



N E W S L E T T E R

SACI at 30

“What is it I really am willing to do to find out about myself?” For **Jules Maidoff**, founder and director emeritus of SACI, the past 30 years have been a series of responses to that question. In 1973, Jules, his wife, and four of their children left Manhattan and moved to the hills above Florence, the city in which Jules had lived in 1956-57 during his year abroad as a Fulbright scholar. Soon after their move to Italy, Jules began to conduct summer workshops for aspiring artists. In 1975, he formed an association with a group of art instructors that led to the founding, in Florence, of Studio Art Centers International, which in 1976 was incorporated as a not-for-profit US university-level educational institution. SACI began with 12 students. By 1996, when Jules retired and **Mary Beckinsale** was appointed director, SACI had become the largest US university-level art school in Europe.

A critical moment in SACI’s history came in 1987 when SACI began its affiliation with the Institute of International Education (IIE), the highly prestigious organization that manages the Fulbright Scholarship program. Nearly 20 years later, SACI remains the only university-level institution in the world with which IIE maintains such a relationship. Also contributing to SACI’s success are SACI’s affiliation, beginning in 1988, with Bowling Green State University; the founding, in 1999, of the SACI Consortium, a group of colleges and universities that work together, through SACI, to improve the education of visual arts students in the US and abroad (see page 8); and SACI’s accredited institutional membership in the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, which SACI has held for over a decade.

Each year students from many different countries enroll at SACI and earn credits that they apply toward undergraduate and graduate programs at colleges and universities worldwide. SACI’s curriculum is wide-ranging. It includes courses at all levels in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and design; museology and art history from the



SACI president **Mary Beckinsale** and SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** in the SACI Gallery, Palazzo dei Cartelloni, January 2006 (photo by *Nicholas Wynia*)

Renaissance to the 21st century; Italian language and culture; and art conservation. Not only can SACI students study lithography, video, or multimedia, they can explore the history of Italian opera or Italian cinema, enroll in creative writing or undertake an internship in an Italian art museum. SACI’s art conservation courses, open to both undergraduates and graduates, are among the most numerous offered by any US institution in the world.

In 1996, SACI opened its Graduate Center, a loft-style space in the historic district of Florence in which art majors in SACI’s MFA and Post-Bac

programs have individual studios. Three years later, SACI’s main facility moved to the landmark Palazzo dei Cartelloni, a five-minute walk from Florence’s Duomo, and in 2003 SACI established its Design Center. These well-equipped facilities in Florence’s *centro storico* enable students to pursue their art studies in one of Europe’s richest cultural environments. For 30 years, SACI’s goal has been to ensure that the study experience in Florence and Italy, whether focused on art making, art history, or art conservation, is enriched through daily exposure to Italians and their culture.

“During the past three decades,” states Mary Beckinsale, “SACI has had the great good fortune to have had students from all over the world who were hungry to learn not just about art but about themselves. Many were prepared to take the sort of risks that Jules took in moving from his native culture to a foreign one. SACI’s dedicated staff and outstanding instructors have constructed a creative environment in which students are encouraged to take these risks—to come to a deeper understanding of themselves through immersing themselves, even if for only a short while, in another culture. Generous donors—including many SACI alumni—have contributed funds, books, and equipment that have enabled SACI to continue to offer to its students the resources necessary to achieve their artistic and academic goals. For these contributions—and for the good will, imagination, and generosity evinced by so many in the SACI community over the past 30 years—all at SACI are deeply grateful.”

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



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News of Saci Faculty, Staff & Friends

On February 7, SACI sculpture and drawing instructor **Dario Arcamone** appeared live on NBC TV's *The Today Show* where, before a large crowd on Florence's Ponte Vecchio—and 45 million viewers from throughout the world, he guided host **Katie Couric** in her first efforts at marble carving.



