



N E W S L E T T E R

SACI Participates in a Gathering in Florence of the National Advisory Board of the National Museum of Women in the Arts

In October 2003, SACI participated in a week-long gathering in Florence of seventeen National Advisory Board (NAB) members of the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA). Located in Washington, DC, the museum offers the single most important collection of art by women in the world. The group's visit was partly intended to inaugurate the NMWA's Florence International Committee, which is headed by **Jane Fortune**, vice-chair of SACI's Board of Trustees, who planned the group's very special arts and cultural tour of Florence, which focused on women artists and artisans. Jane is a member of the National Advisory Board of the National Museum of Women in the Arts and lives in Florence part of the year.

The week's events began on Monday morning with a guided tour by SACI art history instructor **Linda Reynolds** of Florence's famous Church of Santa Croce, where the visitors viewed artworks by Giotto, Donatello, Bronzino, and Vasari, and saw the tombs of Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Rossini, Vasari, and Viviani (in whose tomb Galileo is also buried). In the afternoon, the group had a private tour of the Ferragamo Shoe Museum, followed by tea with **Mrs. Wanda Ferragamo**. That evening, **William McIlhenny**, US Consul General in Florence and Honorary Member of the SACI Board of Trustees, gave a special welcome to the group at dinner. The following morning was devoted to a tour of works by women artists in Florence's major museums. Sites visited included the Museum of San Marco, the Uffizi Gallery, and the Vasari Corridor, and the group viewed paintings by a number of women, including Suor Plautilla Nelli, Rosalba Carriera, Lavinia Fontana, Artemisia Gentileschi, and Sofonisba Anguissola. In the afternoon, the group toured Florentine silk and silver workshops, and learned about women's contributions to the development of these crafts.

The next day began with a tour of Florence's Stibbert Museum, where the museum's director, **Dr. Kirsten Aschengreen Piacenti**, discussed both the museum's fabrics, costume, and textiles collections and a number of the key concerns of Italian women museum directors. Later that day the group visited the Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angioli, where SACI director **Mary Beckinsale** and SACI conservation instructor **Dr. Roberta Lapucci** described the restoration work SACI students and instructors have undertaken on the Francesco Curradi lunettes and other artworks in the chapel. In the evening, the group attended a special presentation at SACI's Palazzo dei Cartelloni by SACI Artist Council member **Audrey Flack**, whose lecture on her career as a painter and sculptor was very enthusiastically received. Following the presentation, a reception for Audrey Flack



Left to right: **Jane Fortune**, vice-chair of SACI's Board of Trustees and head of the Florence International Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, with SACI Artists Council member **Audrey Flack** at SACI's Palazzo dei Cartelloni.

and the members of the National Advisory Board was held in the SACI Gallery, where the artwork of SACI's women faculty members was on exhibition.

Highlights of the ensuing days included a tour of women artists' works in the Pitti Palace galleries and a visit to the Opificio delle Pietre Dure, where the group was greeted by the museum's director, **Cristina Acidini**, who is a member of SACI's Board of Trustees. Following this visit, there was a special reception and dinner hosted by the National Advisory Board of the National Museum of Women in the Arts at the US Consulate in Florence to honor the invaluable contributions made to the culture of Tuscany by the many women directors of Florence museums. Attending this tribute were twenty Florence museum directors, including Cristina Acidini, who received the NMWA Florence International Committee's first annual award. This award honors a woman in Florence/Tuscany for her patronage of the arts, her artistic endeavors, and her overall contribution to the artistic life of her city and/or her impact on international society. "Cristina was honored particularly for her excellence in the preservation and conservation of works of art and for her selfless devotion to the service of her city," notes Jane Fortune, who adds that Cristina "exemplifies the finest example of a woman for whom this award was created."

Other notable events included a private tour, led by **Mary Beckinsale**, of Parco di Celle, a contemporary sculpture park, which features the work of artists such as Alice Aycock, Magdalena Abakanowicz, and SACI Artist Council member **Beverly Pepper** and a visit to the gardens of the Villa Gamberaia, laid out by Cecil Pinsett, where the group was graciously received by SACI Board of Trustees member **Alessandra Marchi**, who is also director of Florence's Centro Di publishing house. The group also attended an opening, at Florence's Biagiotti Arte Contemporanea, of an exhibition of works by contemporary Italian women artists, many of whom were in attendance. There the visitors met the gallery's director, **Carole Biagiotti**. On the final day of their visit to Florence, the group members went on a private tour of Florence's Museo degli Argenti (Silverworks Museum) which was conducted by the museum's director, **Dr. Marilena Mosco**. National Advisory Board members who participated in the group's visit to Florence were: **Noreen Andreoli**, **Cathy Bert**, **Molly Cotton**, **Edie Crutcher**, **Lynn Finesilver Crystal**, **Suzy Finesilver**, **Jane Fortune**, **Katherine Fouts**, **Ilene Gutman**, **Jan Jessup**, **Judy Larson** (Director of the Museum), **Sandra Mitchell**, **Lady Antoinette Pearman**, **Margie Reeves**, **Elizabeth Sackler**, **June Speight**, and **Kathy Springhorn**.

