berkeley and a MA in TESOL from San Francisco State University. Currently, she is an Instructor at St. Mary's College and Ohlone College where she works with international students learning ESL and English Composition. Previously, she taught at American Language Institute where she taught high intermediate and advanced reading, writing, TOEFL, and pronunciation classes. Hsu is a member of CATESOL and she is the SFSU MA TESOL Student Association Budget Officer.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (MA-TESOL); University of California, Berkeley (BA-Psychology)

Donna Dager

Online Educational Support Website Coordinator, Academy Resource Center

Donna Dager holds an MA in Communication Arts and a BS in Education from Norwich University and SUNY-Cortland respectively. She has over 19 years of Professional Background in Computer Arts including work as a CD-ROM Designer/Animator, Producer/Director at Mid-Peninsula Access Corporation, Multimedia Artist for Red Button Productions and teaching experience for the San Mateo County Office of Education, Palo Alto Arts & Cultural Center, and Foothill College. She is currently a FT Instructor with the Academy of Art College. She is a member of TESOL and has participated in ESL multi-media workshops in Vancouver, B.C., and Seattle, Washington.

Educational Background: Vermont College of Norwich University (MA-Communication Arts); State University of New York College at Cortland (BS-Education)

Carl Pellegrini

Online Language Support & Speaking Lab Coordinator, Academy Resource Center

Carl Pellegrini has interdisciplinary experience in website production, education and curriculum development in the fine arts. He is currently Head Teacher/Internship Coordinator at the Aspect International Language Academy teaching English as a second language to adults. Carl is proficient in 5 languages and has taught English in many countries including Japan, Italy and Guatemala. He also is credited with a number of ESL video works. Pellegrini holds a BA in Italian from the University of Washington.

Educational Background: University of Washington (BA-Italian)

Walter Thoma

Online Language Support, Academy Resource Center

Walter has more than 10 years of teaching experience. He has been teaching at Academy of Art University since 1996 providing specialized English language instruction for international students. He worked for World Learning Inc., an international educational services organization, founded in 1932, which provides language instruction for international students and executives. Walter received his BA in Sociology and Fine Arts from Brandeis University in 1981, and received his MA in ESL from University of Massachusetts at Boston in 1989.

Educational Background: University of Massachusetts (MA-ESL); Brandeis College (BA-Sociology & Fine Arts)

SUPPORT DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH FOR ART PURPOSES FULL-TIME FACULTY

Bob McDonald

Director, English for Art Purposes

Bob studied American Literature at Boston U. and U.C. Santa Cruz as an undergraduate. He then attended The California Culinary Academy, but after a brief stint working as a chef, he decided to return to his passion of literature and language. He went on to receive an M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language from San Francisco State. Bob has travelled extensively through Asia, Europe and Latin America, with the most recent trips being to Cuba. He also settled in Buenos Aires, Argentina for two years to teach English. He began working at the Academy in 1994 as an ESL teacher and became EAP Director in 2000.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (MA-TESOL); University of California, Santa Cruz (BA-American Studies)

Hilaire Fong

Associate Director, English for Art Purposes

Hilaire Fong Associate Director, English for Art Purposes Hilaire received a B.A. in Psychology from UCLA and an M.A. in English from SFSU. She has a passion for traveling and has lived in Bordeaux, France and Tokyo, Japan. She has taught English abroad and in a variety of U.S. settings, including university, community college, intensive English, and corporate contexts. Hilaire specializes in curriculum and assessment design, teacher training, and teaching English for Specific Purposes. She loves baking, hiking, canines, and linguistic anomalies.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (MA-English, TESOL); University of California, Los Angeles (BA-Psychology)

Paget Norton

Writing for Multilingual Students Coordinator, English for Art Purposes

Paget Norton is an experienced educator with more than 10 years of experience. After receiving her MFA in Creative Writing from San Diego State University and her BA in Literature/Writing from UC San Diego, Norton went on to teach at San Diego State University as an Adjunct Professor. Afterwards, she worked for two years with the US Peace Corps as an English Professor. Most recently, she was responsible for Instruction and Special Projects at Vallecitos CET for two years. She has worked on the White Ribbon Campaign in Morocco and was a Team Leader for Taking Our Daughters to Work Day in Morocco. Currently, Norton is an ESL instructor with Academy of Art University. In addition to teaching, Norton has also worked with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and has managed the coordination of volunteers and books from the Sabre Foundation to Morocco.

