



N E W S L E T T E R

# SACI's 30th Anniversary Alumni Reunion

On May 26 and 27, SACI alumni from throughout the world met in Florence to celebrate SACI's 30th anniversary by revisiting historic sites in Tuscany and meeting with their former SACI instructors and fellow students. For a number of alumni, it was their first visit to SACI's landmark main facility, the Palazzo dei Cartelloni, to which SACI moved in 1999. SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** and SACI president **Mary Beckinsale** greeted the alums and led them on a tour of the Palazzo, where they saw, in addition to SACI's painting, drawing,



Left to right, in SACI's garden, **Kathy Smith**, **Fabia Fuenzalida**, SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**, **Gunnel Lindelöv**, **Judy Truedson**, **Jean-Pierre Roy**, **Rick Noss**, SACI alumnus and painting and drawing instructor **Paul Beel**, **Lisa Goldfaden**, and SACI president **Mary Beckinsale** (photo by *Steffi Rodemann*)

printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, photography, video, multimedia, and language classrooms, SACI's recently expanded art conservation studios and the newly renovated SACI Worthington Library. A highlight of the tour was a visit to SACI's redesigned lecture hall, the *Aula Magna*, in which a special exhibition of photographs, taken by alums while they were students at SACI, was on display (see pages 2 and 3). The SACI alums later had an opportunity to tour SACI's Design Center and Graduate Center and to visit the Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angeli, where SACI students and instructors recently completed the restoration of treasured artworks, including a series of lunettes by the Baroque master Francesco Curradi.

In addition to visiting SACI's facilities, the alums toured the Uffizi Gallery, where they viewed an exhibition on the works of Leonardo da Vinci. They were led by Jules on tours of the major piazzas in Florence's Oltrarno and other well-remembered sites throughout the city, ranging from the world-renowned Duomo and Giotto's Tower to the home-away-from-home of many alums during their time at SACI—the famous Zecchi art store. They met infor-

mally with faculty and staff at receptions in the SACI garden, dined in *trattorie* on both sides of the Arno, and capped their celebration of SACI's 30th anniversary with a dinner at La Capponcina in Settignano, where they enjoyed both breathtaking views of Tuscany and scrumptious Tuscan cuisine.

Following the two days of events, Jules noted "the joy and rich exchange that the reunion engendered." In a special letter to participants, he wrote, "I am still basking in delight at the remarks the alumni made during their all-too-brief

time here. The experience was touching, and even more, it was the beginning of a future between those who came and the school. That so many alumni feel that SACI was the most important part of their educational experience, and that it was said with such sincerity, is reassuring to one who has spent so much time trying to make it just that—a memorable and pivotal moment of development for artists."

Alumni participants (followed by the terms in which they were enrolled at SACI and their current place of residence) included: **Steven Brittan** (Spring 1983, Fall 1983; Boston, Massachusetts), **Fabia Fuenzalida** (Fall 1982, Spring 1983; Santiago, Chile), **Lisa Goldfaden** (Fall 1994; Brooklyn, New York), **Gunnel Lindelöv** (Spring 1997; Stockholm, Sweden), **Rick Noss** (Fall 1977, Spring 1978; El Dorado Hills, California), **Jean-Pierre Roy** (Fall 1994; Brooklyn, New York), **Kathy Smith** (Fall 1987, Spring 1988; Los Angeles, California), **Cristina Sutro** (Fall 1982, Spring 1983; Maplewood, New Jersey), **Judy Truedson** (Fall 1978, Spring 1979, Spring 1983, Summer 1983; North Reading, Massachusetts), and **Bryony Wilson** (Spring 1982; Florence, Italy).