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Jules Maidoff

Fifth Annual SACI Consortium Meeting Held at SACI in Florence

From November 13-17, eighteen administrators and faculty members from SACI Consortium colleges and universities throughout the USA met at SACI in Florence to discuss SACI's role as a leader in international arts education and the opportunities that SACI Consortium schools have to enhance students' study-abroad experiences. The activities commenced with a buffet dinner at the home of SACI director **Mary Beckinsale** and SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**. This reception was followed by a special presentation of "Golem Project," a newly completed video artwork by SACI multimedia instructor **Dejan Atanackovic**.

The next day the group met for a roundtable discussion led by Mary Beckinsale and SACI senior executive **Jim Miller** on the history and growth of the SACI Consortium and reviewed how, through initiatives such as SACI's full-tuition Consortium Scholarship Award, Consortium member institutions can continue to aid students who seek to study art, art history, art conservation, and Italian language and culture at SACI. During this session, Jim Miller announced that **Jennifer Carolin** of Columbus College of Art & Design had received the Spring 2004 SACI Consortium Scholarship Award. Following a lively discussion about the impact of current international problems on studying overseas, the group visited the new SACI Design Center and met SACI architecture instructor **Alessandro Belli**, SACI graphic design instructor **Rufus Deuchler**, and SACI illustration instructor **Camilla Torna**, who gave brief presentations on the courses that they teach.

The group then returned to SACI's Palazzo dei Cartelloni for a forum led by Mary Beckinsale on the topic, "How Does/Should the SACI Approach to Foreign Study Enter the Reality of Art Today in Europe?" Other participants in the forum included **Cristina Acidini** (director of Florence's Opificio delle Pietre Dure and a member of SACI's Board of Trustees), **Luca Alinari** (a Florence artist and member of the SACI Advisory Council-Europe), **Dejan Atanackovic**, **Roberto Barni** (a Florence artist and member of the SACI Artists Council), **Carole Biagiotti** (director of Florence's Biagiotti Arte Contemporanea), **Joachim Burmeister** (director of Florence's Villa Romana), **Laura Castro** (director of the Galeria do Palácio Museum in Porto, Portugal), **Matteo Chini** (SACI art history instructor), **Julia Pintão** (director of Galeria Esteta in Porto, Portugal), **Filipe Rocha da Silva**

(SACI visiting 2-D Honors Studio instructor and head of the Painting Department of the University of Evora in Portugal), **Simone Siliani** (Florence's *Assessore alla cultura*), and **Rosanna Tempestini** (director of Florence's La Corte Gallery). After a spirited debate, the group attended a lecture at SACI by Portuguese art historian Laura Castro on "Portuguese Artists' Travels in the Last Century," which focused on how travelling abroad—to Italy, France, Spain, and England—deeply influenced the work of twentieth-century Portuguese artists.

The next day the group went on a SACI-arranged guided tour of Florence's renowned Opificio delle Pietre Dure museum. The SACI Consortium representatives then visited the Conservatorio di Santa Maria degli Angioli, where they climbed the scaffolding erected by SACI and learned from SACI conservation instructor **Stefano Garosi** about on-going restoration work in the chapel's vault by SACI students and instructors on frescoes by the Baroque painter Giovanni Maria Ciocchi. The group also received an overview of SACI's years of restoration efforts in the Conservatorio from conservation instructor **Dr. Roberta Lapucci**, who spoke about work undertaken by SACI students and instructors in restoring the Francesco Curradi lunettes and other artworks in the chapel. Following these presentations, the group travelled to Arezzo to view the famous Piero della Francesca frescoes at the Church of San Francesco, then visited the birthplace of Masaccio in San Giovanni Valdarno.

On the final day of the SACI Consortium meeting, the group met to share impressions and make suggestions. Topics discussed included the idea of a SACI Consortium faculty exhibition and initiatives that could lead to greater collaboration among regional SACI Consortium member institutions in the USA. When the meeting adjourned, SACI Consortium representatives were led by SACI housing director **Daniela Barbatto** on a tour of several of the apartments in the historic center of Florence in which SACI students are housed. While at SACI, many members of the group had an opportunity to meet with students from their schools who were currently attending SACI.