Dario Arcamone and Katie Couric,
Ponte Vecchio, Florence, Italy, February 7, 2006
(photo by Steffi Rodemann)

SACI multimedia instructor **Dejan Atanackovic** writes, "I am happy to inform you that the Center for International Studies of Arts has received an invitation to present *Outside Project* at the UNESCO World Conference on Art Education which will be held in Lisbon in March, 2006." A supporter of and collaborator with *Outside Project* since its inception, SACI hosts students from Belgrade and instructors from Belgrade and the USA who come to Florence each July to participate in workshops and attend presentations organized by the Center.

In April, SACI president **Mary Beckinsale** hosted a buffet dinner at her home for 8 design students from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing and their design instructor **Song Xiewei**. The group met SACI design area head **Paolo Bulletti**, vice-chair of the department of projects for the school of architecture at the University of Florence **Fabrizio Rossi-Prodi**, and several SACI design students. The following day, Mary led the visitors on a tour of SACI facilities which concluded at the SACI Design Center where the students from Beijing gave an enthusiastically received presentation on their work.

In December, the 8th annual BEYOND MEDIA international festival, directed by SACI architecture instructor **Marco Brizzi**, was held at Stazione Leopolda in Florence. The festival explores the impact that new systems of communication have on contemporary architectural production and seeks to encourage novel approaches to the ways in which communication media enhance design projects. A highlight of this year's festival was the "Spot on Schools" exhibition, curated by SACI environmental design instructor **Paola Giaconia**, which featured architectural projects exploring the relationship between design and communication by students and instructors from universities in Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Portugal, England, Taiwan, Japan, and the USA.

SACI is pleased to announce the appointment of **Maura Cassells** to the position of administrative coordinator at SACI's New York City headquarters at the Institute of International Education (IIE). An honors graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Maura majored in art history and worked as a student assistant to the curator of visual collections at the university's Perkins Slide Library. Maura was later employed as an intern at Galerie Gabriele Rivet in Cologne, Germany.

Don Davis, associate professor of ceramics at East Tennessee State University and Summer 2005 SACI artist-in-residence, writes, "My residency at SACI during July was very, very good for me. The interaction with students, staff and colleagues was enjoyable and inspiring. New directions were explored in my clay work which are very exciting to me and that I will continue to explore. The fact of being able to work in Florence in the studio at SACI brought forth some unique results in my work that I am sure would not have been the same anywhere else. All in all, my entire stay in Italy this summer was a peak experience for me." Don revisited SACI in November to participate in the 7th Annual SACI Consortium Meeting (see page 8), where he gave a special presentation on his experience as a SACI artist-in-residence.

In September, SACI fresco painting instructor **Luigi Falai** and fellow artists **Silvestro Pistolesi** and **Massimo Buccioni** returned to Orleans, Massachusetts on Cape Cod to continue work in the clerestory of the Church of the Transfiguration on their cycle of frescos depicting scenes from the life of Christ. During their stay, they completed two of the frescos: *Jesus Healing the Man Born Blind* and *The Prophet Samuel Anointing David*.

In a month-long exhibition that began on September 23, SACI Artists Council member **Ralph Gibson** showed recent photographs at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Bologna's Villa delle Rose. The exhibition, entitled "Brazil," was held at the same time as Bologna's Art Book Festival (*Artelibro*), at which Ralph presented his book, entitled *Brazil*, published by Damiani.

Congratulations to former SACI librarian, student services counselor, and assistant to the director **Kate Holmes** and **Rob Morrow**, who were married last year in Chelsea, Québec. On August 24, Kate, who has been working as manager of North American field marketing at Cognos, a software firm in Ottawa, gave birth to 7 lb. 11 oz. **Harry David Andrew Morrow**.



