



Studio Art Centers International *Florence*

Newsletter 37 Fall 2007

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York City. Artworks by SACI Artists Council members, faculty, and alumni were sold to raise funds for SACI's Scholarship and Conservation Programs.

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A 32nd-Anniversary Event Celebrating SACI's Artists, Alumni, & Advocates was held on June 13 at Salander O'Reilly Galleries in New

For more on this very special event, see pages 2-3.

SACI president **Mary Beckinsale** (left) and **Corice Canton Arman**

SACI ceramics instructor **Lisa Nocentini**, *Dreaming of Mermaids*, stained earthenware, 72 x 15 cm, 2007

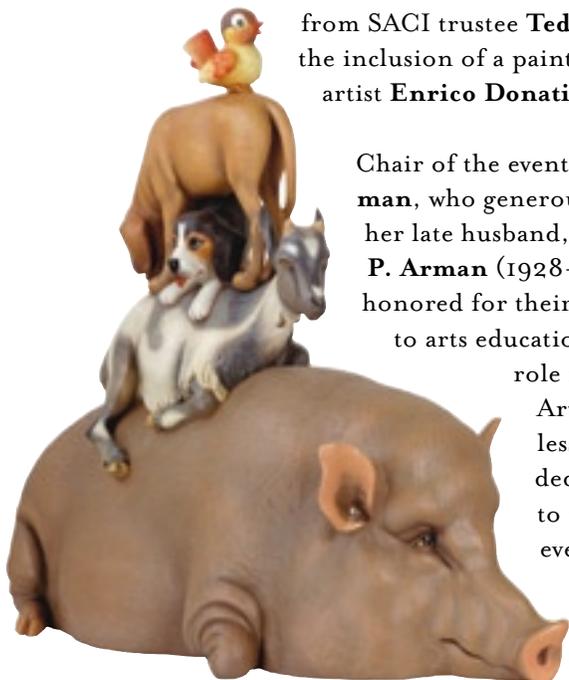
Jeff Koons, *Stacked*, photo lithograph (176/200), 35 3/4 x 29 1/4", 2003



The Future Is in Our Hands *SACI's 32nd-Anniversary Celebration Makes a Splash on New York City's Art Scene*

More than 275 alumni, parents, artists, and collectors gathered for SACI's inaugural exhibition and sale of art on June 13 at the prestigious Salander O'Reilly Galleries in New York City.

In addition to faculty and alumni artwork, members of the SACI Artists Council and friends of SACI also contributed works for sale. Participating artists included **Christo & Jeanne-Claude**, **Audrey Flack**, **Jill Furmanovsky**, **Ralph Gibson**, **Geoffrey Holder**, **Peter Hutchinson**, **Jeff Koons**, **Simonetta Moro**, **Beverly Pepper**, **Roger Phillips**, **Amalie R. Rothschild**, and **Storm Thorgerson**. SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** donated one of his paintings, and a gift from SACI trustee **Ted Townsend** made possible the inclusion of a painting by the noted Italian artist **Enrico Donati**.

