



N E W S L E T T E R

## SACI to Restore Artifacts in Ancient Tombs

Beginning in Spring 2005, students in SACI's Conservation of Archaeological Objects class will have the unique opportunity to work on the restoration of objects from 7th-century B.C. Picenian tombs. Two of these tombs, which contain skeletons and funerary objects, are now located in Florence's Villa Corsini, where SACI's Conservation of Archaeological Objects class is held during the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms. A third tomb, from Belmonte, which includes a chariot as well as skeletons, jewelry, ceramics, and other funerary objects, is buried in the garden of the Archaeological Museum of Florence, and, following its excavation, will be available for restoration by SACI instructors and students.



SACI conservation instructor **Renzo Giachetti** examining artifacts from a Picenian tomb

were transported to the Archaeological Museum of Florence. The skeletons and funerary objects in the tombs have not been treated by restorers since the tombs were excavated; these objects remain in the wooden containers in which they were placed by the excavators. One of the tombs is from Novilara and thought to contain a male and a female skeleton and approximately thirty funerary objects, including jewelry and ceramics for the female and arms for the male, embedded in a mixture of pebbles and lime. The other tomb is from a southern

Picenian region, probably in or near Atri, and is thought to contain the skeleton of a child as well as funerary objects.

The opportunity for SACI instructors and students to restore objects from these tombs has been made possible by the efforts of **Dr. Marina Micozzi**, archaeologist at the Università della Tuscia in Viterbo, who with the support of SACI conservation instructors **Renzo Giachetti** and **Roberta Lapucci**, secured authorization for this project from the Archaeological Superintendence of Tuscany. SACI is also grateful to **Dr. Angelo Bottini**, head of the Archaeological Superintendence of Tuscany, **Dr. Elsa Pacciani**, anthropologist at the Archaeological Superintendence of Tuscany, and **Dr. Carlotta Cianferoni**, director of Villa Corsini, for their support for this project, and to SACI conservation teaching assistant **Nora Marosi** for serving as project coordinator.

The Picenians were present in central Italy and on the Adriatic coast from the first Iron Age (9th century B.C.) until the invasion by the Galli Senoni (4th century B.C.) or the Roman Conquest (268 B.C.). In the 1890s, the Picenian tombs were excavated by Italian archaeologist Edoardo Brizio, and in 1900 they

SACI instructors and students will begin their work on the tombs by producing drawings and photographs that document the position of every object contained therein. The SACI team, in cooperation with the Istituto Nazionale di Ottica Applicata, will then use gamma rays, infrared photography, and ultraviolet light photography to analyze the materials in the tombs and will prepare three-dimensional images of these objects. Dr. Pacciani and her colleagues at the Archaeological Superintendence of Tuscany will lead the SACI team in identifying, cleaning, and restoring the skeletons in the tomb, and Prof. Giachetti will lead the team in identifying, cleaning, and restoring all other objects.

By working on the conservation of objects found in the Picenian tombs, students in SACI's Conservation of Archaeological Objects class will have an unparalleled opportunity not only to undertake research and restoration of these rare and valuable artifacts, but to make a lasting contribution to the cultural heritage of Italy.

## Contents

2

Notes from  
the Director

3

News of SACI Faculty,  
Staff & Friends

6

Alumni News

8

Consortium  
News

# Notes from the Director

I am delighted to be able to announce that, during the past few months, SACI has received a number of major contributions from donors worldwide. In December, **Nicholas Thaw**, trustee at the **International Music and Art Foundation, Vaduz, Liechtenstein**, notified us that the foundation had awarded SACI a grant of 50,000 euros to make possible the restoration of the organ and choir books at the Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angioli in Florence. In October, SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**, SACI conservation instructor **Roberta Lapucci**, and I had met in Florence with Mr. Thaw and accompanied him on a tour of the Conservatorio, where since 1996 SACI students have been working to restore damaged art treasures, including the fresco in the chapel's vault and a series of lunettes by the Baroque painter Francesco Curradi. Mr. Thaw was highly supportive of SACI's goal to present to the city of Florence in November 2006 a fully restored Conservatorio. On behalf of SACI and the sisters at the Conservatorio, we wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Thaw and the International Music and Art Foundation, Vaduz, Liechtenstein for their extremely generous gift.