Don Davis, pottery completed while at SACI
as artist-in-residence, July 2005

Throughout March, recent photographs by **Marcia Keegan** will be featured in a solo exhibition at the SACI Gallery. During her long and distinguished career as a photographer, Marcia Keegan has exhibited internationally and published photography books on a range of subjects, including a study of all 19 New Mexico Pueblos that celebrates the richness of their

News of Saci Faculty, Staff & Friends

Native American culture; a lyrical work on the people and landscape of New Mexico; and several books on Tibet and the Himalayas. Her photographs are included in the permanent collections of the Library of Congress, the White House, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Kansas City Museum, the Philbrook Art Museum in Tulsa, the Albuquerque Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe.



Marcia Keegan, *Lucy Martinez, San Ildefonso Potter, cibacrome, 1979*

SACI conservation instructor **Roberta Lapucci** has recently published a book, *Caravaggio e l'Ottica (Caravaggio and Optics)*, in which she explores, in essays that are in both English and Italian, the links between camera obscura theories and the paintings of Caravaggio. In December, SACI hosted a special presentation of the book. The presentation was attended by art historians, art conservators, students, and instructors from SACI and from elsewhere in Italy. In presenting the book, SACI president **Mary Beckinsale** noted that "it puts into clear historical perspective the development of artists' use and knowledge of optics in Northern Italy, originating partly from the time of Leonardo's two visits to Milan," and "it also puts back into focus the artist as a scientist and experimenter." On December 13, Roberta guided Cuba's Minister of Cultural Heritage **Eusebio Leal Spengler** and his wife **Viviana** on a tour of SACI's conservation studio and the

Conservatorio Santa Maria degli Angioli, where SACI students and instructors have been restoring lunettes by Baroque painter Francesco Curradi. In 2000, Minister Leal had authorized the restoration in Cuba by Roberta and SACI conservation instructor **Alessandro Gori** of a mid-17th century painting, *St. Peter Curing the Lame*, which is owned by the Belas Artes Museum in Havana and has been attributed to Alonso Rodriguez. In 2000 and 2003, Roberta and Alessandro visited Cuba where they worked with American and Cuban students and conservators in the laboratory of the Oficiiana de L'Historiador to restore this important painting.

In November, SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** held a solo exhibition of his recent paintings and works on paper at the Galleria Ciovasso in Milan. Celebrated art historian and curator **Rosanna Bossaglia** wrote for the exhibition a text about Jules's work. Jules concluded a very active year of creating and exhibiting his artwork with a December exhibition of "Maidoff's Maidoffs" at galleria zerotre in Orvieto. The show featured (for-sale) digital impressions of Jules's favorite paintings and one of the (not-for-sale) originals. Jules explains that "the idea for the exhibition came from SACI Artists Council member **Jill Furmanovsky**, who asked why I refused to sell certain works. I do want to share them, and she convinced me to try these slightly reduced versions of the originals of which I will print an edition limited to 10. The first two are *The Embrace* and *Fear of Flying*. They are pictures made in the 1970s which hang in my home. Now some others may have these versions which are printed using archival standards." For more about this exhibition and other news about Jules, visit his web site at: www.julesmaidoff.com. Also check out the January/February 2006 issue of *Transitions Abroad*, which includes a featured article on Jules's career as an artist and his founding of SACI.

Video artist **Natasha Maidoff** continues to be creative both professionally and personally. On November 25, Natasha and her husband, **Terence Pearce**, became the proud parents of a

9 lb. 8 oz. boy, **Keaton Somerset Maidoff Pearce**. Once home in Venice Beach, California, Keaton made fast friends with his 4 1/2-year-old brother, **Nolan**, the family dog, Rupert, and the family cat, Pierrot. We're looking forward this summer to meeting Keaton and to seeing again in Florence Nolan, Terence, and Natasha.



Jules Maidoff, *Big Bird*, oil on linen, 100 cm x 100 cm, 2004

SACI was recently selected by the Altavalleina-Grottefrassassi Rotary Club to participate in the Mannucci Sculpture Prize Competition (*Premio Mannucci per la scultura*). One of six art schools in Italy to be chosen, the SACI sculpture department will submit for review the works of three of its most outstanding students. The winner of the competition will receive a monetary prize and will be given the opportunity to exhibit his or her sculptures in Arcevia. Named after Edgardo Mannucci (1904-1986), a self-taught sculptor who achieved international recognition, the Mannucci Sculpture Prize Competition was created over 12 years ago to encourage new artists.