Educational Background: San Diego State University (MFA-Creative Writing); University of California, San Diego (BA-Literature/Writing)

John McConnel

Testing Coordinator, English for Art Purposes

John earned his BA in Theater from the University of Vermont and his Master's in Applied Linguistics at Queens College. He was an Adjunct Professor at New York University's American Language institute from July 2007 to December 2011. There he taught extensive English courses for levels 1-6, incorporating original material into four-skill curriculum. Additional teaching responsibilities have included five semesters teaching Academic Writing in the Advanced Workshop Program. In 2009, Queens College Linguistics Department awarded John the Elaine Newman Award from Academic Excellence.

Educational Background: Queens College (MA-Applied Linguistics); University of Vermont (BA-Theater)

George Schupp

EAP Labs Coordinator, English for Art Purposes

George's many years of teaching experience include being a substitute teacher in high school and elementary school, teaching adults with learning differences, and teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in Osaka, Japan. Currently, George teaches ESL, tutors students in writing, and provides language support for students at the Academy of Art University.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (MA-English); Ohio University (BS-Communications)

Amy Shipley

Online Language Support, Academy Resource Center

Amy Shipley holds a MA in TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language) and a Writing Certificate from San Francisco State University (SFSU), and a BA in Rhetoric and Communication from UC Davis. She started her teaching career working internationally in Japan, India, and Peru. After receiving her Master's Degree, she taught in private language schools and community colleges and in the Bay Area, including the American Language Institute at SFSU / SSU, Foothill College, Cañada College, SF City College, and the College of Extended Learning at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University. She enjoys incorporating technology in her classes and values student-centered learning. In her spare time, Amy enjoys outdoor activities, weight-training, and practicing Aikido. She also volunteers with WildCare, rehabilitating injured and orphaned wildlife.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (MA-TESOL); University of California, Davis (BA-Rhetoric & Communication)

Heather Jovanelli

Full-Time Faculty, English for Art Purposes

As a licensed landscape architect, Heather has over 30 years and a wide range of professional and academic experience. She has taught at UC Berkeley, the University of Michigan, and the Danish Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen where she was a Fulbright Scholar. Selected projects include: the Advanced Concepts Center for General Motors, Malibu, CA; Columbia University's athletic training center, NY, NY; Carousel Park Playground at the Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica CA; the masterplan for Claremont's Harvey Mudd College, CA; the General Motors Corporate Headquarters in Thousand Oaks, CA; and Berkeley Hillel in Berkeley, CA as well as several design competition awards. She has an MLA from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University.

Educational Background: Harvard (MLA-Design)

Monique Aas

Full-Time Faculty, English for Art Purposes

Monique Aas received her MA in English from San Francisco State University and her BA in History from Lewis and Clark College. She has been an ESL instructor since 2008. Monique teaches beginning, intermediate, and advanced ESL students from many different countries. Previously, she taught English as a foreign language in Japan and New Zealand. Monique is a member of CATESOL. She has traveled to multiple countries, including Europe, West Africa, Japan, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (MA-English); Lewis and Clark College (BA-History)

Margaret Cardenas

Full-Time Faculty, English for Art Purposes

Margaret Cardenas joined Academy of Art's English for Art Purposes department in 2018. Margaret grew up in the SF Bay Area and attended San Francisco State University (B.A.-European and Latin American History-1986, M.A.-European History-1991, CBEST certification-1986) while simultaneously studying voice at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (Adult Education Dept). She got her Basic and Advanced CTESOL Certificates from Transworld School in 2007. That same year, she joined ELS Language Schools (San Francisco campus) where she taught in an intensive English program for 11 years. She won the ELS Language Schools Excellence in Teaching Award in 2017. Margaret is fluent in Spanish and has traveled around Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. She has been trained in Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) and is also a textile artist.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (B.A.-European and Latin American History; Transworld School (CTESOL)

SUPPORT DEPARTMENT: FOUNDATIONS FULL-TIME FACULTY

Leandro Ng

Director, Foundations

Leandro Ng is an illustrator and concept artist who has worked for such high-profile clients as Central Park Media, Gap, Hasbro, Levi's, Sony, SQP Publishing, Stargate Comics, and The World Bank.