This fall the **Worthington Family Foundation**, which has for many years donated generously to the SACI Worthington Library, contributed to SACI \$19,000 for further library development. The library now includes over 10,000 volumes, 58 periodical subscriptions, and 31,000 images. It features state-of-the-art library software, including a computerized card catalogue, and rapidly growing video and DVD collections. The expansion of our library resources has been made possible by grants from the Worthington Family Foundation—and all here deeply appreciate the major contributions made by the Worthington family to improving the quality of education at SACI.

SACI has also benefited over the years from donations made by sculptor and visiting SACI lecturer **Roger Phillips** on behalf of the Jewish Communal Fund. This fall, Roger contributed an additional \$1,000 to SACI. We are grateful to Roger and the Jewish Communal Fund for their continuing generous support. We are also indebted to SACI architecture instructor **Terry**

**Dwan** for her gift this summer to SACI of stocks valued at over \$1,000.

SACI Artist Council member **Audrey Flack**, who taught drawing at SACI during Late Spring 2004, contributed to SACI funds that enabled us to offer this Fall and Spring a series of lectures by **Dr. Leda Cempellin** on key moments and movements in modern art. In the Fall, Dr. Cempellin lectured at SACI on “Futurism and Fascism” and “The Debate: Communism vs. Abstraction in Post-World War II Italian Art.” In the Spring, Dr. Cempellin lectured here on “Kitsch: What Is Bad Taste?” and “American Photorealism and the Scandal of Kassel.” Audrey Flack also donated to SACI funds that enabled us to host in February at the SACI Gallery a major exhibition, curated by Dr. Cempellin, of posters by photo realist artists. We are indebted to Audrey for her generous contributions to SACI—both as an educator and donor—and to Leda for the fascinating lectures and very special exhibition.

We are grateful as well to **Liliana Grasso**, owner of galleria zerotre in Orvieto, for inviting SACI faculty members to hold a group exhibition in her gallery as part of last year's “Venti Ascensionali” (“Ascendant Winds”) festival. The exhibition, which was held in November, was a great success. Photographs of artworks displayed in this exhibition are featured in the *News of SACI Faculty, Staff & Friends* section of this newsletter.

Last spring, SACI helped to arrange an exhibition at the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Florence of “Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands.” The exhibition, which lasted from May to September, was the first in Florence of these rare bronzes from the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation. The exhibition was curated by **Dr. Trudy S. Kawami** and organized by **Dr. Elizabeth A. Sackler**, who last year established the Elizabeth A. Sackler Museum Educational Trust SACI Scholarship, an annual award that covers all expenses during the academic year for a woman studying at SACI who exhibits exceptional artistic excellence in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography, or art conservation and intends to pursue a career in one of these fields. This fall, Dr. Sackler again demonstrated her generous commitment to SACI by donating

seventeen boxes of books from her late mother's collection to SACI's Worthington Library.

During the summer, SACI interior design instructor **Giovanna Bossi** designed and oversaw the renovation of SACI's Aula Magna, the large lecture hall in our principal educational facility, the Palazzo dei Cartelloni. The Aula Magna walls were replastered and new bulletin boards, chairs, electrical wiring and audio/visual equipment were installed. Not only has the comfort of those participating in classes and other activities in the Palazzo been greatly enhanced, but more individuals are able to attend classes and presentations in the Aula Magna, and instructors and lecturers using the Aula Magna now have a greater array of educational tools at their disposal.