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To All SACI Alumni

SACI alumni can now log on to the Alumni Directory at:  
<http://www.saci-florence.org/alumni/directory.htm>  
 to access contact information of fellow alumni. Insert the following:

Username: **alumni**

Password: **florence**

To make your own contact information available in the directory,  
 please email: [alumni@saci-florence.org](mailto:alumni@saci-florence.org)

# SACI & Italy: Then & Now

From May 27 through June 1, a special display of photographs, taken by alumni while they were students at SACI, was on exhibit in the *Aula Magna* of SACI's main facility, the Palazzo dei Cartelloni. The exhibition, entitled "Firenze: 30 Years of Looking," was part of a series of alumni events celebrating SACI's 30th anniversary (see page 1). The works focused on a wide range of subjects, including moments when SACI students were working in studio, traveling on field trips, or just hanging out. Some images captured the grittiness of urban street life, others the splendors of Italian cityscapes and landscapes. All evoke a unique moment when the experience of Italy was documented by a SACI student in a way that suggests the insight and understanding that can arise from living and studying in a country far from one's own.

The images that appear on pages 2 and 3 were among those featured in this exhibition. The quotes below are from alums who participated in SACI's 30th anniversary celebration. Photographs by the following alumni were included in the exhibition: **Michelle Harm** (Late Spring 2004), **Heather Lindquist** (Fall 1992, Spring 1993), **Mary Mackin** (Summer 1992), **Karine Mertens** (Fall 1984, Spring 1985), **Lisa Mirabile** (Fall 2001), **Naomi Muirhead** (Spring 2000), **Rick Noss** (Fall 1977, Spring 1978), **Carol Reed** (Fall 1976, Spring 1977), **Linda Smith** (Summer 2004), **Michelle Tarnopolsky** (Spring 1996), **Judy Truedson** (Fall 1978, Spring 1979, Spring 1983, Summer 1983), **Stephen Ware** (Fall 1976), and **Nicholas Wynia** (Spring 2002).



Heather Lindquist, *Amanda*, Florence, 1993

"The combination of teaching and living in Florence changed and broadened my outlook on art and architecture."

**Steven Brittan** (Spring 1983, Fall 1983), Boston, Massachusetts, principal of the architectural firm Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates and member of the SACI board of trustees

"The period I spent at SACI deeply affected the choices I made in my life. It was so great to know other art students from other parts of the States and Europe—it gave me a different perspective on my art and my life."

**Judy Truedson** (Fall 1978, Spring 1979, Spring 1983, Summer 1983), North Reading, Massachusetts, artist and owner of Teeny Billboards, Faneuil Hall, Boston

"Studying at SACI totally changed my life. Clearly it helps my design needs in my current job and dealing with different cultures."

**Rick Noss** (Fall 1977, Spring 1978), El Dorado California, vice president—Western Region of GBC Document Finishing

"Living in Florence and studying at SACI gave me a world perspective and a deep appreciation for another culture."

**Cristina Sutro** (Fall 1982, Spring 1983), Maplewood, New Jersey, vice president of the M.S. Worthington Foundation, Inc. and member of the SACI board of trustees

"SACI helped me to accept my path as an artist and visual thinker and gave me the tools to better navigate my artistic interests."

**Jean-Pierre Roy** (Fall 1994), Brooklyn, New York, painter and instructor at The New School-Parsons School of Design in New York City

"SACI deepened my interest in Italian art and culture and my skills in painting, printmaking, and illustration. I'm especially grateful to Gary Lissa, Elizabeth Hunter, and Helen Manner Watterson."

**Gunnel Lindelöv** (Spring 1997), Stockholm, Sweden, painter and head archivist, Liljevalchs Art Gallery, Stockholm

"My time at SACI showed me the effect of overseas studies on young people, who became significantly more aware through the experience."

**Fabia Fuenzalida** (Fall 1982, Spring 1983), Santiago, Chile, overseas studies coordinator, Stanford University in Santiago

"SACI changed me as an artist and person by allowing me to find myself and my potential."

