100% of our graduates receive Maryland State certification with reciprocity in almost all 50 states. MA in Teaching graduates teach in public and private elementary, middle, and secondary schools, as well as charter, progressive, alternative, and transformation schools in the US and abroad. The MAT program has a nearly 100 percent job placement record overall.

**SPOTLIGHT ON:** Julia McTighe ’11

MICA’s reputation for producing leaders in art education is exemplified by Julia McTighe ’11 (MAT), an award-winning visual arts teacher at Padonia Elementary School in Cockeysville, Maryland. McTighe, who has presented in the past three National Art Education Association’s annual conferences, was honored with a Maryland Art Education Association New

Elementary School Art Educator award in 2014. In addition to being an art educator, McTighe is a devoted visual artist and arts volunteer; she continues to handcraft jewelry and create illustration, and she has volunteered her skills at such places as The American Visionary Art Museum. For more stories of career success from MICA MAT grads, turn the page.
MICA’s BFA/MAT graduates are practicing artists and teachers who...

...spread out across the country

Niki Moyer ’14 is a K-8 visual arts teacher at Innovations Academy charter school in San Diego, California.

Avrah Ureci ’14 teaches at Charleston Catholic High School in Charleston, West Virginia.

Taylor Reno ’13 teaches art, Japanese, and social studies at the Westfield Day School in Rye, NY.

Maria Frati ’12 teaches visual art at the KAPPA international high school in the Bronx and was awarded the Acadia National Park artist-in-residence in 2015. She previously earned a regional teaching award in Gainesville, Florida.

Alder Keene ’12 teaches at Northside Elementary School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Alder is also a resident teaching-artist through The Art Center in Carrboro, North Carolina.

Dabney Smith ’05 teaches at Davenport A+ Elementary School, an arts integration school in Lenoir, North Carolina. In 2011, Dabney earned National Board Certification for teaching.

Jessica Davidson ’14 teaches at Wando High School in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

Jean Marie Holmes ’10 teaches art to grades 1-6 at the GREEN Charter School in Greenville, South Carolina.

Chris Wills ’11 teaches graphic design at Padua Academy, an all-girls private high school, in Wilmington, Delaware.

Shawn Elyce Trice ’09 moved to Boston after graduation and teaches at Foxborough High School as the Fine Arts teacher.

After working as an Artist in Residence with the Wexner Center for the Arts at the Ohio State University Education department and teaching at Columbus College of Art and Design in their Saturday Morning art program, Jaime Bennati ’11 currently serves as the middle and upper school visual arts teacher at The Wellington School in Ohio.

Stephanie Moon ’08 taught in two Baltimore City public schools and a private school in Baltimore County before moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she’s currently teaching at Buckingham Browne and Nichols Middle School, a small co-ed private school.

Laura Piszkiewicz-Taubery ’03 teaches at the Johnsburg public Junior High and High Schools in rural McHenry County, Illinois.

Ruth Jatib O’Connor ’01 taught in Hawaii after graduation and recently moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where she is currently teaching in a Montessori School.

...earn awards and contribute to the field of art education

The Maryland Association of Teacher Education (MATE) awards the Distinguished Teacher Award to one candidate from each institution of higher education in Maryland, to recognize and honor those teacher candidates whose work in a clinical environment shows a commitment to student learning and practice of reflective, responsive teaching. The Distinguished Teacher Awardee for 2015 was Rachel Kotkin.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) established the Teachers of Promise Institute in 2007 to encourage the best and brightest college students in Maryland to teach locally and provide a transition from student to first-year teacher. Awardees are selected for their high academic achievement and teaching skills as evidenced by their grades and performance in student teaching. The Teachers of Promise awardees for 2015 were:

- India Cox, Taylor Boren, Allison Yancone, Rachael Hulme, Raissa Rosenbaum, Allie DeStefano, and Ashley Hendrix.

Each state in the U.S. identifies outstanding art educators for each level: elementary, middle, and high school. Caro Appel ’10 received the Maryland Art Education Association Secondary School Art Teacher State Award in 2015.

The Manuel Barkan Memorial Award is a national award acknowledging a work of scholarship published in the highly esteemed, peer-reviewed Art Education and Studies in Art Education journals. Stacey Salazar ’00, director of MICA’s MAT program, was selected for this award in 2015.

The National Art Education Association recognizes an art educator each year for his/her outstanding achievement, contributions, and service to the field of art education through a National Art Honor Society Chapter. Windy Wooten Spiridigliozzi ’97 was the recipient of this award in 2015.

The National Research Commission for the National Art Education Association communicates about research that relates to understanding critical questions of importance to the field and for providing the highest quality of art education possible in our schools and educational institutions. Shyla Rao ’97 was appointed as the Eastern Regional Representative for the Professional Learning Through Research group in the research commission.