I had the pleasure this fall of representing SACI at two educational fairs in England. On successive days in early October, I attended the Independent Schools Careers Organisation (ISCO) Gap Year Fair at St. Edwards School in Oxford and the Hobsons/Fulbright Commission College Day Fair at the American School in London. I met a number of students who are interested in studying art in Florence during the “gap year” between their completion of secondary school and their enrollment in bachelor's degree programs in the UK or elsewhere. Some of the students have since visited SACI with their families, and others are planning to do so in the near future. It is our hope that, in the years to come, increasing numbers of “gap-year” students will decide to explore the unique advantages of studying at SACI in Florence.



Mary Beckinsale, SACI Director

# News of SACI Faculty, Staff & Friends

**Dario Arcamone**, who graduated from SACI's post-baccalaureate certificate program and went on to receive an MFA in Sculpture from the Bowling Green State University/SACI MFA program, has joined the SACI faculty as a sculpture and drawing instructor. Dario's work has been exhibited in Italy, Austria, Germany, and the USA. In 2003, he was awarded First Prize at the Toledo Area Artists 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio, and last year his work was featured in a solo exhibition at the SACI Gallery.

This January, SACI director **Mary Beckinsale** attended a board meeting of the International Association of Independent Art and Design Schools (AIAS) which was held at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam. In September, Mary and SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** joined SACI trustee **Peter Sutro** on a group tour of Tuscany and northern Italy, organized by Peter, that raised \$16,000 for SACI scholarship funding. Palladio expert **Professor Mario di Valmarana**, who until his retirement in 2000 taught architecture at the University of Virginia, led the group on a tour of the Veneto that included visits to the Villa Rotunda, the Villa Emo, the Villa I Nani, and the Villa Maser. The group also toured many other historic sites in the area, including the Basilica di Sant'Antonio in Padua, the Palazzo Estense in Ferrara, and the Palladian palazzi in Vicenza. In Tuscany, the group visited a number of important sites, including the Cathedral and Palazzo Pubblico in Siena, the Piazza dei Miracoli in Pisa, and the Opera del Duomo in Florence. Participants attended several lectures, including a special presentation by Mary Beckinsale on Italian Metaphysical painting.

SACI interior design instructor **Giovanna Bossi** lectured in December at the Sala del Gonfalone, Consiglio Regionale della Toscana, on "Florence and the Lorraine: Daily and Cultural Life from the Enlightenment to the Risorgimento." The lecture was sponsored by the Cultural/Artistic Division of the Circolo Ricreativo Aziendale Lavoratori (C.R.A.L.) of Banca Toscana.

In addition to teaching Contemporary Art this spring at SACI, art history instructor **Matteo Chini** is teaching a course on aesthetics at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Ravenna and a course on the theory of perception and psychology of form at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Bari.

This Spring, two distinguished architects joined the SACI faculty. **Paola Giaconia** is teaching a section of Environmental Design and **Alessandro Vignozzi** is teaching a section of The City and Its Edges. Paola earned a Laurea in Architecture from the University of Milan and a master's degree in Architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture. After working for two years as an architect in Los Angeles, she founded with Grégory Taousson the Milan and Los Angeles based A.polis architectural firm. She also teaches in Milan at the Politecnico di Milano and the Istituto Superiore di Architettura e Design, and



SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**, *Forbidden Thoughts*, mixed mediums on linen, 110 x 110 cm, 2003

is the author of *Los Angeles. Città unica* and co-editor, with Marco Brizzi, of *Beyond Media/Oltre i Media 02 and 03*. Alessandro earned a Laurea in Architecture from the University of Turin. His dissertation was on aesthetics and urban planning. He taught architecture at the University of Florence until 1998, and since then has taught in the Town Planning Department of the University of Naples. He is the author of several books on regional planning and has published numerous articles on architectural subjects in Italian and English journals.