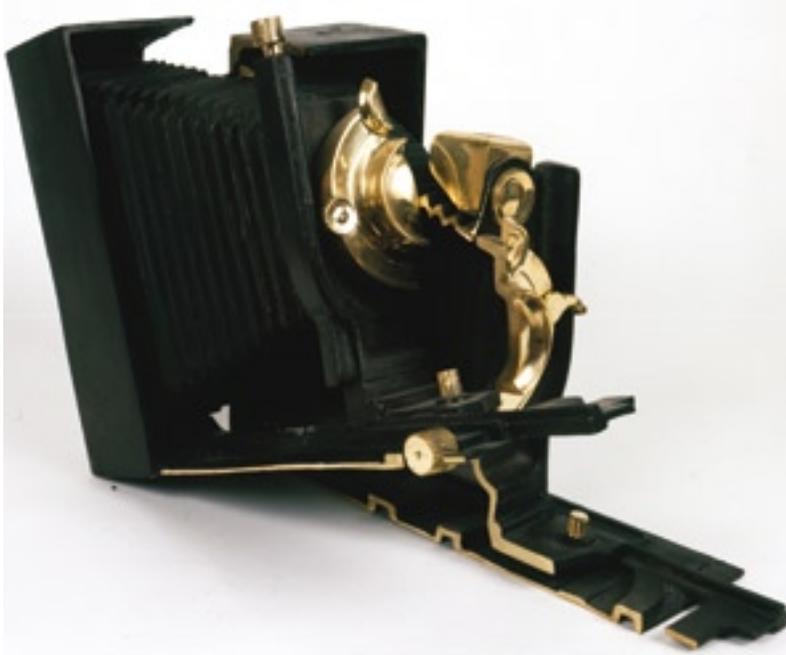


Chair of the event was **Corice Canton Arman**, who generously donated a sculpture by her late husband, the eminent artist **Armand P. Arman** (1928-2005). Both Armans were honored for their commitment to SACI and to arts education—and for their critical role in establishing the SACI Artists Council. Corice's tireless efforts, persistence, and dedication were instrumental to the enormous success of the evening. In recognition of her many contributions to SACI and the arts, the chair of SACI's board of

trustees, **Jane Fortune**, and SACI president **Mary Beckinsale** presented Corice with a drawing by Jules Maidoff.

Members of the Honorary Committee included **Ambassador Giovanni Castellaneta**, Ambassador of Italy to the USA, **Ambassador Marcello Spatafora**, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, SACI trustee **Ted Townsend**, and **Larry and Julie Salander**.

59 artists contributed works, which together were valued at over \$260,000. Proceeds from sale of these works were donated either fully or partially by each artist to SACI. This generous support made it possible for SACI to offer the artworks for sale at prices substantially below their market value. Artworks still available for purchase at these considerably reduced prices can be viewed online at <http://saci.events.nyc.googlepages.com/index.htm>. Revenue raised from the sale of the artworks will be used to fund SACI's Scholarship and Art Conservation Programs.



Founding SACI Artists Council member **Arman**, *Hommage e Nadar*, sliced bronze cast of a movie camera with polished and black patina, 31 x 48 x 23", 1986

SACI Artists Council member **Peter Hutchinson**, *Climbing*, mixed photo collage, 62 x 42", 2007

The evening was exciting for all and gave evidence of the great enthusiasm alumni, parents, and friends have for SACI. Mary Beckinsale noted that "this is a unique opportunity for SACI faculty and alumni to exhibit artworks in one of New York City's most distinguished galleries beside works by so many internation-

ally renowned artists." Thanking those who made this very special event possible, Jane Fortune spoke for all at SACI in saying, "We are thrilled with the standard of excellence shown here tonight by our alumni and friends, and delighted so many alumni are with us. What we are doing is bringing alumni and SACI

closer together for their mutual needs. It could not have been a better beginning."

Special thanks go to **Robert Hesse**, **Kevin Hesse**, and **Tim Cynova**, whose professionalism and creativity made it possible for SACI to realize Corice's vision in holding this exciting event.



What your support will help to accomplish at SACI . . .

A gift of \$2,000 can help to provide a scholarship to cover room, board, books, and supplies to one student for a term or semester.

A gift of \$1,000 can help to provide a scholarship of transportation to help bring an art student from a developing country to SACI.

A gift of \$500 can help to cover the expenses of hosting a prominent artist at SACI as an Artist-in-Residence.

A gift of \$250 can help SACI update and expand our library resources and books.

A gift of \$100 can help to sponsor a Visiting Lecturer to speak at SACI about his or her work.

A gift of \$50 can help SACI improve our collection of fine art slides, CD-ROMs, videos, DVDs, and periodicals.



Yes, I want to support SACI. Please find my enclosed tax-deductible gift of:

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Please make checks payable to Studio Art Centers International (SACI). All donations are tax-deductible. For additional information, please contact SACI, 50 Broad Street, Suite 1617, New York, NY 10004-2372 USA, (212) 248-7225.