We are delighted to welcome to the SACI faculty **Heiko Mattern**, who this term is teaching graphic design to intermediate and advanced SACI students. Heiko received a diplom grafik-designer (FH) from the Fachhochschule für Gestaltung in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany. He completed graphic design internships in Freiburg, Germany and at intégral concept Ruedi Baur in Paris. He has worked as a graphic designer at scopo intermedial ag in Basel, Switzerland, and Leader Pubblicità e Marketing

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. This thirteen-minute video contains interviews with SACI students and faculty, SACI student artwork, and views of SACI facilities and historical sites in Florence.

and RD Communication and Design in Florence, and currently works in Florence as a freelance graphic designer.

The SACI Gallery featured throughout January "Young Italian Painters," an exhibition of paintings by students from all over Italy who took part in *PremioCeleste 2005*, a competition sponsored by the Associazione Culturale L'Albero Celeste in San Gimignano, a non-profit organization headed by **Steven Music** that seeks to promote painting in Italy. The works shown at SACI were selected from the two student sections of the prize competition, "Painting" and "Media Painting," and are among the 60 finalist works exhibited in November 2005 at the Magazzini del Sale in Siena's Palazzo Pubblico. For more information about the annual PremioCeleste Competition, see www.premioceleste.it



Lisa Nocentini, *The Fisherwoman*, stained earthenware, fired at 960°C, and twine, 95 cm (height), 2005

Sculptures by SACI ceramics instructor and 3D area head **Lisa Nocentini** were featured during October and November in a solo exhibition at Showroom Poli in Florence. The exhibition was entitled "*Né in cielo nè in terra*" (an Italian expression used to describe things which are "quite unheard of"). It included sculptures of creatures whom Lisa describes as having "animal instincts, yet the common sense needed to rectify their contradictory emotions. They have ambiguous ideas about their bodies, which they use as containers for objects and hidden dreams."

In February, paintings by Florentine artist **Maria Pecchioli** were featured in a solo exhibition at the SACI Gallery. An honors graduate of L'Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze, she has worked as an assistant to photographer George Woodman and exhibited her work, in solo and group shows, throughout Tuscany.



Maria Pecchioli, *Benedetta e la bottiglia del Francese*, oil on canvas and inked paper, 90 cm x 130 cm, 2005

This fall Morgana Edizioni published *Forse Immagini l'Oggetto* (*Maybe You Can Imagine the Object*), a book documenting the "Multimedialità dell'Arte" project that SACI graduate area head **Lorenzo Pezzatini** collaborated on last May with high school students from Liceo Scientifico XXV Aprile di Pontedera (see SACI Newsletter 33). The book (the first letters of each word in its title spell FILO!) was presented in November at the Centro per l'Arte Otello in Pontedera.

SACI welcomes to its board of trustees artist and author **Sally Hughes Smith**, who resides in Charleston, South Carolina. A graduate of Duke University, her paintings and drawings have been featured in numerous solo and juried exhibitions throughout the USA. She wrote and illustrated *Rosebud Roams Charleston: A Child's Clippity-Clop Guide to the City* (Legacy Publications), now in its second edition. She has chaired the Gibbes Museum Fellows Committee, the Children's Hospital Fund Board, and the Junior League Fundraising Committee and has served on the boards of a number of institutions dedicated to cultural, health, and educational enrichment, including the Charleston Ballet Theater, the Gibbes Museum of Art, and the South Carolina Medical Auxiliary.