In Fall 2004, SACI welcomed to its photography faculty **Sabine Korth**. Sabine, who earned a diploma in photography and reportage at the University of Bielefeld in Germany, has participated in exhibitions in Italy, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Colombia, and the USA. Her awards include the "Places of Life" National Award for women photographers from Regione Toscana in Prato, Italy, the Hofman Prize from the Instituto Valencia de Arte Moderno in Valencia, Spain, and the 2003 Digital Photography Award from Circle 24 in

The Hague, Netherlands. Her work was published in the book *From South to North* (Art&Idea Books, Udine 1997).

*The Last Future*, a video installation by SACI printmaking and painting instructor **Melania Lanzini** and former SACI visiting multimedia instructor **Charles Loverme** was featured during November at Milan's "Invideo 2004 International Exhibition of Video Art and Cinema Beyond." An image of Melania, taken from the video, appeared on the cover of the exhibition catalog, *Liquid States*.

SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** will be exhibiting at two galleries in Porto, Portugal during the month of March. His drawings and works on paper will be shown at Galeria Esteta in Rua Sousa Viterbo (opening: Friday, March 4 at 6 pm) and his recent paintings will be exhibited at Galeria Arthobler in Rua M. Bombarda (opening: Saturday, March 5 at 6 pm).

Congratulations to SACI painting and drawing instructor **Susann Allgaier** and SACI dean and associate director **David Davidson** on the birth in November of their son **Nicolas**. After the birth, Susann's and Nicolas's first visitors were SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** and SACI senior executive **Jim Miller**, who successfully recruited Nicolas for the SACI class of 2025.

SACI is pleased to welcome to its New York City headquarters at the Institute of International Education (IIE), SACI senior program administrator **Suzan Dalpiaz**. Suzan, who earned a bachelor's degree in communicative disorders from the University of Rhode Island, studied Italian in Florence from January to May in 2000 and returned to study in Florence from January 2002 until June 2003. She has extensive experience in customer service at both airlines and financial institutions.



# News of SACI Faculty, Staff & Friends

In October, SACI ceramics instructor **Lisa Nocentini** attended a workshop at La Meridiana in Certaldo conducted by Ian Currie, author of *Revealing Glazes—Using the Grid Approach* and *Stoneware Glazes—A Systematic Approach* (both published by Bootstrap Press). Lisa's participation in this workshop was made possible by a SACI faculty development grant. An article in which Lisa discusses her career as a ceramist appeared in the August 2004 issue of the international ceramics review *Kerameiki Techni* ([www.kerameikitechni.gr](http://www.kerameikitechni.gr)).



SACI ceramics instructor **Lisa Nocentini**, *Chick in Boots*, terra cotta, wood, and birdfeed, 60 cm (height), 2004



SACI 3D area head **Matt Auvinen**, *Untitled*, white and gray marble, 30 cm (height), 2004

From November 7 through November 20, a variety of artwork by SACI faculty members was featured in a special exhibition at the galleria zerotre in Orvieto, Italy (see photos on pages 4 and 5). Entitled "Ora" ("Now"), the exhibition was part of the fourth nationwide "Venti Ascensionali" ("Ascendant Winds") festival, which showcased in theaters and art centers throughout Orvieto works by a number of Italy's leading contemporary artists. SACI's director, **Mary Beckinsale**, suggested to galleria zerotre's owner, **Liliana Grasso**, that the SACI faculty exhibition be held at galleria zerotre as part of last year's festival, and the two worked closely



SACI painting and drawing instructor **Paul Beel**, *View of Niagara*, oil on wood panel, 50 x 70 cm, 2004

together on arrangements for the exhibition. The exhibition illustrated the broad range of SACI faculty members' studio art interests—a range that is reflected in SACI's diverse course offerings. Thirteen instructors participated in the exhibition, which featured paintings and/or prints by **Margherita Abbozzo**, **Paul Beel**,



SACI photography instructor **Jacopo Santini**, *Albergo Popolare*, gelatin silver print, 20 x 30 cm, 2004