He is the co-author of "Creative Layout - Perspective for Artists" published by Pearson Publishing. Ng has also produced a graphic novel series with Viz Media, designed to entertain and educate teenagers in developing countries on global issues such as poverty, hunger, gender equality, universal education, diseases, and environmental sustainability. The series was translated and transmitted in various languages around the world and is archived in 200 libraries globally.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (BFA-Illustration)

Li Mei Huang

Color Course Coordinator, Foundations

Mei has worked as a freelance artist for companies such as Netflix, UCSF, and Touchstone Climbing before venturing into art education. She coached different age groups and later returned to the alma mater as an instructor for the Foundations Department in 2019.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (BFA-Illustration)

Joko Budiono

Full-Time Faculty, Foundations

Joko has a background in freelance Illustration and architectural renderings, and a guest lecturer for Apple, San Jose State University, and CCA.

He has authored "Teddy-1" and "The Thousandth Thumbnail" art books, co-authored "Creative Layout - Perspective for Artists" and illustrated the graphic novel "Escape from Alcatraz - Battle of '46" published by the Golden Gate National Park Conservancy. Joko has been teaching at Academy of art University since 1999.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Fine Art); Academy of Art University (BFA-Illustration); Hartnell College (AA-Art)

Adam Caldwell

Full-Time Faculty, Foundations

Adam has been a professional gallery artist since 2007, an illustrator since 1998, and has taught at Academy of Art University since 2001. He has exhibited in numerous galleries in the United States and in Europe. He was an instructor and director of the board at the Evolving Body Mind Institute, and a member of the Society of Illustrators West.

Educational Background: California College of Arts and Crafts (BFA-Illustration)

Jon Dalton

Full-Time Faculty, Foundations

Jon Dalton graduated from the Academy of Art University and has established himself as a freelance illustrator and fine artist in San Francisco. He has worked with a variety of book publishers, graphic designers, as well as children's clothing and toy companies. His client list includes Hopscotch Press, Creativity, Fisher-Price, and Kumon North America, Inc. His professional work also includes private commissions of fine art paintings throughout the Bay Area. Jon has been a member of the Children's Writers & Illustrators Market, Artists & Graphic Designer's Market, and Foundations faculty member since 2000.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (BFA-Illustration)

David Choong Youb Lee

Full-Time Faculty, Foundations

Originally from Seoul, Korea, David has been a staple of San Francisco's art scene. Influenced by an eclectic mix of classical and underground art and music scenes, he ended up creating a unique style combining graffiti, collage, and classical realism with bold graphic elements. Also known for his elaborate art installations composed of individual box paintings of different depths, David deftly blends figuration with abstract dreamscapes. Two of those massive installations are located at the Grand Hyatt in San Francisco. David's work has shown at many galleries, art fairs, and published in various art books ("God made dirt, and dirt don't hurt", "4WORDS", "DIRT", "Convergence", and "Further") distributed by Gingko Press in Europe and Asia. He's been teaching at Academy of Art University since 1998, and currently lives/works in sunny side downtown San Francisco.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Fine Art); Academy of Art University (BFA-Fine Art)

Cristen Miller

Full-Time Faculty, Foundations

Cristen is a fine artist specializing in painting the landscape in oil and pastel. The deep love of learning inspired her to pass on her knowledge to others as a full-time faculty at Academy of Art University, teaching since 2001. In addition to her career as an art educator, she also exhibits her work in galleries and shows nationwide, currently represented by Chloe Fine Arts in San Francisco. As Signature Member of the Oil Painters of America, she has won numerous awards including the Oil Painters of America National Show "Best Associate Award of Excellence" and the California Art Club's Golden State Treasures Exhibition "Juror's Choice Award." Miller's work has been featured in the magazines "Southwest Art", "Pastel Journal, and in the contemporary drawing book series "Strokes of Genius."