Figurative sculptor **John R. Taylor** has rejoined the SACI faculty and this term is teaching a beginning sculpture class. After earning a master's degree in sculpture from the Royal Academy of Art in London, John was awarded a Prix de Rome from the British School in Rome. Formerly a personal assistant to the sculptor Igor Mitoraj, he has taught at the Kunst Akademi in Oslo, Norway and exhibited in Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom. He was recipient of three Henfield Scholarships for figurative sculpture from the Royal Academy of Art and a Leeds University Travelling Scholarship. John's many friends at SACI are very pleased that he has returned to teach here.



John R. Taylor, *Paolo*, plaster, life-size, 2000

It is with deep regret that SACI notes the passing of **Arman**, a founding member of the SACI Artists Council. Arman's long and distinguished career as an artistic innovator has been celebrated worldwide. What is perhaps less well known is the contributions he made to the education of young artists throughout the world. He will be missed by all in the SACI community. Our condolences go to Arman's wife, **Corice Canton Arman**, who for many years has helped SACI to reach out to potential students and donors, and to their daughter, **Yasmine Arman**, who attended SACI in Spring 2002.

Alumni News

To All SACI Alumni

To help you stay in touch with other alums, a feature has been added to the SACI web site. You can now log on to the Alumni Directory at: <http://www.saci-florence.org/alumni/directory.htm> to access the contact information of your fellow alumni. Simply insert the following:

Username: **alumni**

Password: **florence**

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

After earning an MFA from the University of Chicago, **Jose Aleman Sasieta** (Fall 1986-Spring 1987) joined the faculty of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago as an instructor in the First-Year Program. In July, he sent to SACI this update on his recent activities. "Following our 1997 visit to Florence, Margaret and I lived in Peru for four years. I spent all this time painting and drawing, doing sculpture. I exhibited in the Lima Biennial in 1998 and 2000, and had much success. Simultaneously with these activities, Margaret learned Spanish and the culture and history of the country. We brought Max Aleman to the light, he was born in Lima on March 19, 2000. We also dreamed of a way to start a business that would make use of our talents, and help us keep a connection with Peru. We began researching knitwear because of the millennial culture of it in the country. We developed products and then returned to the U.S. where we incorporated Skelagamink. A growing business, I find it exciting to develop. I also have a studio where I paint, draw, practice architectural design and investigate sculpture. We also now have a second, Nicolas Aleman, who was born in Chicago on June 27, 2004."



Jose Aleman Sasieta, Tupac,
oil on canvas, diameter: 1.5 m, 1998

Brooke Barber (Post-Bac 2004-2005) writes, "I just wanted to share with everyone that I got my

first job working for a museum that is about to open here in Cleveland. The museum is called the Maltz Museum and it focuses on Jewish History. I am working with a team of people to make, install, and paint all the mounts for the 600 artifacts that will be in the museum, most of the artifacts are paper. It opens in October so we definitely have our work cut out for us."

Jonathan Colon (Fall 2001) writes, "Currently I own a gallery in Lancaster, Pennsylvania called The Bancroft Collaborative, which I opened in April 2005. If you want to check it out, go to www.jonathancolon.com."

"Big things are happening for me," writes **Sharon Falkner** (Post-Bac 2000-2001). "I have gone back to my original name, which is Sharon McCameron Whyte, and am now a grandmother (Nana in the US instead of Nonna) of two beautiful grandchildren, Olivia Claire, 2, and Cooper Randall, 2 months on Friday! We are thrilled and I am spoiling them rotten! After graduating from Vermont College in Montpelier with an MFA, I am beginning in the fall to teach at Phoenix University in Scottsdale, Arizona. I am thrilled with this opportunity to become a painting professor. I will also be teaching Visual Culture and the Arts, and a creative writing course."