**Lisa Goldfaden** (Fall 1994), Brooklyn, New York, master's degree student in museum education at Bank Street College of Education in New York City

## Summer Continuing Ed at SACI

Beginning in Summer 2007, SACI friends, supporters, donors, and alumni may enroll in SACI classes as non-credit students. Participants will attend classes along with regularly-enrolled students and have full use of the SACI Worthington Library; computers for word processing, e-mailing, and Internet research; lectures; SACI Gallery openings; open drawing sessions with models; and, during their period of study, Sunday field trips to sites throughout Tuscany. Students may choose to study studio art, art history, and/or Italian language courses.

Students can attend either for 2 weeks, from July 2-16, or for 4 weeks, from July 2-28.

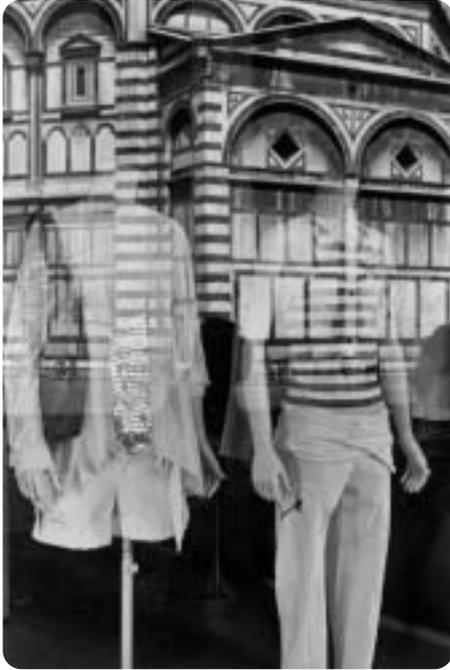
Reduced tuition for those in the 2-week program is \$1,000 and for those in the 4-week program is \$2,000. SACI housing is available for those in the 4-week program at a cost of \$1,200 for a double room or \$1,600 for a single room. SACI will gladly assist 2-week program students—and 4-week program students who prefer to reside in non-SACI housing—by recommending accommodations for their period of study at SACI.

To sign up, please contact Rachel Emmons-Bradley at REEmmons-Bradley@iie.org by June 1, 2007. Checks or money orders should be made out to Studio Art Centers International. Please indicate on

the check that it is for the SACI Summer Continuing Ed Program. Please send your check to Rachel Emmons-Bradley at:

Studio Art Centers International (SACI)  
c/o Institute of International Education  
809 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017-3580

You may also pay by credit card by calling 212-984-5548. For more information on payment, you may contact Rachel Emmons-Bradley.



Michelle Harm, *Baptistry Window*, Florence, 2004



Naomi Muirhead, *Mercato Centrale*, Florence, 2000



Mary Mackin, *Street*, Florence, 1992



Stephen Ware, *SACI Studio*, Florence, 1976



Rick Noss, *SACI Painting Class*, Florence, 1978

# SACI Faculty Traveling Exhibition

From August, 2006 until May, 2007, artwork by SACI instructors will be featured in an exhibition that will travel throughout the United States to art galleries at seven SACI Consortium schools. The exhibition will begin at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, then travel to Bowling Green State University, Western Michigan University, East Tennessee State University, Pennsylvania State University, Columbus College of Art & Design, and Marywood University (see the schedule on page 5). Participating SACI instructors include: Margherita Abbozzo, Dario Arcamone, Dejan Atanackovic, Paul Beel, Marco Brizzi, Paolo Bulletti, Romeo Di Loreto, Paola Giaconia, Patricia Kinsella, Kathy Knippel, Melania Lanzini, Gary Lissa, Heiko Mattern, Naomi Muirhead, Roberto Nesti, Lisa Nocentini, Lorenzo Pezzatini, Jacopo Santini, Bruno Spinazzola, John Taylor, Lisa Wade, David Weiss, and Karen Yurkovich.

With the generous assistance of Bowling Green State University, a catalogue on the exhibition has been printed. For information about how to obtain this catalogue, please contact [saci@iie.org](mailto:saci@iie.org).