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Fine Art); Academy of Art University (BFA-Fine Art)

David Yeung

Full-Time Faculty, Foundations

David's work can be seen at Hespe Gallery in San Francisco and Waterhouse Gallery in Pasadena. He is also prolific in murals and private commission paintings. David has taught at Academy of Art University since 2012. David is always inspired by beginner students' enthusiasm and creativity in solving design challenges.

Educational Background: Academy of Art University (MFA-Fine Art); Academy of Art University (BFA-Fine Art)

SUPPORT DEPARTMENT: LIBERAL ARTS FULL-TIME FACULTY

Michael Leitch

Associate Director, Liberal Arts

Michael has been an Academy of Art instructor since 1998. Since that time he has overseen the Academy's Quantitative Literacy courses. His professional background includes theater and radio in the San Francisco area and in Southern Japan. Michael also worked as a flight instructor in San Jose, California, and holds a commercial pilot license with multi-engine and instrument ratings. In addition to his duties as Associate Director of Liberal Arts, Michael teaches courses in physics, ergonomics, and mathematics.

Educational Background: Utah State University (Ph.D.-Mathematics Education); University of California, Berkeley (MA-Science Education); Evergreen State College (BS-Physics, Music)

Jesse Ficks

Film History Coordinator, Liberal Arts

Jesse Hawthorne Ficks is the film history coordinator at the Academy of Art University and is part of the San Francisco Bay Area Film Critics Circle. He is the film festival critic at 48hills (aka SF Bay Guardian) and attends film festivals around the world including Sundance, Cannes, Toronto and New York. He has a Bachelor's degree from Portland State University in Film/Theatre Arts and curates/hosts "MOVIES FOR MANIACS," a film series celebrating underrated and overlooked cinema, in a neo-sincere manner.

Educational Background: Portland State University (BA-Theatre Arts/Film)

Robert Goldie

Curriculum Coordinator for Social Studies, Liberal Arts

Bob Goldie has been with the Academy of Art University since 2005, originally serving as an academic coach and teacher for at-risk students before moving to Liberal Arts in 2011 as a sociology and history instructor, course author, and social studies curriculum coordinator. Bob attended the University of Colorado, Boulder where he earned a B.A. in History, focusing on the American West and the Middle East, and then an M.A. in Social Studies Education. He currently continues part-time graduate work at the University of Colorado, Denver, examining the shifting borderlands and frontiers of the U.S. West. With a fervent ambition to empower students by helping them become analytical thinkers and lifelong learners, his approach to education is to make it appealing and relevant to all, regardless of background. An aficionado of music and pop culture history, Bob has written for various independent magazines such as Maximum RocknRoll and Skyscraper, hosted a college radio specialty show, and played in several hardcore punk bands over the years. Other interests include philosophy, fitness, horror comics, and hiking the mountains of Colorado with his son.

Educational Background: University of Colorado at Boulder (MA-Secondary Education); University of Colorado at Boulder (BA-History)

Kelly Holt

Writing Coordinator, Liberal Arts

Kelly Holt has been teaching English Composition and World Literature at the Academy of Art University since 2005 and has been the Writing Coordinator/ Full-time Faculty since 2009. She holds a Ph.D. in Literature from UC Santa Cruz, an MFA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University, and a BA in Literature and American Studies from UC Santa Cruz. Her dissertation focused on the incorporation of the early-modern poetic forms of Dante and Petrarch into the twentieth-century serial poems of the Berkeley Renaissance poets. She has also taught Creative Writing at San Francisco State University and UC Santa Cruz and Literature at UC Santa Cruz. Her scholarly work and poetry have appeared in the anthologies *After Spicer: Critical Essays and Bay Poetics* and in the journals *Fulcrum*, *New American Writing*, *Jacket*, *Viz*, *Tolling Elves*, *Commonweal*, *Mirage* 4 *Period(ical)*, *6500*, *Small Town* and *Fourteen Hills*.