MA in Teaching graduates presented in over twenty different sessions at the National Art Education Association conference in 2015. Presenters included: Molly Roberts ’13, Meghann Harris ’12, Julia McTighe ’11, Jaime Bennati ’11, Caro Appel ’10, Stephanie Cafaro ’08, Jillian Jenkins ’01, Juan Carlos Castro ’00, Amy Charleroy ’00, Shyla Rao ’97, Aileen Castro ’95, Grace Hulse ’81,
“MICA graduates are very well prepared as art educators. That they have attended an art school and have a professional visual arts portfolio sets them apart from other candidates.”
– Mark Coates, Coordinator of Fine Arts, Howard County Public Schools, Maryland

...advance to leadership positions early in their careers

Katie Atkinson ’14 teaches art at Thunder Hill Elementary School in Howard County, Maryland, and serves as the STEAM Co-Chair for the school, developing arts-integrated STEM activities and coordinating a STEAM day at the school every spring.

Michelle Land ’13 published a paper titled, “Full STEAM Ahead: The Benefits of Integrating the Arts Into STEM” and presented her research at the Complex Adaptive Systems Conference in Baltimore. She teaches at Stratford Landing Elementary School in Alexandria, Virginia, and is mentoring teachers in Fairfax County Schools in Project Based Learning (PBL).

As a first-year visual arts teacher at Loch Raven Technical Academy, Caitlin Selzer ’13 is serving as the advisor for National Junior Art Honor Society.

Christina Riley ’13 serves as an arts integration coordinator in Prince George’s Public Schools, a suburb of Washington, DC.

Julia McTighe ’11 teaches at Padonia Elementary School in Baltimore County and serves on the Instructional Leadership Team at her school. She also presented a workshop at the NAEA Spring 2014 Conference called “Look Closely: Exploring Observational Techniques in the K/1 Classroom.”

Chris Wills ’11 teaches at Padua Academy in Wilmington, Delaware. He serves as Director of The Advocacy Program for Success (APS) at Padua, a program that fosters an understanding students and their community through curriculum-based experiential learning. He presented “On the Edge: Developing Habits of Success On the Edge of Your Comfort Zone” at the Canadian Positive Psychology Conference in Ottawa, Canada.

Sara Allred ’10 coordinates the Tisch College Scholars Program at Tufts University where she leads an annual service-learning program in rural Jamaica.

Alissandra Seelaus ’10, coordinated the high school Pre-College Studio Residency Program at MICA. She has also continued working as a practicing illustrator by managing an Etsy site, selling her work locally, and maintaining a blog of daily drawings.

Valeska Populoh ’07 serves as chair of the Fiber Department at MICA. She is currently part of a cohort of Baltimore area artists and cultural workers participating in a Liz Lerman Critical Response Process Intensive Facilitator’s Training, sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. She maintains Community-Based Justice Work with a recent collaboration as part of United Diverse Artists, Inc, titled “Art-Part’heid: Bridging the Gap of Disparities in the Baltimore Arts Scene: A Panel Discussion and Community Dialogue on Race, Power, Privilege, Exclusion and Shared Wealth.”

Jacob Cecil ’07 chairs the Visual Arts Department at River Hill High School in Howard County, Maryland.

Leslie Olson Argueta ’08 is an Elementary visual arts teacher in Arlington public schools. Not long after graduation, Leslie was promoted to lead teacher in Visual Arts for Arlington public schools.

Danielle Scott Ford ’05 teaches at the Pennsauken Intermediate Public School in New Jersey. She frequently leads seminars at the state leadership conference on the PRIDE program she has led for the past seven years that develops community-school-parent involvement.

Bryan Bieniek ’05 chairs the Arts Department at Mt. St. Joseph High School in Baltimore, Maryland. Bryan also currently serves as adjunct faculty in the MAT program.

Stacy Gilinson ’04 serves as Manager of Special Projects for the New York City Department of Education. Her job is a hybrid between family engagement, professional development, and operational planning. She is responsible for about 75 annual public facing events.

Lynn Palewicz Hedges ’00 is the Chair of Foundation and Assistant Professor at Moore College of Art & Design in Philadelphia. She also presented at the Foundations in Art Theory and Education conference in Indiana.

...teach abroad

Kelsey Shmitt ’12 landed in China, where she will teach at Shenzhen Senior High School.

Kevin Meadows ’05 has taught in Namibia, at the Pan American School in Costa Rica, and is now teaching middle school students at the Xiamen International School in Xiamen, China. He has conducted IB Workshops in Jakarta and Hong Kong and developed online courses at Bath School of Art & Design in Bath, England.

