Recent Graduates

Eloisa Guanlao (MFA Sculpture, 2007) has had solo art shows at the Albuquerque International Airport and Los Angeles Union Station in 2006. She received the highly competitive Outstanding Student Award in Sculpture from the International Sculpture Center. http://eloisaguanlao.com/

Min Kim Park (MFA Photography, 2007) Teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Northwestern University. She is also an artist in residence in Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, and will be Rosenquist resident at North Dakota State University in 2009. http://web.mac.com/minkimpark/iWeb/Site/Home.html

Erika Osborne (MFA Painting & Drawing, 2005). After two years of teaching in the Land Arts field program at University of New Mexico, Erika has accepted a tenure track position as an Assistant Professor, Division of Art, West Virginia University. http://erikaosborne.com

Julie Anand (MFA Photography, 2005) Julie studied Ecology and Evolutionary Biology as an undergraduate before becoming smitten with photography. Having replaced the burden of proof with the celebration of subjectivity, her mixed-media and photographic artworks draw on the ecological principle of interdependency questioning conventional boundaries between bodies and their environments. She is an Assistant Professor of Photography at Arizona State University.
The M.F.A. is a terminal degree in studio art. Its primary emphasis is on the creative aspects of an individual’s work. The M.F.A. requires three years of intensive study and research beyond the bachelor’s degree. Although the formal requirements for the M.F.A. degree are in some respects comparable to doctoral degrees in other fields, the scope and objectives of the M.F.A. degree are uniquely different. As such, the M.F.A. degree represents strong creative attainment in studio art, an assured grasp of an area of concentration, a sound knowledge of critical and historical artistic thought, and demonstrated expertise in conceiving and executing a significant body of creative work. Thus, as with the doctoral degree, its attainment is not simple matter of “meeting requirements”.

The M.F.A. requires a concentration on the creative aspects of the studio work culminating in a dissertation, which entails planning, installing and documenting a solo exhibition of the student’s own creative work, producing a catalog, and giving an oral public presentation.

Applicants must apply to one of the following studio areas: Painting and Drawing; Photography; Printmaking; 3D (Ceramics or Sculpture); or Electronic Arts. Students in any area can apply to the Arts and Ecology focus. Please see the department site for details and application information.

U.S. News and World Report’s 2007 edition of “America’s Best Graduate Schools” ranks the Photography program as 2nd in the nation.

No GRE required

Professor Bill Gilbert
(MFA University of Montana, 1978)

Bill Gilbert is the Endowed Chair of Land Art of the American West. Land Arts aims to provide students with the opportunity to investigate the potential of environmentally based art and design practices. It also provides students with the experience of community building and collaboration. Students are challenged to develop new sensibilities and to create connections to larger structures beyond themselves.

Through three extensive journeys, students are exposed to a wide range of cultural interventions and sites in the landscape of the American West. “We are focused on getting the students out of the institution and into direct physical contact with unique places,” says Gilbert. “We plan the journeys so that there is a significant cultural and ecological shift from one site to the next. We ask our students to come to terms with where they are, what they are seeing: to consider the influence the environment has had on their predecessors and to experiment on defining an art practice for themselves.”

“We find it important to go to places that are as remote as possible, in a sense of physical space and time,” he says. “We try to create a fundamentally different quality of education and experience, to lose the pressure of time and the confines of a classroom setting. Students can then translate these different qualities of time and space into the making of art.”