Educational Background: University of California, Santa Cruz (Ph.D. and MA-Literature); San Francisco State University (MFA-Creative Writing); University of California, Santa Cruz (BA-Literature and American Studies)

Melissa Greenley

Full-Time Faculty, English for Art Purposes

Melissa holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology, a Master's Degree in Education specializing in Curriculum and Instruction, and holds California Single Subject Teaching Credentials in Biology and Chemistry, with English Language Learner (ELL) certification. She began her teaching career in public secondary schools, having spent 15 years teaching chemistry, biology, anatomy/physiology, ecology, Earth science, health, physical science, and math. She has also been a presenter at California and National Science Teachers Association conferences, and was one of the writers and pilot teachers for a National Science Foundation funded chemistry textbook. Melissa has been with the Academy of Art University since 2015.

Educational Background: University of Phoenix (MA-Education-Curriculum and Instruction); California State University – Sacramento (BS-Kinesiology)

Susan Meserve

Full-Time Faculty, Liberal Arts

Susie Meserve studied at Tufts University and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she earned an MFA in creative writing. The author of a chapbook, an award-winning full-length poetry collection, and many personal essays, Susie has taught at the Academy since 2006 and been on the full-time faculty since 2014. In 2021-2022, Susie was a City of Berkeley Civic Arts grantee, writing about ancestry and female lineages. She has guest lectured about writing and her work at the University of California-Berkeley and the San Francisco Writers Conference. Before becoming a full-time faculty member at Academy of Art, Susie taught at the University of Massachusetts, Berkeley Extension, and the University of Norway-Oslo.

Educational Background: University of Massachusetts at Amherst (MFA-English); Tufts University (BA-English)

Tom Molanphy

Full-Time Faculty, Liberal Arts

Since 2001, Molanphy has taught writing and journalism at the Academy of Art University. His journalism has appeared in *48 Hills*, *SF Weekly*, *USA Today Travel.com*, and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. He was awarded a 2022 USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism Data Fellowship. His essay "The Road Less: John Huston, Blue-Footed Boobies and Me" earned a 2017 BATW award, and his short story "Of Subareas and Public Bathrooms" was included in the *California Prose Directory*. His memoir "Loud Memories Of A Quiet Life" is available through OutPost19 Press. He is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Educational Background: University of Montana (MFA-Creative Writing); Loyola University (BA-English Literature)

David Riffert

Full-Time Faculty, Liberal Arts

David has been teaching since 1983. His articles have been featured in print and publications, including exhibition catalog essays (2019 for an exhibit at the Mihaly Munkacsy Fine Art Museum, "Paintings of Tibor Simon-Mazula; "Dawning" at the Shooting Gallery, San Francisco). Colleges where David has taught include The Pennsylvania State University, Principia College, and Academy of Art University. David received his BA in History and Art History from Principia College, and earned his MA in Art History from The Pennsylvania State University. David helped initiate the Liberal Arts Study Abroad graduate curriculum and has traveled to Europe numerous times with Academy students since the late 1990s and has authored numerous online graduate classes. He also served six years (2014-19) on the board of an architectural preservation organization for the City of Berkeley's only National Historic Landmark edifice.

Educational Background: The Pennsylvania State University (MA-Art History); The Principia College (BA-History / Art History)

Allyson Ritger

Full-Time Faculty, Liberal Arts

Allyson holds an MA and MFA in Writing & Consciousness from New College of California and a BA in Criminal Justice from the University of Delaware. Allyson has worked as a travel writer and ESL instructor, and is a pen-pal through the SF Zen Center's Prison Outreach Program. She writes flash fiction, meditates daily, and studies Nonviolent Communication. She lives in SF with her husband and three children, and has been teaching since 2006.