News of SACI Students: Past & Present

"My paintings are often on display in Massachusetts galleries," writes **Resa Blatman** (Spring 1984), "and I have work in private collections throughout the United States and in several countries, including England, Italy, Switzerland, and South Africa. I am also a Lending Artist to the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, Massachusetts, where thirteen of my paintings are currently on loan to the museum's corporate sponsors throughout New England. In 2006, I graduated from Boston University with an MFA in painting." Resa's work will be featured this fall in a solo exhibition at Wheelock College in Boston. Her paintings and drawings can be seen at: www.resablatman.com

In October, 2006, **Julia Blaukopf** (Spring 2005) traveled to Ghana to photograph Women in Progress, a non-profit group that empowers women of the community through a sustainable business of clothing manufacturing. Her photographs from this project and others are on view at: www.juliablaukopf.com

Last winter **Eugenia Burgo** (Spring 1986) held solo exhibitions of her paintings at XVA Gallery in Dubai and the Swiss Embassy in Tokyo. A graduate of Wheaton College, Eugenia now lives in Zollikon, Switzerland. To learn more about Eugenia's career—and to view images of her recent work—visit her web site: www.eaburgo.ch

Last December, prints by **Patricia Alejandra Cordoba Fierro** (Spring 1998) were featured in a 2-person exhibition at the Marini Museum in Florence. "Although I primarily express myself through sculpture, mostly bronze," writes Patricia, "I have spent the last several years learning etching techniques, experimenting with various methods in search of the one that best suits me as an artist. In some respects, I consider etching to be a microscopic form of scul-

ture—the soul of my sculpture. My long-range project is to discover a way for the two art forms to meet while maintaining their separate identities."

SACI was invited by the Altavalleina-Grottefrassasi Rotary Club to participate in the 2007 Mannucci Sculpture prize competition. This annual competition was established fourteen years ago to encourage the development of new artists. SACI was invited along with art schools from Italy and Turkey to submit sculptures by three of last year's most outstanding students: **Johanna Hamm**, **Lindsay Mapes**, and **Sarah Zimmer**. At the opening of the exhibition, in Arcevia's Chio-stro di San Francesco, Lindsay Mapes was awarded €1,000 for the best SACI sculpture and received additionally one of the two €500 purchase prizes awarded to participants in the exhibition. Our congratulations go to all of these students—and special grazies to SACI sculpture instructors **Dario Arcamone** and **John Taylor**, whose efforts were instrumental in making SACI's participation in this event such a success.

"My conservation training at SACI enabled me to do conservation work in the United States," writes **Megan Merenda** (Post-Bac 2004-2005), who visited SACI in July and was recently hired as the Public Art Conservator for the City of Reno, Nevada.

"I returned to Florence because my experience at SACI was so positive!" writes **Alicia Page** (Spring 2005). After earning

Julia Blaukopf,
Wood, digital
image, 2007



a bachelor's degree in Interior Design/Architecture from Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, Alicia came back to Florence to pursue a master's degree in Interior and Product Design at the Accademia. She's now completing work on this degree and freelancing as a product designer for Maricart in Prato, Italy. When visiting SACI in March, Alicia noted that her senior thesis derived from her SACI experience, and that this experience gave her "courage to travel and explore."

In Spring 2007, **Nathlie Provosty** (Spring 2003) received an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania. A summa cum laude graduate of Maryland Institute College of Art, Nathlie was awarded a Fulbright grant in 2004, which enabled her to live for a year in India, and two Elizabeth Greenshields Artist Grants. Her work can be viewed at: www.nathlieprovosty.com

The 2007-2008 recipient of the *Elizabeth A. Sackler Museum Educational Trust SACI Scholarship* of approximately \$30,000, which covers full tuition, the activity fee, and housing for an academic year of study, is SACI Post-Bac **Ingrid Sanchez**. Ingrid is a Brazilian citizen who, in 2006, earned a BFA in Printmaking, with a minor in Art History, from Maryland Institute College of Art. After graduating, she worked as admissions coordinator at the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Noel Stavropoulos (Fall 1996-Spring 1997), who visited