**Melania Lanzini**, **Gary Lissa**, and **Karen Yurkovich**; drawings by **Dario Arcamone**; sculptures by **Matt Auvinen** and **Lisa Nocentini**; photographs by **Romeo Di Loreto**,



SACI 2D area head **Gary Lissa**, *Quiet Afternoon*, grisaille, alkyd paint on canvas, 50 x 60 cm, 2004

**Sabine Korth**, and **Jacopo Santini**; wearable sculptures by **Lorenzo Pezzatini**; and lightboxes and a CD-ROM projection, "relics" from "Perfect Future" projects by **Dejan Atanackovic**. Thanks to **Gary Lissa** for photographing the artworks from the SACI faculty exhibition that appear on pages 4 and 5.



SACI photography instructor **Sabine Korth**, *Carvalli, Alessandria*, sepia-toned fiber print, 24 x 30 cm, 1990

SACI graduate studies area head **Lorenzo Pezzatini** was awarded a two month-long artist's residency at Florence's German Cultural Institute in the Villa Romana. He worked in a studio there throughout October and November, and a public showing of the paintings and installation art that he completed during his residency was held at the villa on December 5.

In December, students in SACI classes taught by art history and museology instructor **Maria Antonia Rinaldi** participated in a special research project at the Uffizi Museum in Florence. The MOBILEARN project, which was sponsored by the CRATOS center for research at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Piacenza, investigated how PDAs, cell phones and portable PCs might be used to create or improve educational and informational systems in museums. The students used these mobile devices to gather information and navigate interactively while visiting the rooms in the Uffizi that feature paintings by Botticelli and Leonardo da Vinci.



SACI sculpture and drawing instructor **Dario Arcamone**, *Study for a Sculpture #1*, travertine, graphite, steel and xerox, 20 x 20 x 6 cm, 2004



SACI graduate area head **Lorenzo Pezzatini**, *Tempus Fugit (Time Flies)*, found object, Friendly Plastic, and silver on an alabaster tile, 15 x 15 cm, 1983

This fall, an exhibition of paintings by SACI Artists Council member **Filipe Rocha da Silva** was held at the Museu da Cidade in Lisbon, Portugal. Visitors to the exhibition, which was entitled "Pinturas Grandes," included SACI director **Mary Beckinsale** and SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**.

SACI illustration instructors **Camilla Torna** and **Daniele Nannini** have completed a major book project which describes to young readers the art of the fifteenth century. Published in English, Italian, and Japanese by Sillabe of Leghorn, this colorfully illustrated *Art Atlas* is currently being sold in Italy's major museum bookshops. During the Fall, SACI illustration students, with Camilla's encouragement and guidance, exhibited on the walls of a long-dormant construction site in Florence (between

via Sant'Orsola and Via Panicale) posters that they had designed in class. The students sought in this way to show their solidarity with Florentines who, on October 21, held a street party to call to the attention of municipal authorities the need to restore and utilize the facility to improve the quality of life in the San Lorenzo district. Last Spring, Camilla worked with another group of SACI illustration students who designed posters in support of the international Slow Food movement, which is devoted to cata-



SACI multimedia instructor **Dejan Atanackovic**, *Perfect Future*, CD-ROM, still from a video, 1999



SACI printmaking and painting instructor **Melania Lanzini**, *Io non sono qui (I Am Not Here)*, lithograph and etching, 80 cm x 150 cm, 2003

Gallery in Vancouver, and the Studio d'Arte Raffaelli in Trento. Karen's awards include a Vancouver Foundation Grant, that enabled her to study scagliola and plaster casting in Italy, and an Alberta Heritage Scholarship, that funded her study of painting and sculpture with Giovanni Manualli in Perugia.



SACI media area head **Romeo Di Loreto**, detail from *Portrait of Eugenio and Anna*, black-and-white digital inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm, 2004



SACI graduate instructor **Margherita Abbozzo**, *The Interior Castle*, oil on canvas, 100 x 120 cm, 2004

loguing and protecting various products and foods in order to promote biodiversity and support *l'ecogastronomia*. On March 30, Camilla and several SACI students attended "an evening of alimentary exploration" sponsored by the Florentine branch of Slow Food.