Educational Background: New College of California (MA-Writing); New College of California (MFA-Writing); University of Delaware (BA-Criminal Justice)

Stephen P. Williams

Full-Time Faculty, Liberal Arts

Stephen Williams earned a BA and an MA in history at San Francisco State University where his graduate work included the study of civilization from antiquity through the Renaissance and the art of the early Italian Renaissance in Venice. His research projects included the representation of St. Francis of Assisi in literature and art, the graphic art and text of the "Hypnerotomachia Poliphili" of Colonna and its representation of Renaissance pagan ideals, as well as the evolution of early Christian iconography. In 2017 he presented a paper on the Hellenistic "Old Market Woman" sculpture at the College Arts Association conference in New York City. Other topics of interest and research include the French Revolution and World War I. He studied Italian and history at the Scuola Leonardo Da Vinci in Rome. Mr. Williams has been teaching courses on art history and western civilization at the Academy since 2001 and lead students on study abroad trips to Europe including Italy.

Educational Background: San Francisco State University (MA-History); San Francisco State University (BA-History)

Jose Yulo

Full-Time Faculty, Liberal Arts

Jose Yulo is an award-winning college instructor who began teaching in various colleges beginning in 1998, and the Academy of Art University since 2004. After receiving his BA in Liberal Arts via the Great Books Program from St. John's College, and his MA in Communication Studies from Emerson College where he received the Outstanding Student Award for Theories of Rhetoric, Yulo went on to teach at Foothill College. He then taught at Mission College and Campion College where he taught Speech, Rhetoric, and American Society and Culture. He later taught Philosophy at Foothill College. In 2005, Yulo earned his Doctor of Education with a concentration on the Philosophy of Education from the University of San Francisco. His dissertation covered Presocratic and Platonic ethical philosophy, and the literature of J.R.R. Tolkien. Yulo also helped interview Holocaust survivors for the Bay Area Holocaust Oral History project in 2002. At the Academy, he has taught Philosophy, Myth, Western Civilization, and American History.

Educational Background: University of San Francisco (EdD-International & Multicultural Education); Emerson College (MA-Political Communication); St. John's College (BA-Liberal Arts)

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PART-TIME FACULTY INFORMATION

SCHOOL OF ACTING

Marvin Greene	American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Acting)
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SCHOOL OF ADVERTISING

Terry Jones	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Arts, Advertising Design)
Dan Kohler	Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana (Bachelor of Science, Accounting)
Cybele Zufolo	Columbia University, New York, New York (Master of Fine Arts, Secondary English)

SCHOOL OF ANIMATION & VISUAL EFFECTS

Paulo Alvarado	24+ yrs exp animation & art and a certificate in illust from Ringling Coll of Art & Design
Tom Bertino	California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Andrea Chen	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Animation & Visual Effects)
Craig Dauterive	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Animation and Visual Effects)
Amy Gohal	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Animation)
Rey Hernandez	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Animation and Visual Effects)
Jason Patnode	San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Arts, Cinema)
William Ziegler	Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Bachelor of Science, Multimedia and Animation)

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Elizabeth Cohn-Martin	Columbia University, New York, New York (Master of Architecture, Architecture)
Braden Engel	Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, United Kingdom (Doctor of Philosophy, Architecture)
Archer Firouzi	Architectural Association School of Architecture, London, United Kingdom (Master of Architecture, ARH & Urbnism)
Charles Green	University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California (Master of Architecture, Architecture)
Sara Khorshidifard	University Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Doctor of Philosophy, Architecture)
Rebal Knayzeh	University of London, London, United Kingdom (Master of Architecture, Architectural Design)
Sergio Lima	University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy (Master of Architecture, Architecture)
James Mallery	Univeristy of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California (Doctor of Philosophy, Urban History)
Simon McKenzie	McGill University, Quebec, Canada (Master of Architecture, Architecture)
Zachary Meade	University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California (Bachelor of Arts, Political Science)

Ricardo Moreno	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Architecture, Architecture)
Alexandra Neyman	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (Master of Architecture, Architecture)
Eric Reeder	University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California (Master of Architecture, Architecture)
Carl Wilford	University of California, Davis, Davis, California (Master of Science, Structural Engineering)

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

Julian Meyer	San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Arts, Art)
Matthew Staudt	West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia (Bachelor of Arts, English)
Pamela Uzzell	San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Cinema)