Participants from SACI Consortium schools included: **Jeffrey Abt** (associate professor in drawing and painting, Wayne State University), **Steven Alexander** (associate professor of art, Marywood University), **Michael Arrigo** (assistant professor



Left to right: **Claudia Jenkins**, **Robert Miles**, **Michael Arrigo**, **Steven Alexander**, **Char Norman**, **Sara Dumont**, **Jules Maidoff**, **Douglas Norman**, **Phil VanderWeg**, **Mary Beckinsale**, **Shannon Cates**, **Don Davis**, **David Davidson**, **Vince Torano**, **Roderick Jungbauer**, **Jim Hirschfield**, and **Jeffrey Abt**.

and 2-D foundations coordinator of the School of Art, Bowling Green State University), **Sarah Bassett** (associate professor of art history, Wayne State University), **Shannon Cates** (associate director for international training, Rice University), **Don Davis** (associate professor of art, East Tennessee State University), **Lynn Del Cid-Neddo** (director of the Center for International Education, Albion College), **Sara Dumont** (former director of the Study Abroad Office, Towson University), **Jim Flood** (chairperson of the Department of Art, Towson University), **Jim Hirschfield** (professor of studio art, graduate studies director, and studio art assistant chair, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), **Claudia Jenkins** (programs assistant at the Study Abroad Office, Towson University), **Roderick Jungbauer** (director of academic advisement, Columbus College of Art & Design), **Robert Miles** (executive director of the Office of Study Abroad, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), **Char Norman** (associate provost, Columbus College of Art & Design), **Douglas Norman** (professor of fine arts, Columbus College of Art & Design), **George Thrush** (associate professor and chair of the Architecture Department, Northeastern University), **Vince Torano** (assistant professor of art, Western Michigan University), and **Phil VanderWeg** (director of the School of Art, Western Michigan University). 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).

Notes from the Director

We are delighted to announce that SACI Artists Council member **Audrey Flack**, who visited SACI in October to lecture on her work to National Advisory Board members of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, will be returning to SACI as a visiting drawing instructor during our Late Spring 2004 term. Students attending SACI that term will have a unique opportunity to study in Florence with one of the foremost artists of our time.

We had the additional pleasure this fall of welcoming to our faculty SACI Artists Council member **Filipe Rocha da Silva**, who took a semester off from heading the Painting Department at the University of Evora in Portugal to teach, with the assistance of SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**, the first 2-D Honors Studio class at SACI. This course, which focuses on developing each student's artistic identity, will be offered each Fall and Spring term. It affords our most advanced students an opportunity to propose and develop their own independent drawing and painting projects; participate in independent and group critiques, slide lectures, and on-site visits to galleries, museums, and artists' studios in Florence; and work closely with the instructors to improve all aspects of their artwork.

In October, SACI invited members of the Yale class of 1951, which includes SACI trustee **Peter Sutro**, to join the visitors to Florence from the National Advisory Board of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in attending Audrey Flack's presentation at SACI's Palazzo dei Cartelloni and to take part in the reception that followed this event. The following month, SACI welcomed to the Palazzo officials from the Stiftung Kunstakademie München of the Akademie

der Bildenden Künste München. The group was accompanied by **Veronika Burmeister** of Florence's German Cultural Institute at the Villa Romana, and included **Prof. Ben Willikens**, the well-known artist and director of the academy, and **Peter Reimpell**, the head of the foundation that supports the academy.

Early in the Fall term, two SACI graduate students, **Claire Brassil** and **Thomas Butler**, were selected by SACI to participate in a two-week printmaking workshop in Bentlage, Germany. The workshop was organized by AKI, Academy of Visual Arts and Design (Enschede, Netherlands) in conjunction with the International Association of Independent Art and Design Schools (AIAS), an organization in which SACI is a governing member. Working at a cloister/castle in Bentlage with printmaking students from other AIAS schools, Claire and Thomas made a number of prints that were featured in the Bentlage exhibition space and were also included in a volume containing works by all workshop participants. As president of AIAS, it was my pleasure to speak at the ceremony in Bentlage which concluded this unique art experience. I am also pleased to be able to announce that SACI students will be able to participate this April in workshops at AKI in Enschede that will be part of AIAS's "Eye Wonder" conference, which will feature, in addition to these workshops, a symposium, lectures, performances, films, cooperative events with German culture organizations, and a student festival.

This semester two very special events will take place as part of the SACI ONLUS. On February 21, a party will be held for the ten children who participated in last spring's play group. The principal group coordinator, **Maria Maddalena Poccianti** will give to each



Mary Beckinsale, SACI Director

child artwork he or she completed as part of the play group and SACI media area head **Romeo Di Loreto** will present each child with a photograph taken of that child during the group's activities.

Again this spring the SACI ONLUS will sponsor a children's play group that will meet at SACI from March through May - this time for children between 2 1/2 and 3 1/2 years of age who will be making body art. Very generous donations from **Jane Fortune**, vice-chair of the SACI Board of Trustees, have helped to make both this year's and last year's ONLUS activities possible.