In Fall 2004 and Spring 2005, **Karen Yurkovich** taught at SACI a special graduate section of 2-D Honors Studio. Karen, who earned a BFA and MFA from the University of Alberta, has taught at the University of Alberta and the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. Her work has recently been featured in solo exhibitions at the Linda Hodges Gallery in Seattle, the Bau-Xi



SACI painting instructor **Karen Yurkovich**, *Il sistema digestivo (The Digestive System)*, oil on canvas, 90 x 100 cm, 2003

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 to 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:

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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, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA, (212) 984-5548.

## 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](mailto:alumni@saci-florence.org)

# Alumni News

In the fall, painter **James Banta** (Fall 1991-Spring 1992) moved to Genoa, where his wife is completing dissertation research on the seventeenth-century Genovese painter Bernardo Strozzi. A graduate of Connecticut College, where he majored in art history, James earned a master's degree in historic preservation at the University of Pennsylvania. Last year James held solo exhibitions of his paintings and photographs at McDaniel College's Rice Gallery in Westminster, Maryland, Local Project in Long Island City, New York, and Caffé dell'Artista in New York City.

Congratulations to **Christina Barber** (Fall 2001-Spring 2002), who has just earned a BFA degree at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam! After completing her studies at SACI, Christina received a special SACI scholarship that enabled her to enroll at the Reitveld Academie.

Former SACI photography TA **Stephen Crescenzo** (Summer 2002) is now photography lecturer at the Higher College of Technology in Muscat, Oman. He and two other instructors at the school are planning to spend this year and next launching Oman's first photography program.

Florence resident **Christine de Gennaro** (Summer 1998, Summer 2001, Summer 2002) won an award from the Jental Artist Residency Program that enabled her to spend part of last summer painting at the program's site in Wyoming's Lower Piney Creek Valley.

"I am in New York in the MFA Photo and Related Media program at the School of Visual Arts," writes **Margot Herster** (Fall 2001). "I just opened my first solo show ['The Colors of Love'] at Scalo, the New York City gallery of the Swiss-based art and photo book publisher. It is an installation project, with a little bit of 3D, but mostly combining photo and wall painting.....At this point, I have spent time at seven different

schools and I still think SACI is the best in educational philosophy and teaching standards."

Sculptor **James Larson** (Fall 1978-Spring 1979) creates much of his artwork in a large studio at an Arabian horse training center whose facilities he manages in Scottsdale, Arizona. James's own horse, Cricket, is one of his favorite models. James frequently exhibits his work at the Bonner-David Gallery in Scottsdale.

**Nora Martirosyan** (Late Spring 2000), who attended SACI as a special exchange student from the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam, wrote SACI director **Mary Beckinsale**



Three-month old **Marina Luciné**, daughter of **Nora Martirosyan**

this fall that "the last two years were very hectic. I have simultaneously done two post-graduate residencies—Le Fresnoy in northern France and the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam—[and] finished several projects which were shown at Squeaky Wheel/Buffalo Media Resources in New York; Cinematexas; 'Les Inattendus' Lyon International Film and Video Festival; the Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival; and many others. In 2003, my film *Courant d'air* won a Grand Prix du Jury at the 'Entre Vues' International Film Festival in Belfort and a Special Mention at the Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival. I have received the Uriot Prize of the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam both in 2002 and 2003. This

autumn my works can be seen in the Netherlands (Dutch Film Festival, Impakt Video Festival, Museum of Arnhem), in France (Exhibition Lille 2004, Nuit Blanche in Paris), at Cinematexas in the USA (they will show three films of mine the last week in September), and in Australia (ACCA, Australian Center for Contemporary Art, Melbourne). Last year in *Tema Celeste N99*, there was a publication about my work. I do some teaching in the Montpellier Art School and master classes in video on various occasions. But you have seen my best creation yourself—Marina Luciné. . . . I am sending you her photo. She will be pleased to be in the SACI Newsletter." Congratulations to Nora, who won the Cinematexas 2004 Barbara Aronofsky Latham Memorial Award, which is given annually to an exceptional emerging video artist.