Summer Continuing Ed at SACI

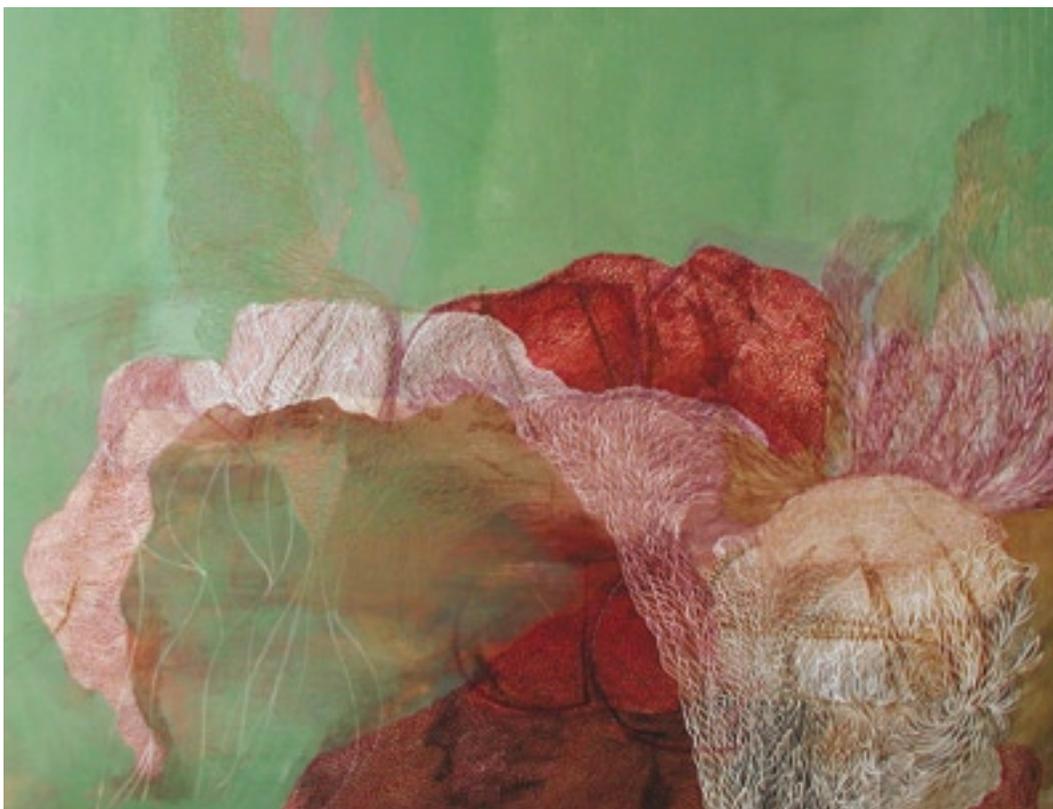
During July, it's possible to enroll at SACI as a non-credit student and take up to two classes selected from our courses in studio art, design, art conservation, art history, and Italian language. Continuing Ed students attend classes along with regularly-enrolled students and have full use of the SACI Worthington Library and computers for word processing, e-mailing, and Internet research. They also attend SACI lectures, gallery openings, open drawing sessions, film nights, and Sunday field trips to sites throughout Tuscany. Participants can choose to attend from June 26-July 11 or from June 26-July 26. For more information about Summer Continuing Ed at SACI, visit: www.saci-florence.org/academics/continuing_ed.htm

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SACI in March, is now living in the Netherlands. After studying at SACI, he earned a fine arts degree from the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam. His paintings, drawings, sculptures,

and installations have been featured in exhibitions in Haifa, Israel, Vancouver, Canada, and throughout Europe. His artwork can be seen at: www.molonlabe.org

Resa Blatman, *The Density of Imagination between Us and Life*, ink, acrylic, and copper leaf on wood, 42 x 72", 2005



News of SACI Faculty, Staff & Friends

In June, **Amanda Akyol** assumed the position of Admissions Manager at SACI's New York City office. Previously, Amanda had been employed as Admissions and Study Abroad Advisor at the Office of Student Affairs of the American University in Cairo. Amanda earned a B.A. in Linguistics from the University of Kansas and an M.A. in International Educational Development from Teachers College, Columbia University. She can be reached at: admanager@saci-florence.org. Welcome aboard, Amanda!

