

contemporary museum

**MICA** MARYLAND INSTITUTE COLLEGE OF ART

Mike Fila, Himmelrich PR, Contemporary Museum  
[mike@himmelrich.com](mailto:mike@himmelrich.com)/410.528.5400

Jessica Weglein, MICA, Communications Manager  
[news@mica.edu](mailto:news@mica.edu)/410.225.2300

***BEARING WITNESS: WORK BY BRADLEY MCCALLUM & JACQUELINE TARRY***  
**EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR 2009/2010 BIOS**

**Emily Blumenthal** is the manager of children and family programs at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, where she has worked since 2003. At the Walters, she has developed and implemented interpretive materials and public programs to engage families and children of all ages with works of art, while building partnerships with community agencies and other cultural institutions. Blumenthal is an active member of the Baltimore Leadership in Action Program working to support School Readiness for all children in Baltimore City. Since 2006, she has served as the education team mentor for Maryland Institute College of Art's (MICA) Exhibition Development Seminar (EDS), an experience she participated in during her undergraduate studies. Blumenthal received a B.F.A. in general fine arts from MICA and an M.S. in Leadership in Museum Education from the Bank Street College of Education.

**George Ciscle** has mounted groundbreaking exhibitions, created community arts programs and taught courses in the fine arts and humanities for 40 years. He is currently curator-in-residence at MICA, where he consults on the development of community-based and public programming. As the founder of both the Exhibition Development Seminar and Baltimore's Contemporary Museum, he has organized and curated numerous innovative exhibitions, including *Mining the Museum*, *Catfish Dreamin'*, *Kickin' It with the Old Masters* and *At Freedom's Door: Challenging Slavery in Maryland*. Recent curatorial experience includes *A 15-Year Survey of Baltimore Art* (Artscape, Baltimore), *Delaware Art Museum Biennial* and *White:White Day, Wedding and Women* (Seoul, Korea). Ciscle has been a founding trustee on the boards of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA) and the American Visionary Art Museum. Awards include the Distinguished Arts Administrator Award (NCAA), Governor's Citation of Maryland, and the Mayor's and Presidential Citations from the City of Baltimore. Recent speaking engagements include the Victoria & Albert Museum (London), Keisho Art Association (Japan), American Association of Museums, National Academy of Sciences and the Museu da Republica (Brazil).

**Daniel D'Oca** is principal and co-founder of Interboro Partners, a New York-based architecture, planning and research firm, whose recent projects include *Lent Space*, a 30,000-square-foot sculpture park in lower Manhattan; the American wing of the *2009 International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam*; and the first neighborhood redevelopment plan of the Cory Booker administration in Newark, N.J. Since 2005, he has taught architecture and urban history and theory at MICA. Although this is his first time working with the Exhibition Development Seminar, it is not his first time curating the work of MICA students. In spring 2009, he curated *The Arsenal of Exclusion*, a public installation of student work that explores segregation in Baltimore. D'Oca will teach next year's EDS, tentatively titled *Baltimore: Open City*. He is working with this year's students on site research.

**Gerry Greaney**, enjoying the collaborative and multidisciplinary nature of EDS projects, has served as the mentor to the graphic design team for four years. He is the principal of Greaney Design, a consultancy based in Baltimore that serves a wide range of business, institutional and nonprofit clients. Greaney received a B.S. with honors from the University of Cincinnati, College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning; and an M.F.A. in Graphic Design from Yale University, New Haven, Conn., where he was awarded the Alexey Brodovitch Prize.

**Jennie Hirsh**, art history, theory & criticism faculty member at MICA, is the instructor for the Exhibition Development Seminar 2009/2010 as well as the mentor for the class' project management team. She teaches advanced seminars, such as Visual Culture and the Holocaust; Modern Italian Art, Architecture and Design; and Art, Architecture and Ideology under Totalitarianism; as well as introductory courses on Art Matters and Modernism and After. She specializes in modern Italian art and architecture, and her recent publications include a catalogue essay on painter Giorgio Morandi for the *Cézanne and Beyond* exhibition (2009) and *Contemporary Art and Classical Myth*, an

anthology co-edited with Isabelle Wallace (Ashgate, forthcoming 2010). At MICA, she has established and oversees the Art@Lunch speaker series of visiting art historians, critics, curators and artists. Her work with EDS represents her ongoing commitment to teaching courses that combine history, theory and practice.

**Irene Hofmann** is executive director of the Contemporary Museum in Baltimore and mentor to the Exhibition Development Seminar 2009/2010 curatorial team. Hofmann joined the Contemporary Museum in January 2006 after spending four years as curator of contemporary art at the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach, Calif., where she co-curated the *California Biennial* in 2002 and 2004, and organized exhibitions and projects with artists, including Jason Dodge, Fabrice Gygi, Joseph Grigely, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle and Marjetica Potrc. She has also held positions at Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; The Art Institute of Chicago; the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis; and the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York. Hofmann holds a B.A. in art history from Washington University in St. Louis and a M.A. in Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Amy Peterson** is a writer and teacher in Baltimore, and this year's writing mentor for all EDS teams. Her short stories, essays and reviews have appeared in *Modern Painters*, *Poets & Writers*, *Pierogi Press*, *Brooklyn Review*, *Center for Digital Storytelling* and elsewhere. She has received fellowships from the Sacatar Foundation, Fundación Valparaiso, Ucross Foundation, and Julia and David White Artists' Colony. She teaches in the department of language, literature & culture at MICA.

**Sandy Triolo** is a digital media artist, IT professional and project manager who was raised in New York City and upstate New York. After beginning her professional pursuits in graphic design and photography, she explored the technical world of systems, networking and software, eventually combining these into one career. She is now focused on digital media content creation and management in photography, Web design and video, working on both business and creative projects. This is her third Exhibition Development Seminar experience, previously participating as a student, a graduate teaching intern, and now as the mentor for the Web and communications team.

## EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR STUDENT BIOS

### CURATORIAL TEAM

**Elizabeth Brown** is a junior painting major from Houston. She is currently working on a series of oil paintings that satirize notions of banality and sensuality through the subject of mass-produced imagery.

**Michelle Gomez** is a sophomore majoring in general fine arts, minoring in gender studies and concentrating in curatorial studies. Born and raised in Miami, Gomez creates autobiographical artwork focused on personal and psychological concepts of transformation connected to womanhood, gender and sexuality. She curates shows in Miami and at MICA, and plans to continue making art as a professional curator.

**Christina Joseph** was born in Los Angeles. She is currently in her sophomore year, studying interdisciplinary sculpture and curatorial studies. She has recently expanded her practice to include performance-based work.

**Ellice Park** is a third-year student, double majoring in art history, theory & criticism and general fine arts with a concentration in curatorial studies. She spent her formative years in the San Francisco Bay area, greater Boston and Columbus, Ohio. Park's artwork comprises large-scale installations and paintings that address the fluidity of perception, religious dogma, identity and transformation.

**Caitlin Richeson** is from Laurel, Md., and is in her second year, majoring in art history, theory & criticism and concentrating in curatorial studies. Her artwork emphasizes the rich textures and patterns found in natural imagery.

### EDUCATION TEAM

**Phylicia Ghee**, originally from Baltimore, is a senior majoring in photography with a concentration in curatorial studies. Using also her background in painting, she creates mixed media pieces, experimenting with materials, such as fabric and body paint, to create works that challenge photography as a medium.

**Lauren H. Griffin** is a junior, double majoring in ceramics and art history, theory & criticism. Raised in a small, coastal Massachusetts town, she welcomes the new experiences that living in a city like Baltimore can bring. By

combining traditional and non-traditional ceramic techniques—such as using found and altered ceramic objects, kiln-forming, epoxies and unfired clay—her works challenge the common definition of ceramics as a craft medium.

**Emily Suzanne Hines** from Louisville, Ky., is a senior studying painting, illustration and art history. Her work—drawing, painting and collage on raw and found materials—speaks to her interest in the spiritual and emotional perceptions of her experience. Influenced by personal memory and imagery, and drawing upon her regional culture, Hines' work explores the history of place and the intersection of folklore, myth and actual events.

**Lauren Trautvetter**, originally from New Jersey, is a junior art history, theory & criticism major with concentrations in curatorial studies and book arts. Borrowing momentum and experience gained from a summer abroad program in Venice, Italy, she has been working with the book arts medium and exploring the possibilities of integrating photography with different book forms.

#### **GRAPHIC DESIGN TEAM**

**Mimi Cheng** is a junior interdisciplinary sculpture major also studying graphic design, art history and curatorial studies. Born in Suzhou, China, she now calls Baltimore home. Her work seeks to actively engage the audience with their surroundings, while revealing the interdependence between the viewer, object and site. She is committed to the idea of art as an agent for social progress and hopes to create artwork that will enliven the places in which we live.

**Sara Kong** is a senior environmental design major and graphic design concentrator from Cupertino, Calif. Kong enjoys exploring and learning about cities and has been studying Baltimore during most of her time at MICA. Kong has interned with canal GRANDE Arquitectes in Barcelona and plans to return.

**Carla Marie Padvoiskis** is a Chicago native in her sophomore year. She is an art history, theory & criticism major with a curatorial studies concentration. In her own work, Padvoiskis explores animal spirituality through ritual craft making and wet media.

#### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**Samantha Gainsburg** is a senior from Baltimore, majoring in general fine arts and art history, theory & criticism with a concentration in curatorial studies. She is currently working on a series of drawings that explore transitional spaces, architecture and memory. She hopes to work in the curatorial field upon graduation.

**Joanna Rose White** is a second-year M.F.A. candidate in Photographic & Electronic Media, originally from California. A multi-media artist, her recent work addresses themes of collecting; identity; and the ways personal lives and intimate relationships are affected by media, TV and movies, technological advances and society's expectations.

#### **SITE RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION INSTALLATION TEAM**

**Paul Capetola** was born in Downingtown, Pa. He is a senior studying painting, art history, curatorial studies and environmental design, and sees his work as a part of the exhibition design team as a combination of those varied interests.

**Joanna Kopczyk** was born in Germany and hails from Chicago. She is a junior studying painting and art history. Her large-scale paintings explore human identity and the perception of environments in relation to the psyche.

**Anton Merbaum** spent his formative years in Israel and relocated with his family to the Washington, D.C., area in 2003. He is a senior studying art history, theory & criticism and has recently become a part of a number of curatorial projects. Upon graduation, Merbaum plans to pursue a career in the visual arts.

**Julie Ransdell** is a junior printmaking major with a concentration in book arts from Sykesville, Md. Ransdell's work addresses ideas about the human psyche, abandonment and internal conflicts while incorporating traditional and contemporary drawing, painting and printmaking techniques to drive these concepts.

#### **WEB AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

**Marika Garcia**, originally from Northern California, is a senior drawing major with a minor in literary studies. Her thesis is centered around feminism and stereotypes of the female body. After graduation, she plans to live, create and revel in Baltimore while making a living in Washington, D.C.

**Madeline Peters** of Cincinnati, Ohio, is a junior fiber major with a curatorial studies concentration. She works primarily in costume design, but she has set her sewing aside to pursue the worlds of marketing and HTML in the promotion of *Bearing Witness*.

For more information about the exhibition or the Exhibition Development Seminar, call Himmelrich PR at 410.528.5400 or MICA's Office of Communications at 410.225.2300.

###