**Nguyen Nhu My Ngoc** (MFA 2002-2003), who won a special SACI scholarship for students from developing countries that enabled her to attend SACI, earned an MFA in digital arts from Bowling Green State University last April. A graduate of the Architecture Univer-



**Nguyen Nhu My Ngoc**, *I Thought I Was Going to Wait for It to Move*, found objects, 2004

sity of Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, Nguyen's MFA thesis exhibition at BGSU, which was entitled "In and Out," featured installations and a video of her 2003 site-specific performance in Maremma, Italy.

# 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, In Design, 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 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.

In July, **Heather McElhatton** (Spring 1995), who is a host and producer at Minnesota Public Radio, earned an MFA in Creative Writing at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina. Heather has recently completed her first novel and published a short story entitled "Red Shoes" in *The Ontario Review*. The story, which she wrote while a student at SACI, has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Heather can be reached at: [hmcelhatton@mpr.org](mailto:hmcelhatton@mpr.org)

**Cecile Molina** (Post-Bac 1998-1999) writes that "From December 2003 to February 2004, my



**Cecile Molina**, *Oasis antroposeo*, terra cotta with iron particles and matte barium turquoise glaze, 21 x 21 x 5", 2004

work was exhibited at the 3rd International Triennial of Ceramics, 'Solja 2003,' at the Cvijeta Zuzoric Art Pavillion in Belgrade, Serbia, and Montenegro. In April 2004, my two-woman show, entitled 'En Torno a la Abstraccion: Cecile Molina y Jeannine Marchand,' held at Pamil Fine Art Gallery in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was nominated for Best Group Show by AICA (the International Association of Art Critics, Puerto Rico Chapter). My third solo exhibition, called 'Ciclos Antroposeos,' opened this May at Casa Ashford, Condado, Puerto Rico. I just got pub-

lished in *Ceramics Technical*, [and] this past June I won the Prize of Acquisition at the 7th Biennale of Puerto Rican Contemporary Ceramics, 'Premio Casa Candina 2004,' held at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Puerto Rico. I am represented by Galeria Botello, San Juan, Puerto Rico. If you want to see my work go to: [www.botello.com](http://www.botello.com)."

Recent collages by **Naomi Muirhead** (Spring 2000) were featured in two solo exhibitions in Florence last fall—one at the News Café and the other at 98rosso. Naomi is currently teaching jewelry design at the Art Studio Fuji in Florence and is the assistant librarian at the SACI Worthington Library. She sells her work in shops and by commission in Florence and San Francisco. You can check out her jewelry, paintings, collages, and books at: [www.art925.com](http://www.art925.com) or in the "Kaleidoscope" section of the Fall 2004 edition of *Abroad View Magazine* ([www.abroadviewmagazine.com](http://www.abroadviewmagazine.com)).



**Naomi Muirhead**, pendant in 18K gold with quartz and vintage print, 2 x 4 cm, 2004

After graduating from the University of Vermont in 1998, **Sara Nesson** (Fall 1997) was employed as a mountain ski photographer in Tahoe, California, then as a kayak guide in Valdez, Alaska. During the next two years, she worked with her father, documentary filmmaker Bob Nesson. They travelled to Turkey in 1999, where they taught a course in environmental filmmaking at the Halki Ecological Institute near Istanbul. In 2000, they accompanied a group of Europeans and Americans who were conducting an environmental assessment of the Danube River. Sara edited video reports onboard the group's ship while travelling from Germany through Austria, then on to Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine. Later that year, as part of a research project on the Stellar Sea Eagle, she visited Magadan in the Russian Far East and the Japanese island of Hokkaido. After returning to the States, Sara joined Galen Films as an assistant editor. She recently worked as senior editor of *Stolen Childhoods*, a documentary about child slavery, narrated by Meryl Streep, which premiered at the 2003 United Nations Association Film Festival at Stanford University. Sarah is currently working as a freelance film editor and living in New York City.