The following is an excerpt from the catalogue's introduction, written by SACI president **Mary Beckinsale**.

*This exhibition features artworks, spanning from realistic to conceptual, by SACI instructors who are painters, printmakers, sculptors, photographers, designers, architects, jewelry makers, weavers, and multimedia artists. A number of our instructors work with diverse materials in more than one discipline—and each artist focuses on a striking range of subject matter. Our ceramics instructor creates surreal, sometimes life-size, ceramic sculptures; our lithography instructor makes prints that often directly relate to her work as an installation, video, multimedia, and perfor-*



SACI photography instructor and media area head **Romeo Di Loreto**, *Portrait of Stefano*, La Maremma, Italy, toned silver gelatin print, 2001



SACI ceramics instructor and 3D area head **Lisa Nocentini**, *Musing in a Drawer*, stained earthenware and wood, 50 x 54 cm, 2006



SACI painting instructor and graduate area head **Lorenzo Pezzatini** performing *Il Ciclista Illuminato a Corte* (*The Illuminated Court Cyclist*), Palazzo Pitti, Florence, 2003

# How to Apply for a SACI Teaching Assistantship

The SACI Teaching Assistantship Program offers alumni the opportunity to realize their personal, artistic, and cultural goals while assisting SACI staff and faculty to pass on their knowledge to a new student body. TAs are needed in the following areas: design; photography; conservation; and art history. TA applications are not sought in 2D or 3D areas.

**Eligibility:** SACI alumni interested in living for two terms in Florence who have studio and some office skills, a desire to work within their own area of specialization, and have completed their BA or BFA degree are invited to apply. Preference, however, will be given to those who have completed their MA or MFA.

## Requirements

- Letter describing why you think this is an appropriate choice for you and in what ways you think you can be valuable to SACI. You should specifically indicate the areas at SACI in which you would be able to work as a TA.

- Your curriculum vitae.
- Transcripts from all colleges and universities you attended.
- For design and photography applicants: Portfolio of 20 slides of your work or a CD. Note: Design TA applicants must have proficiency in the following software programs: Autocad, InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop.
- For art history applicants: An essay written by you on an art-historical topic.
- For conservation applicants: An essay written by you on a conservation topic and a slide portfolio or CD of works restored by you.
- One recommendation from someone with whom you have been working during the past year.

**Award:** TAs are employed from the beginning of September through the end of April. The award is \$1,120 per month, and it is subject to US tax withholding. NOTE: SACI does not pay for the TA's transportation to and from Florence nor for the TA's housing.

**Deadline:** Completed applications must be received at SACI by May 1. *In order to ensure your application arrives on time, mail it at least one month ahead or use an express mail service.*

The application should be mailed directly to:

Dean, Studio Art Centers International  
Via Sant'Antonino 11  
50123 Florence, ITALY

**Return of Submitted Materials:** Materials submitted by applicants will be retained by SACI. Applicants should therefore not submit originals of art history essays or art conservation essays. Slide portfolios and CDs will be returned to applicants only if applicants submit with their applications self-addressed stamped envelopes (SASE) with sufficient postage to pay for the return of these items. Those who want their portfolios returned to an address in the US should use US stamps on the SASE; those who want their portfolios returned to an address outside of the US should use Italian stamps on the SASE.



SACI printmaking, painting, and drawing instructor and 2D area head **Melania Lanzini**, still from the video *The Blue Bus*, 2005



SACI design and architecture instructor and design area head **Paolo Bulletti**, wellness center with Turkish bath and external hot tub, Terni, Umbria, computer rendering, 2005

*mance artist; our stone carving instructor works three-dimensionally, not only with marble but with clay, wood, and metal, and two-dimensionally to create drawings which are compelling both as fine art and design. Although this exhibition can feature only a modest number of works from*

*each participant—and cannot communicate a full sense of the sophistication and scope of each artist's vision—I believe that it conveys, in richly suggestive if somewhat tantalizing fashion, the extraordinary range of artwork created by SACI faculty members.*

## SACI Faculty Exhibition 2006-2007 Tour Schedule

August 22-September 19: *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

September 30-October 26: *Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio*

November 20-December 8: *Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan*

January 8-February 9: *East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee*

February 19-March 7: *Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania*

March 16-April 15: *Columbus College of Art & Design, Columbus, Ohio*

April 25-June 15: *Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania*



At SACI, we greatly appreciate any gift you are able to give. Through your generous support, SACI will continue to provide excellence in art education.