"Just wanted to say hello to my SACI classmates and professors," writes **Grant Gigliotti** (Fall 2000). "I currently live in Florida working as a graphic artist for a publication company. I travelled to Bulgaria and came back to have a photography exhibit of my travels entitled 'Saturations of Life—A Look into the Unknown World of Bulgaria.' It turned out to be a nice success story. The exhibit occurred just days after Hurricane Charley hit, the gallery had hurricane damage and they wanted to cancel the exhibit due to the circumstances, bad timing, and the realization, that people were rebuilding after the storm. Despite the situation, we decid-



Grant Gigliotti, The Stare,
color photo taken in Popina, Bulgaria, 2003

ed to do it anyways. Thankfully, we still managed 100+ guests and a dozen or so local Bulgarians in the community whom I never knew existed. The exhibit helped raise money for my wife's family from Bulgaria, and brought in enough money to help the gallery get back to business after the hurricane."

After studying at SACI, **Lia Halloran** (Spring 1998) graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles and earned an MFA at Yale University. She now lives in Los Angeles, where her most recent paintings were exhibited in a solo exhibition, entitled "And the Darkness Implies the Vastness," at the Sandroni Rey Gallery. The exhibition was reviewed in the December 2005 issue of *ARTnews*.

Taking classes in conservation at SACI, writes **Ainslie Harrison** (Summer-Fall 2002), "was one of the most definitive experiences of my life and eventually led me to apply for a Fulbright grant to Italy for 2005-2006 to study archaeological heritage management. I have received

How to Apply for a SACI Teaching Assistantship

The SACI Teaching Assistantship Program has offered 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 2-D or 3-D 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 \$1120 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.

the Fulbright and will be coming to Italy in October to begin my studies. I will be based in Venice but was hoping to come to Florence to visit SACI." Congratulations, Ainslie, we're looking forward to your visit!

Now teaching art at a high school in Kings Park, New York, **Michele Holtzman**, formerly **Michele Trombetta** (Spring 1998), returned to Florence last summer to study printmaking. Michele writes that SACI was the "best experience I have had in my life. It encouraged me to come back to Florence!"

Congratulations to **Elaine Kreuz** (Post Bac 1999-2000), who was recently appointed Director of Development for Loyola University Chicago's Rome Center.

"My first time to Europe was through SACI," writes **Amahra Leaman** (Summer 2004), who revisited SACI in October. "It was a cultural eye opener, artistically stimulating, and spurred my interest to travel more—which I am doing."



Doretta Miller, Hospitality,
gouache on paper, 30" x 22", 2000

Linda Lin (Post-Bac 2004-2005) is now a restorer at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

"I attended SACI during my first sabbatical from Skidmore College, where I am a professor of studio art," writes, **Doretta Miller** (Spring 1989). A member of First Street Gallery, Doretta taught drawing at SACI in Summer 1990 and returned with a group of Skidmore College faculty members and administrators five years later to celebrate SACI's 20th anniversary. Doretta, who revisited SACI in December, writes that her student days at SACI offered her an "opportunity to return to oil painting after working in colored-pencil for over ten years" and that she "enjoyed taking a painting course with **Jules Maidoff** and art history with **Helen Watterson** and **Mary Beckinsale**."

Lance Moore (Fall 1993-Spring 1994) is now teaching in the foundation program at Maryland Institute College of Art.

We are delighted to learn of the return to Florence of **Emily Schiavone** (Post-Bac 2001-2002), who after attending SACI earned a master's degree in art history from Syracuse University. Emily worked as curator of The College of Wooster Slide Library and has recently been appointed media lab librarian at Syracuse University in Florence.

Last Spring, **Michele Sommer** (Late Spring 1991) was awarded a grant by the Arts Council of Rockland for an inter-curricular Japanese studies project that she created, entitled "Japanese Zen Gardens as Sculpture in History, Verse, and Mathematics." Michele, who is artistic director and heads the fine art, music and theatre departments at the Rockland Country Day School in New York State was recently named "Teacher of the Year" by the school's Teacher Parent Organization.