SCHOOL OF FASHION

Dalya Assa	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Styling)
Aina Beck Hussain	Parsons the New School for Design, New York, New York (Master of Fine Arts, Fashion Design and Society)
Russell Clower	Parsons School of Design, New York, New York (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Elena Eberhard	Saint Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation (Master of Arts, Psychology)
Andrew Hagenbuch	Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Film, Photography, Visual Arts)
Jenny Krasteva	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Fashion)
Kari Lantin	California State University, Chico, Chico, California (Bachelor of Arts, Fashion Merchandising)
Jacqueline Phelan	Fashion Institute Technology, New York, New York (Master of Arts, Fashion and Textiles)
Andrea Skillings	New School, Jacksonville, Florida (Master of Arts, Fashion and Textiles)
Hersha Steinbock	Portland State University, Portland, Oregon (Master of Arts, English)
Mary Sylves	Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Bachelor of Science, Fashion Design)
Yaryna Zhuk	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Fashion Design)

SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

Ho Jun Lee	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Figure Painting)
Jesse Mangerson	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Thomas Marsh	California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, California (Master of Fine Arts, Art)
Romanoos Mattonen	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Figurative Painting)
Kevin Moore	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Fine Art - Painting)

John Neary	Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Film)
Brandon Smith	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Fine Art - Oil Painting)
Tomutsu Takishima	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Fine Arts)
Zachary Zdrale	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Figurative Painting)

SCHOOL OF GAME DEVELOPMENT

Thomas Carroll	Coleman College, San Diego, California (Bachelor of Science, Computer Science)
Phillip Kauffold	Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, Illinois (Bachelor of Arts, Communications, and Japanese)
Marius Millar	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
William Parker	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Character Modeling)
Graham Pezzuti	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Acting, Music and Sound)
William Weesner	29+ years experience in Game Design
Gavin Wood	20+ yrs experience in visual effects

SCHOOL OF GRAPHIC DESIGN

Thomas McNulty	Art Center College Design, Pasadena, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Graphics/Packaging)
Thomas Mungovan	Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont (Master of Fine Arts, Interdisciplinary Arts)
Jeremy Stout	California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Graphic Design/ Painting)

SCHOOL OF ILLUSTRATION

Gary Amaro	University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California (Bachelor of Arts, Art Practice & Eng.Lit.)
David Ball	Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, Massachusetts (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Joseph Cavalieri	School of Visual Arts, New York, New York (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Warren Chang	Art Center College Design, Pasadena, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Julie Downing	Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Mike Dubisch	School of Visual Arts, New York, New York (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Media Arts)
Alexandria Gold	San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Arts, Art)
Thomas Gronbukt	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Marc Lopez	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Christopher Marrinan	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Jorge Mascarenhas	California College of the Arts, Oakland, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)

Stephen Player	Camberwell College of Arts, London, United Kingdom (Bachelor of Arts, Illustration)
Christopher Sloan	30+ years as an Art Director
Shari Warren	San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Arts, Design and Industry)
Gary Weiss	Art Center College Design, Pasadena, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)

SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

Adam Gustafson	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Industrial Design)
Max Sims	California College of the Arts, Oakland, California (Master of Fine Arts, Design)

SCHOOL OF INTERACTION & UI/UX DESIGN

Michael Catanzaro	30+ yrs of exp as a front end programmer and project manager, and exp in web development
Ryan Medeiros	University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California (Bachelor of Arts, Fine Art)
Clarke Robinson	San Jose State University, San Jose, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Photography)

SCHOOL OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Hashem Abdel-Hadi	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Architecture, Architecture)
Ivan Azerbegi	University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California (Bachelor of Arts, Architecture)
Mary Ferroggiaro	University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon (Bachelor of Architecture, Architecture)
James Gleeson	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Cathleen Gouveia	Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island (Masters Interior Architecture, Interior Architecture)
Scott Kress	San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Arts, Geography)
Jemy Massie	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Interior Architecture and Design)
Mark Miller	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Interior Architecture and Design)
Molly Ness	University of Wisconsin, Madison, Madison, Wisconsin (Bachelor of Science, Medical Microbiology)
Taylor Parker	Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina (Master's, Entrepreneurship & Innovation Leadership)
Kameela Samuel	Boston Architectural College, Boston, Massachusetts (Master of Architecture, Architecture)
Susan Sutton	Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California (Doctor of Philosophy, Art and Religion)
Leonarda Tamayo	3+ yrs. experience in graphic design