Last spring, **Charles Nicholas** (Spring 1995, MFA 1998-1999) completed a three-year stint as an art instructor at the American School in Willemsted, Curacao. He is now teaching art at the American International School of Cyprus in Nicosia.

"Talmadge Memorial Bridge," a painting by **Rebecca Thompson** (Spring 1998) that is on four panels, each six-feet tall and four-feet wide, was exhibited last June at the G8 Summit in Sea Island, Georgia. The painting had been commissioned a year before by the Savannah College of Art and Design to commemorate the school's 25th anniversary.

# Sixth Annual SACI Consortium Meeting Held at SACI in Florence

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

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INTERNATIONAL

SACI is a program administered through the Institute of International Education

From November 17-22, eleven administrators and faculty members from SACI Consortium colleges and universities throughout the USA met at SACI in Florence to discuss the approaches of SACI and its Consortium schools to a wide range of art-education and study-abroad issues. Taking as its theme "Art Education: How to Teach What?" the SACI Consortium meeting featured a series of presentations on the programs and pedagogical concerns of art educators at the participating institutions. Special highlights of the meeting included CD presentations of artwork by students and instructors from these schools and discussions by SACI faculty members of their approaches to educating art students studying in Italy.

The group toured SACI's main educational facility at the Palazzo dei Cartelloni; the SACI graduate center; the new SACI design center; the crafts studio; the Conservatorio of Santa Maria degli Angioli, where SACI students and instructors are completing restoration of lunettes by the Baroque painter Francesco Curradi; and SACI student housing. The SACI Consortium meeting concluded with a day-long trip to Orvieto, where the group visited the SACI faculty exhibition at galleria zerotre.

Participants from SACI Consortium schools included: **Elizabeth Cole** (associate dean for college advance-

ment, College of Arts and Science, and professor, School of Art, Bowling Green State University); **Don Davis** (associate professor, department of art and design, East Tennessee State University); **Anita Dawson** (chair, drawing and printmaking departments, Columbus College of Art & Design); **Lynn Del Cid-Neddo** (director, Center for International Education, Albion College); **Tina Fuentes** (professor, art department, Texas Tech University); **Caroline Gore** (assistant professor of arts, metals and jewelry, Western Michigan University); **Adam Grotsky** (director, International Programs, Towson University); **Jim Hirschfield** (professor, art department, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); **Char Norman** (associate provost, Columbus College of Art & Design); **Sam Olfano** (assistant professor, art department, Marywood University); and **Annette Stott** (director, School of Art and Art History, University of Denver). Participants from SACI included: **Mary Beckinsale** (director); **David Davidson** (dean and associate director); **Jules Maidoff** (founder and director emeritus); **Jim Miller** (senior executive); and **Anne Pelligrini** (assistant to the director). Additionally, special presentations were made by the following SACI instructors and administrators: **Margherita Abbozzo** (graduate studies instructor); **Dejan Atanackovic** (multimedia instructor); **Daniela Barbato** (housing director); **Paolo Bulletti** (design area head); **Romeo Di Loreto** (media area head); **Tina Fallani** (Italian film history instructor); **Elizabeth Johnson** (assistant dean/registrar); **Gary Lissa** (2D area head); **Lou Lodge** (librarian/special projects coordinator); **Lisa Nocentini** (ceramics instructor); and **Camilla Torna** (illustration instructor).



Left to right: Tina Fuentes, Jim Miller, Caroline Gore, Sam Olfano, Lynn Del Cid-Neddo, Jim Hirschfield  
(photo by Jules Maidoff)



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