Alexandra Arocho ’11 taught with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program for two years before returning to the US to teach elementary art in Tampa, Florida.

After first teaching middle and high school students at the International School of Dakar, Senegal, Megan Carpenter ’07 moved to Monterrey, Mexico and is teaching at the American School Foundation of Monterrey.
“MICA helped me to build professional connections by bringing in guest artists and lecturers and by being equipped with a well-connected and innovative faculty. MICA has helped to shape who I now am as an artist and an educator.”
– Alder Keene ’12, art teacher at Northside Elementary School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and resident teaching-artist at The Art Center in Carrboro, North Carolina.

...stay in the Baltimore/Washington, DC, region

For the first time during the history of MICA’s MAT program, twenty-seven of twenty-eight 2015 graduates remained in the Mid-Atlantic to teach visual arts. Some of those teachers include: Jessica Walther ’15 at Belmont Elementary and Dr. Nathan A. Pitts Ashburnon Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore City; Sage Dever ’15 as a full time art instructor at Bolton Hill Nursery in Baltimore City; Rachel Kotkin ’15 at City Neighbors K-8 Charter School in Baltimore City; Amanda Simonds ’15 at South Lake Elementary in Montgomery County; Caitlin Finnegan ’15 at Delaware County Community College as a Kids & Teens Art Instructor; Mary Ellen Martinez ’15 at Dogwood Elementary and Woodmoor Elementary in Baltimore County; Lindsay Miller ’15 at Towson High School in Baltimore County; Jessi Rush ’15 at McNair Elementary in Fairfax, Virginia; India Maureen Cox ’15 at Braddock Elementary in Fairfax County, Virginia; Taryn Riley ’15 at Arlington Science Focus Elementary in Arlington, Virginia; Rachael Hulme ’15 at Edgewood High School in Harford County; Allie DeStefano ’15 at Friendly High School in Prince George’s County; Samantha Stewart ’15 at Chesapeake Math and IT Academy North in Prince George’s County; Allison Yancone ’15 at Bohemia Manor Middle School in Cecil County; and Megan Ligget ’15 at Bayonne High School in New Jersey.

Diane Yu ’14 is an upper school art teacher at Garrison Forrest School in Baltimore County.

Kelly Bissell ’14 is a Middle School Art Teacher at Pikesville Middle School in Baltimore County.

Evelyn Hoffmann ’14 teaches art at Chatsworth Elementary School in Baltimore County.

Caitlin Kambic ’13 teaches at Sparrows Point Middle School in Baltimore County.

Caitlin Selzer ’13 teaches at Loch Raven Academy in Baltimore County.

Eric Allard ’11 teaches art at Glyndon Elementary School in Baltimore County. Eric is starting an afterschool and summer art program for low-income students in the area.

Katie Atkinson ’14 is the Elementary Art Teacher at Thunder Hill Elementary School in Howard County Public Schools. In her first year of teaching, she has taken on a leadership role in a STEAM day at her school and offered to mentorMAT students with teaching an arts-integrated lesson at the event.

Shannon Townsend ’13 teaches grades 6–8 at Elkridge Landing Middle School in Howard County.

Danielle Klim ’14 is an art teacher at Reservoir High School in Howard County Public Schools.

Caitlin Engels ’14 teaches art at Edgewood High School in Harford County.

Kara Peterson ’14 teaches at Bolton Hill Nursery, in Baltimore.

Rachel Park ’14 is teaching middle school art at Gilman School, a private all-boys school in Baltimore City.

David Brown ’13 teaches middle school at Monarch Academy Public Charter School in Baltimore City.

Hannah Cohen ’13 teaches at City Neighbors Hamilton Charter School in Baltimore City.

Molly Roberts ’13 teaches grades 6-8 at the Baltimore Design School in Baltimore City.

Stephanie Pickron ’12 teaches at Dundalk Elementary School in Baltimore County and also teaches Photography/Media with a non-profit arts organization in Baltimore City.

Zac Lawhon ’12 teaches at Baltimore Lab School in Baltimore City and mentors pre-service teachers in his classroom.

Sarah Molling ’12 teaches at Boys Latin School of Maryland, located in Baltimore City.

Jenn Raughley ’12 teaches at Quince Orchard High School in Montgomery County.

Lillian Raab ’12 teaches art at Crofton Woods Elementary School in Anne Arundel County.

Andrea Caplan ’12 teaches in Anne Arundel County at George Fox Middle School.

After teaching visual arts in the lower school at Isidore Newman private school in New Orleans for five years, Victoria Snell ’10 returned to the Mid-Atlantic region to teach middle school art at St. Stephens and St. Agnes School in Arlington, Virginia.