SCHOOL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Lee Toney	University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California (Bachelor of Arts, Landscape Architecture)
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SCHOOL OF MOTION PICTURES & TELEVISION

Cari-Esta Albert	Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts (Bachelor of Arts, Political Science)
Jeryl Jagoda	Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theater Arts)
Roy Langbord	New York University, New York, New York (Juris Doctor, Law)
Hakim Robinson	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Motion Pictures & Television)
Addison Wright	Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan (Bachelor of Arts, English)

SCHOOL OF MUSIC PRODUCTION & SOUND DESIGN FOR VISUAL MEDIA

Jason Martineau	Manhattan School of Music, New York, New York (Doctor of Music, Music Composition)
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SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

David Arnold	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Photography)
Shannon Ayres	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Photography)
Alyson Belcher	San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Art)
Nik Clements	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Photography)
James Goins	University of Missouri, St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Photography)
Laura Kurtenbach	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Photography)
Janett Perez	San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Arts, Journalism (Photography))
Michael Sims	Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York (Master of Fine Arts, Photography)
Cecelia (Cissy) Spindler	31+ yrs. experience in photography
David Spindler	Mannes College The New School for Music, New York, New York (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Classical Guitar)
David Wasserman	Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado (Master of Science, Zoology and Entomology)

SCHOOL OF VISUAL DEVELOPMENT

Jeremy Saliba	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration)
Alessandro Squitti	Sapienza - Universita di Roma, Roma, Italy (Master of Fine Arts, Italian Language & Literature)
Carlos Vazquez Santiago	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Fine Arts, Visual Development)

SCHOOL OF WRITING FOR FILM, TELEVISION & DIGITAL MEDIA

Roy Langbord	New York University, New York, New York (Juris Doctor, Law)
Julie Oxendale	Dartington College of Arts, Devon, United Kingdom (Bachelor of Arts, Theater Language)

SUPPORT DEPARTMENT: ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

Margaret Hayden	Columbia University, New York, New York (Master of Arts, English)
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SUPPORT DEPARTMENT: FOUNDATIONS

Jinny Tomozy	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting and Drawing)
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SUPPORT DEPARTMENT: LIBERAL ARTS

Maya Akpinar	University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California (Master of Arts, Education)
Christopher Braun	University of Wales Trinity Saint David, London, United Kingdom (Master of Arts, Word & Visual Imagination)
Billy Cash	Portland State University, Portland, Oregon (Master of Arts, Spanish Language and Literature)
Cristen Cassell	University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California (Bachelor of Arts, English)
Roxanne Farrar	Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida (Doctor of Philosophy, Humanities)
Chris Frederick	Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia (Master of Arts, Film)
Eric Frederick	Westminster Theological Seminary, Glenside, Pennsylvania (Master of Divinity, Divinity)
Daniel Harris	University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California (Master of Fine Arts, Film and Television)
Elizabeth Hille	Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont (Master of Fine Arts, Fiction and Literature)
Caroline Hood	Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas (Master of Arts, Art History)
Heather Lindsay	Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah (Master of Science, Nutritional Science)
Andrea Maison	University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California (Master of Arts, Art History)
Trista Martin	University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico (Master of Arts, English)
Maria Matthies	Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California (Master of Arts, Art History)
Chiara Rosequist	Sapienza - Universita di Roma, Roma, Italy (Master of Architecture, Architecture)
Georgia Sang-Baffoe	Howard University, Washington, District of Columbia (Master of Science, Mathematics)
Jennifer Taylor	University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California (Master of Arts, Sociocultural Anthropology)
Robert Tindall	San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Master of Arts, English Literature)
Samuel Tsitrin	University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California (Bachelor of Arts, Physics)

Steven Weiss	University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium (Master of Arts, Philosophy)
Jose Yulo	University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California (Doctor of Philosophy, International and Multicultural Education)