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 for one student for a 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 a Visiting Instructor.

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:

- \$25,000 or more Grand Patron
- \$15,000 - \$24,999 Patron
- \$10,000 - \$14,999 Grand Benefactor
- \$5,000 - \$9,999 Benefactor
- \$2,000 - \$4,999 Grand Sustaining Associate
- \$1,000 - \$1,999 Sustaining Associate
- \$500 - \$999 Grand Sponsor
- \$250 - \$499 Sponsor
- \$200 - \$249 Supporter
- Up to \$99 Contributor

Does your employer match your contributions? If so, you can double your support of SACI.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you would like to be listed in published SACI materials)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card:

American Express  MasterCard  VISA

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Studio Art Centers International (SACI). All donations are tax-deductible. For additional information, please contact SACI, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA, (212) 984-5548.



SACI president Mary Beckinsale

# Notes from SACI's President

SACI remains deeply indebted to grand patron **Dr. Elizabeth A. Sackler** for her generosity in establishing the *Elizabeth A. Sackler Museum Educational Trust SACI Scholarship*, which each year enables a talented woman to attend SACI who might not otherwise have this opportunity. Our warmest congratulations go to SACI Post-Bac student **Sarah Zimmer**, a graduate of Columbia College, who is the 2006-2007 winner of this scholarship—and to Fall 2006 SACI *Consortium Scholarship* recipient **Elise Bedard**, from Skidmore College, and *Cora Faye Williamson Scholarship* recipient **Brittney Ragsdale**, from Lamar University. SACI has established a new scholarship that will offer awards of between \$500 and \$2,500 to the children of SACI alumni. This scholarship—which is available for Late Spring and Summer as well as Fall and Spring—is intended to assist the sons and daughters of SACI alumni who seek, as their parents did before them, to pursue art studies at SACI in Florence.

I am pleased to announce that SACI was invited by the Altavalleisina-Grottefrasassi Rotary Club to participate in the 2006 Mannucci Sculpture Prize competition. This annual competition was established thirteen years ago to encourage the development of new artists. One of just six art schools in Italy to be selected, SACI submitted sculptures by three of last year's most outstanding students: **Kristin Bressert**, **Emily Hadland**, and **Blake Hiltunen**. At the opening of the exhibition, in Arcevia's Chiostro di San Francesco, SACI received an institutional award of 500 euros and Emily received an artist's award of 1,000 euros. Our congratulations go to all of these students—and a special *grazie* goes to SACI sculpture instructor **Dario Arcamone**, whose efforts were instrumental in making SACI's participation in this event such a success.

It is my pleasure to welcome to the SACI board of trustees **Cristina Sutro**, a SACI alum who, as vice president of the M.S. Worthington Foundation, Inc., has for many years generously supported

SACI's efforts to expand our library's educational resources. Cristina succeeds as a SACI trustee her father, **Peter Sutro**, who has joined **William Fultz**, **Clayton Hubbs**, and **Alessandra Marchi** as a recently designated SACI trustee emeritus. We are especially grateful to Cristina for volunteering to work on alumni development one day each week at SACI's USA headquarters in the Institute of International Education (IIE).

I had the pleasure, last May, of making a presentation on Italy's 19th-century Macchiaioli painters to Network, an organization of professional women residing in Florence. I am grateful to **Mary Westerman Bulgarella** of Network for inviting me to speak before the group, whose commitment to intercultural understanding and charitable works has greatly benefited the Florentine community.