On April 10, **Corice Canton Arman** hosted at her home in New York City a gathering of artists and arts enthusiasts to announce the creation of SACI's first annual US exhibition. SACI president **Mary Beckinsale** expressed her gratitude to Corice and to all who attended. "On June 13," Mary noted, "SACI will establish its first major artistic presence in New York City by presenting an event that features works from our alumni, our faculty, and members of the SACI Artists Council. The heart of the event will remember **Arman's** contribution to the art world and recognize his dedication, and Corice Arman's ongoing dedication, to art education—and their selfless assistance to SACI."

Fall 2007 SACI artist-in-residence **Deborah Howard**, who heads the painting program at the University of Denver, has been working on a series of encaustic paintings whose colors and textures are inspired by the landscape and culture of New Mexico and Israel. These works will be featured this fall in a solo exhibition at the SACI Gallery.

Jules Maidoff,
Shoot the Artist
Player, oil on
linen, 100 x 95
cm, 2004



"The Moving Hand," a one-person exhibition of paintings by SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**, was held in March and April at Place Suisse des Arts/Swiss Kunstraum in Lausanne, Switzerland. In October, Jules's artwork will be featured in two exhibitions in Oporto, Portugal. His recent paintings will be on exhibit at the Foundation Arvore and his prints will be showcased, in an exhibition entitled "Etchings by a Painter," at Galeria Esteta, where he will be running a week-long workshop on "Alternative Printmaking Techniques." And Jules's hand keeps moving! In December, his paintings will be featured in a one-person exhibition at the Galleria Ciovasso in Milan.

Welcome to **Sandra Mazara**, who in May was appointed Director of Enrollment Management and head of SACI's New York City office! Sandy was formerly Senior Associate Director of Admission at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. She received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and is currently completing work on a master's degree at Seton Hall's College of Education and Human Services. Sandy's e-mail address is: direnrollment@saci-florence.org

In July, SACI alum **Christina Miles** (Late Spring 2002 and Spring 2003) joined SACI's New York City office as Admissions Coordinator. A graduate of Wheaton College, Christina was previously employed as Membership Sales Assistant at the Museum of Modern Art. She has worked as an intern at

the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice and Christie's Auction House and Venturella Stained Glass Studio in New York City. Christina can be reached at: adcoordinator1@saci-florence.org. Welcome back to SACI, Christina!

A special grant from UNESCO's Cairo office made it possible for SACI art history and museology instructor **Maria Antonia Rinaldi** to travel for two weeks in June to Egypt's legendary Alexandria Library. There, at the invitation of Museum Director **Ahmed Moussa** and Department of Manuscripts and Ancient Books head **Youssef Ziedan**, Maria Antonia presented a series of lectures on museology to the museum's professional staff. While in Egypt, she also collaborated on the restoration of the Siwa House, an ethnographic museum at the Siwa Oasis in the western Sahara Desert.

Dr. Elizabeth A. Sackler, whose *Elizabeth A. Sackler Museum Educational Trust SACI Scholarship* each year enables a talented female artist to attend SACI who might not otherwise have had this opportunity, has established the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, which opened last spring at the Brooklyn Mu-

seum. The New York chapter of the National Organization for Women recently named Dr. Sackler as a recipient of this year's NOW-NYC Women of Power and Influence Award.

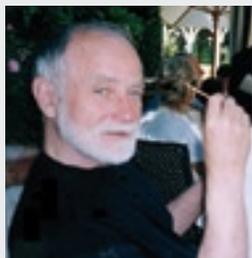
SACI is deeply grateful to **Nicholas Thaw** and the International Music and Art Foundation (IMAF) for approving a grant of €30,000 for *Capella Musicale di Santa Maria degli Angiolini*, a festival of "lost" Florentine music, based on scores recently discovered in the Conservatorio archives. The goal of the four-concert festival, which will be recorded on two CDs, is to preserve and promote Florence's musical heritage through the playing of this music from the 16th and 17th centuries on the chapel's organ, whose restoration was made possible by an earlier, equally generous grant from the IMAF.