Sal Strom, Deeper Tones,
acrylic on canvas, 16" x 20", 2004

"The year I spent drawing and painting with **Jules Maidoff** and SACI was the best year of my life," writes **Sal Strom** (Fall 1978-Spring 1979). "I hope to someday be able to return as an intern teacher after my last child graduates in 2008—one of the many reasons I've been working toward my master's." Sal's artwork can be seen at: www.sstrom.com

Now assistant professor of art history at Bowling Green State University, **Allison Terry** (Fall 1994) returned to SACI in November to participate in the annual meeting in Florence of the SACI Consortium (see page 8). Since studying at SACI, Allie was awarded a U.S. Department of State-funded Fulbright Fellowship to Italy, a Pittsburgh Foundation Fellowship, two Hannah Holbern Grey Renaissance Studies Fellowships, travel grants from the University of Chicago, and, in 2005, a doctorate in art history from the University of Chicago. She is currently writing a book on the fifteenth-century humanist audience for Fra Angelico's frescoes at San Marco.



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7th Annual SACI Consortium Meeting

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From November 16 to 20, administrators and faculty members from SACI Consortium colleges and universities throughout the USA met at SACI in Florence. Topics of discussion included the different ways that art schools in Europe and the USA now approach educating artists and art historians and the changing profile of typical art and art-history study-abroad students. Other sessions focused on how students select and enroll in SACI classes; the kinds of accommodations available to SACI students; the process by which students are nominated by Consortium schools and chosen by SACI to receive the full-tuition SACI Consortium Scholarship; and opportunities for faculty members from SACI Consortium schools to exhibit their artwork in the SACI Gallery and at other SACI Consortium institutions. During the latter discussion, it was agreed that this summer SACI will host an exhibition of artworks by Columbus College of Art & Design faculty members and that next year a number of SACI Consortium schools will host a travelling exhibition of artworks by SACI instructors.

The group toured SACI's main educational facility at the Palazzo dei Cartelloni; the SACI Graduate Center; the SACI Design Center; the Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angioli, where SACI students and instructors are completing restoration of lunettes by the Baroque painter Francesco Curradi; and SACI student housing. A special highlight was a visit led by SACI interior design instructor **Giovanna Bossi** to Florence's Santa Maria Novella Church to view the famous frescos by Giotto, Masaccio,



Left to right, in front of Santa Maria Novella Church, Florence: **Julie Taggart, Sam Olfano, Jim Hirschfield, Char Norman** (partially hidden), **Giovanna Bossi, Pamela Lakin, Don Davis, Allie Terry**, SACI director - USA **Jim Miller, Heather Elliott-Famularo, Lucio Famularo, Caroline Gore, and Felicia Ann Famularo** (foreground, in carrozzina) (photo by *Nicholas Wynia*)

and **Domenico Ghirlandai**. The SACI Consortium meeting concluded with a day-long trip to Lucca, where the group toured the historic center and attended a presentation of Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* at the landmark Teatro del Giglio.

The participants from SACI's Consortium schools included: **Don Davis** (associate professor of ceramics, department of art and design, East Tennessee State University); **Heather Elliott-**

Famularo (assistant professor of digital arts, school of art, Bowling Green State University); **Caroline Gore** (assistant professor of arts, metals and jewelry, Western Michigan University); **Jim Hirschfield** (professor, art department, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); **Pamela Lakin** (assistant director, study abroad office, Alfred University); **Char Norman** (associate provost, Columbus College of Art & Design); **Sam Olfano** (assistant professor, art department, Marywood University); **Randy Ploog** (coordinator of international programs, college of arts and architecture, Pennsylvania State University); **Julie Taggart** (dean of fine arts, Columbus College of Art & Design); **Allie Terry** (assistant professor of art history, school of art, Bowling Green State University); **Jeff Whetstone** (assistant professor, art department, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); and **Kristi Wormhoudt** (academic coordinator, office of international education programs and studies, Pennsylvania State University). They were joined on November 16 by **Fred Adelson** (professor and assistant chair, Department of Art, Rowan University).



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