Sarah Zimmer, *Conformal Suspension 0°*, performance/photo, 26" x 20", 2005

SACI remains very actively involved as a governing member of the International Association of Independent Art and Design Schools (AIAS). SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** and I will travel in November to the University of Evora in Portugal, where SACI Artists Council member **Felipe Rocha da Silva**, who is a professor at the university's Department of Arts, has organized a debate and series of workshops on the theme of "Neo-Landscape." Events will include announcement of the winner of the AIAS Prize-of-Honor stu-

dent competition. The winning entry will be selected from "Neo-Landscape" artwork created by students from AIAS member institutions. SACI has submitted for this competition a work by **Matthew Lewis** (Fall 2005-Spring 2006), who last year won the top prize at SACI's end-of-year student exhibition.

As always, there is much to report regarding SACI's conservation projects. In Spring 2006, SACI conservation students and instructors worked at Gonfienti in Prato on the cleaning of bronze funerary objects that were recently excavated from a Picenian tomb (see *SACI Newsletter 32*). This term, SACI conservation students and instructors have begun to restore Etruscan ceramics, bronze, and iron works that were excavated in Cetamura by **Dr. Nancy Thomson de Grummond** and her students at Florida State University. Also this fall, SACI conservation students and instructors have started to restore murals at the Oratorio di San Giuseppe e Tabernacolo, which is a few doors from SACI's main facility, the Palazzo dei Cartelloni.

In November, SACI will conclude eleven years of restoration work by our students and instructors on artworks and artifacts at the Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angeli, which had been severely damaged in the 1966 flood. In a special ceremony, that will be the high point of a series of events—including a symposium and concert—celebrating the restoration and reopening of the chapel, we will "present" to the city of Florence the fully-restored chapel. The conservation work undertaken by SACI students and instructors during this lengthy project will be documented in a special publication which will include, in both Italian and English, essays on the restoration of the chapel as well as the names of each of the 72 SACI students and the 44 art historians, technicians, and restorers, many of whom were SACI instructors, who worked on the project.

# SACI Thanksgiving Festa

Studio Art Centers International (SACI) is offering to parents of SACI students the opportunity to participate in a special 3-day series of Thanksgiving events which include: Thanksgiving dinner at a restaurant in Florence; a tour of the royal apartments and modern art museum at Florence's world-renowned Palazzo Pitti; a lecture on his career as an artist by SACI's founder and director emeritus, Jules Maidoff; a Baroque music organ concert on a recently restored 400-year-old organ in the Santa Maria degli Angeli chapel (which was restored, over an 11-year period, by SACI conservation students); and a workshop in painting/drawing or sculpture—or an excursion to Florence's wholesale shopping outlets.

*The cost for participation in the SACI Thanksgiving Festa is \$700 per person (\$200 of which is a tax-deductible donation to SACI's scholarship fund, for which participants will receive an acknowledgment from SACI).*

The SACI Thanksgiving Festa schedule (which is subject to change) follows.

**Tuesday, November 21**  
 6:00 pm Tour of SACI's main facility, the Palazzo dei Cartelloni  
 7:30 pm Welcome dinner

**Wednesday, November 22**  
 10:00 am Tour of the royal apartments and modern art museum at the Palazzo Pitti  
 5:00 pm Tour of the Santa Maria degli Angeli chapel  
 6:00 pm Concert in the Santa Maria degli Angeli chapel  
 7:30 pm Refreshments in the chapel's convent

**Thursday, November 23**  
 10:00 am Excursion to Florence's wholesale shopping outlets or Workshop in painting/drawing or Workshop in sculpture  
 6:00 pm Lecture by SACI founder and director emeritus Jules Maidoff  
 8:00 pm Thanksgiving dinner with Jules Maidoff and SACI president Mary Beckinsale

Parents who wish to bring their sons or daughters to either the welcome dinner or the Thanksgiving dinner should add \$70 per dinner per person. To sign up, please contact Anne Pellegrini at [anne@saci-florence.org](mailto:anne@saci-florence.org) by October 26, 2006.