Funding from the American International League of Florence (AILO) enabled the SACI ONLUS to sponsor in April and May a 6-session workshop for Florentine children. Organized by **Cecilia Gallia** and directed by **Maddalena Poccianti**, the workshop focused on the links between letters and emotions. Following the example of illustrated medieval manuscripts,



Deborah Howard, *Bababata and Her Daughters*, encaustic painting, 72 x 48", 2004

children used colored chalks, collages, and clay to create letters, based upon the first letter of their favorite seasons or their first names, in which decorative elements were utilized to communicate the emotions each child associated with each letter. **Federica Totaro** and **Valeria Nardi** joined Cecilia and Maddalena in teaching the workshops. Participants included **Ginevra Bargigli**, **Brando Baumgartl**, **Axel Belig**, **Veronica Chalco Vega**, **Nathan Cordick**, **Denn Curtis**, **Cosimo Leoni**, **Filippo Marino**, **Lorenzo Pedocchi**, **Giovanni Pezzatini**, and **Cesare Tedeschi**.



SACI Remembers Trustee Emeritus Dr. Clayton A. Hubbs

It is with deep sadness that SACI learned of the passing on March 29, 2007 of SACI trustee emeritus **Dr. Clayton A. Hubbs**. For many years, Clay and **Joanna Hubbs** have been loyal friends of SACI. The entire SACI community will always have the deepest gratitude for Clay's creativity, good will, and unflagging support. Among his many achievements, Clay was the founder of *Transitions Abroad* magazine, which he edited for more than 30 years. In recognition of his years of friendship, SACI's main lecture hall, the *Aula Magna*, has been renamed in honor of Clay, and a \$1,000 annual award has been established in Clay's name for presentation to a student who has demonstrated a significant engagement with the Italian community.

To All SACI Alumni

SACI alumni can access contact information for fellow alumni by logging on to the Alumni Directory at: www.saci-florence.org/alumni/directory.htm and inserting the following:

Username: **alumni**

Password: **florence**

To make your own contact information available in the directory, please email:

alumni@saci-florence.org

SACI Teaching Assistantships

SACI invites alumni to apply for Teaching Assistantships in the following areas: Photography; Conservation; and Art History. Completed applications must be received at SACI by May 1.

For information about how to apply, see:

www.saci-florence.org/alumni/teaching.htm

Studio Art Centers International

(SACI) is a United States non-profit 501 c (3) educational entity founded in 1975 and incorporated in 1976. SACI is a directly accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). SACI is additionally accredited for undergraduate and graduate US university-level study through its affiliation with Bowling Green State University in Ohio, which is accredited by NASAD and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

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A Letter to Alumni from the Chair of SACI's Board of Trustees



SACI board of trustees chair
Jane Fortune

The June 13 event in New York offered a new beginning for both SACI and our alumni.

I was pleased to meet so many of you and to see your artwork. What you do makes me extremely proud to be associated with this school. I cannot speak to the past because I simply was not with you throughout the years, but I can tell you how heartening it is to see and meet you, to appreciate your work, to witness the joy on your faces as you meet and greet each other and view your works.

It was exciting to see what can be accomplished when everyone works together as a team. With the administration, the faculty, members of the Artists Council, alumni, friends, and trustees all participating and getting involved, there is nothing that cannot be done.

You and we have an opportunity to grow together. The New York event was not a fluke. It was a beginning. It must and will happen again and again and the concept must be transported to other cities in the United States. You must have opportunities to share your talent with each other and the rest of the world. The value of participating together gives one a sense of who we are and where we are going.

I do not have your talent because I am not an artist, so all I can do is to try to nurture your talent. You, on the other hand, can also help by nurturing SACI. The funds raised at the event will benefit future students through scholarships and SACI art conservation projects. Perhaps we can convince you to make a contribution to help us. We would appreciate it.

Together, let's make a new beginning. Let's grow together. Let's make the world take note of our presence.

Jane Fortune



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