A check or money order for \$700 per person (plus any additional fee for participation of daughter/son in one or more of the dinners) should be made out to Studio Art Centers International. Please indicate on the check that it is for the Thanksgiving Festa. Please send your check to Maura Cassells at:

Studio Art Centers International (SACI)  
 c/o Institute of International Education  
 809 United Nations Plaza  
 New York, NY 10017-3580

You may also pay by credit card by calling 212-984-5548. For more information on payment, you may contact Maura Cassells at [mcassells@iie.org](mailto:mcassells@iie.org).

SACI conservation instructor **Roberta Lapucci**, who last spring was invited by **Dott.ssa Anna Maria Di Marco**, director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Malta, to make a presentation at the institute to members of Malta's Caravaggio Foundation, has helped SACI to initiate a series of projects with this foundation. SACI has reached an agreement with the president of the foundation, **Tonio Fenech**, which will enable our students and instructors to restore in Florence a 17th-century painting, attributed to Cassarino and owned by the Zejtung Church in Malta. Some of the SACI students and instructors involved in this restoration work will, in Spring 2007, attend in Malta's La Valletta a series of conservation workshops and conferences with Maltese conservators.

I am pleased to be able to report once more about a highly successful SACI ONLUS program. Last spring, SACI hosted a series of weekend workshops for children, ages eleven to fourteen, in which the children were encouraged to explore and better understand their emotions through use of words, images, colors, body movements, and facial expressions. The workshops culminated with a public performance of a story created by the children, which they per-

formed using movements and expressions of their own devising, before backdrops which they had painted. The children who participated were **Victor Heuser**, **Christopher Mandol**, **Jacopo Mazzoni**, **Mirko Mazzoli**, and **Igor Pitgornyy**. The workshops were conducted by **Cecilia Gallia**, **Maddalena Poccianti**, and **Federica Totaro**. We are grateful to all of the workshop leaders for their dedication and creativity—and we would like to thank as well, for their practical assistance, **Luigina Bartolini** and **Anne Pellegrini**. These workshops were made possible in part by a generous grant from the Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze. Funds from this gift, and from an equally generous grant from the American International League of Florence, will enable us to offer as our next SACI ONLUS project a series of workshops entitled "A Letter = A Message." These workshops will help children to investigate relationships between symbols and communicative acts—how, starting from the graphic act of tracing a line, we can come to create letters/symbols through which we communicate messages which tell us about sounds, colors, feelings, thoughts, and ideas. Our hope is that, by participating in this project, children will come to appreciate the links between words and images—and words and thoughts—in a society in which the written word is losing appeal among the young.

In addition to the major contributions mentioned above, SACI has recently received a number of extremely generous donations. The Cassa di Risparmio has provided funds that will enable SACI conservation students and instructors to complete, in time for the November reopening of the Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angeli, restoration of artwork at the chapel. The M.S. Worthington Foundation, Inc. has donated to SACI funds that are enabling us to increase significantly the number of books in the SACI Worthington Library. A contribution by SACI grand sustaining associates, vice chair of the SACI board of trustees **Jonna Lazarus** and Maryland Institute College of Art president **Fred**



**Brittney Ragsdale**, *Shed the Skin*, selenium-toned photo, 11" x 14", 2005

**Lazarus**, of 108 Alinari collotype prints of Old Master drawings and 12 Guarnieri lithographs has greatly enriched the library's collection of prints and drawings. A number of these works are now on display at SACI's Palazzo dei Cartelloni. Publisher **Harmon Houghton** and photographer **Marcia Keegan** contributed to the SACI Worthington Library a large number of books on a fascinating variety of subjects, including artwork by and about native Americans, that were printed by Harmon's firm, Clear Light Publishers. **Jane Fortune**, SACI grand benefactor and chair of the SACI board of trustees, and **Stephen Rosefield**, SACI benefactor and treasurer of the SACI board of trustees, have recently made extremely generous donations of funds to SACI that will aid us considerably in improving our educational resources. To all of these individuals and institutions—and to the many others whose contributions have helped to make SACI such a success—we are deeply grateful.

We ask all of the readers of this newsletter to help us continue SACI's success story by completing the pledge form on page 5. Your contribution, whether large or small, will help us to maintain our outreach to the Florentine community and further enrich the high quality of our educational programs.



**Elise Bedard**, *Study of Male Nude*, charcoal, 38" x 50", 2005

## "Changing Lives" A Letter from the Chair of SACI's Board of Trustees

**SACI Video Now on Web**  
*A Living Experience*, produced by SACI video instructor **Bruno Spinazzola**, can now be downloaded directly from the home page of the SACI web site:  
[www.saci-florence.org](http://www.saci-florence.org)  
This 13-minute video contains interviews with SACI students and faculty, SACI student artwork, and views of SACI facilities and historical sites in Florence.

[www.saci-florence.org](http://www.saci-florence.org)

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**Studio Art Centers International**  
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**INTERNATIONAL**

SACI is a program administered through the Institute of International Education

Permit me to introduce myself in this first installment of letters from the chair. I am **Jane Fortune**. I was lucky enough to study in Florence many years ago, prior to SACI's creation, and now live in Florence for 6 months each year and spend the remainder of my time in the United States in Indianapolis, Indiana. I have served on the board for the past 5 years and I believe in the mission of SACI, which is: *To provide an excellent and balanced curriculum of sufficient breadth and scope; a teaching plant adequate and appropriate to art studies in varied disciplines and techniques; and a motivated staff and administration whose preparation and philosophy is that most suitable to enable students to realize the full potential of a study period abroad.*



SACI board of trustees chair **Jane Fortune**

**Jules Maidoff**, who also serves on the board, started this institution over 30 years ago, and his vision propels us today. Each board member shares his dream and works toward accomplishing his, and our, goals as the institution continues to move forward. The task of the board is to be supportive, provide guidance, set policies, ensure financial security, add to the infrastructure, and raise funds to help make all of this possible. A key responsibility is to make certain that financial, administrative, and pedagogical structures are established and maintained that will enable artistic forces to flourish—and Jules's vision, which has been embraced and tested by time, to be fully realized.

The board, which includes 3 SACI alums, represents a diverse group of artists, art administrators, entrepre-

neurs and other professionals whose passions led them to SACI. In addition to Jules and myself, the voting members of the board are: **Cristina Acidini**, superintendent, Opificio delle Pietre Dure, Florence, Italy; **Steven Brittan** (SACI alum), principal, Burt Hill Kosar Rittelman Associates, Boston, Massachusetts; **Terry Dwan** (SACI alum), principal, Studio Dwan, Milan, Italy; **Thomas Hilty**, former director, School of Art, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio; **Jonna Lazarus**, partner, Lazarus Design Associates, Baltimore, Maryland; **Stephen Rosefield**, former partner and co-chairman, Berwin Leighton Paisner, London, England; **Sally Hughes Smith**, artist and writer, Charleston, South Carolina; **Cristina Sutro** (SACI alum), vice president,

M.S. Worthington Foundation, Inc., Maplewood, New Jersey; and **Ted Townsend**, former owner, Townsend Engineering Company, Des Moines, Iowa.

As we move forward with pride and determination to meet SACI's needs during its fourth decade, we are aware of the many challenges we face and the obstacles we must overcome as we strive to continue to make this the premier art school in Florence and beyond. Much has been accomplished, but there is more to be done. We can do this together—alumni, parents, friends, and board—in concert, as one alumnus told me, *to change lives*. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you—to learn of your success and your dreams and to discuss with you our common history and shared goals.



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