Once again, I am grateful to have this opportunity to thank on behalf of SACI the many individuals and institutions that have helped us improve our programs and facilities. Generous contributions to the SACI Worthington Library have recently been made by former SACI media area head **Scott Brightwell**, SACI Advisory Council-US member **Dr. Peter Dayton**, SACI Artist Council member **Audrey Flack**, vice-chair of SACI's Board of Trustees **Jane Fortune** (the National Museum of Women in the Arts), **JoAnn McLin Ortiz** (Santa Monica College Foundation) and **Martin Sosin** (Martin Sosin-Stratton-Petit Foundation), sculptor **Roger Phillips**, **Dr. Elizabeth E. Sackler** (The Arthur M. Sackler Foundation), **Prof. Ben Willikens** (Akademie der Bildenden Künste München), and the **Worthington Family Foundation**, whose successive grants of \$19,500 and \$24,000 have made it possible for SACI to greatly enhance our library resources. Our warmest thanks to all of SACI's friends and benefactors!

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 term or semester.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

News of SACI Faculty, Staff & Friends

In June 2003, "Golem Project," an audio composition and video installation by SACI multimedia instructor **Dejan Atanackovic**, was presented at the Gallery of the Belgrade Cultural Center. The work was then selected for presentation in 2003 at Belgrade's October Salon, an annual event which showcases major artworks completed throughout the year. Excerpts of "Golem Project" were also shown in November at the "Invideo 2003" festival in Milan. SACI media teaching assistant **Krista Steinhauer** shot the photographs used in this artwork.

SACI director **Mary Beckinsale** recently visited the United Kingdom, where she met many long-time friends of SACI and made some new friends for SACI as well, including Anthony Nemecek, Director of the Fulbright Commission's US Educational Advisory Service, Joško Paro, Ambassador of the Croatian Embassy in the UK, and Flora Turner, the Croatian Embassy's Counselor of Arts, Science, and Education.

"Valentina on Red Bed," a painting by SACI painting and drawing instructor **Paul Beel**, won third prize this fall at the Concorso Premio Bozzolo invitational juried exhibition, which was held at the Palazzo della Cultura in Bozzolo, Italy. Paul is preparing for a major solo exhibition, organized by Bonelli Contemporary Art, that is scheduled for April at the Fabrica del Vapore Gallery in Milan. On September 10, Paul and his wife, Elisabetta, contributed to the SACI baby boom with the birth of their daughter, Elena Susan Beel. Congratulations from all at SACI to Elena and her proud parents!



SACI painting and drawing instructor **Paul Beel**, **Elisabetta Tripodi**, and **Elena Susan Beel**.

Joining the SACI faculty in Spring 2004 are photography instructors **Maurizio Berlincioni** and **Jacopo Santini**. Maurizio, who previously taught at SACI during the late 1980s, has held

numerous solo and group exhibitions in Italy and abroad and published seven books of his photographs. Since 2000, Jacopo has taught photography at La Cantoria in Grassina, Italy. His work has been featured in a number of solo and group exhibitions in Florence and elsewhere in Tuscany.

Last Spring, former SACI multimedia instructor **Roberto Bocci** held a solo exhibition of his digital photographic images at the Off White Walls Gallery of the Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, DC.

After serving for four years as SACI's media area head, **Scott Brightwell** has decided to return to the USA. Scott plans to live initially in California, where he will continue teaching and working as a photographer. Friends can keep in touch with Scott at: pokey@supereva.it

SACI art history instructor **Matteo Chini** selected installation artist Haakon Faste to represent Italy in the 11th Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean, which was held in June at Ilios' Tower Park in Athens, Greece. The theme of the Biennale was "Cosmographies, Cosmopolitanism and Digi-Cosmos in the Imagination of Young Artists."

Last fall, SACI fresco painting instructor **Luigi Falai** travelled to Orleans, Massachusetts (on Cape Cod), where he spent five weeks working at the Church of the Transfiguration, with

Florentine painter Silvestro Pistolesi, on the creation of three frescos depicting scenes from the life of Christ.

In February, SACI Receptionist **Laura Filippini** will return to SACI following a year-long maternity leave. Son Flavio and Mamma Laura are happy and healthy and grateful to all for their good wishes.



SACI fresco painting instructor **Luigi Falai** working on a fresco at Cape Cod's Church of the Transfiguration.

Modern Italy, is the most recent book written by SACI orientation lecturer **Dr. John Foot**, Professor in the Italian Department at University College, University of London. The text, which is published by Palgrave in the United Kingdom, explores Italy's history from 1860 to the present.

On October 2nd, **Robert R. Hesse** spoke at SACI about his career as an arts patron. Bob, who has held a number of distinguished positions, including President of Medaille College, President of the Chautauqua Institution, Executive Director of the Joffrey Ballet, and Senior Vice President of the US Committee for UNICEF, discussed a wide array of art topics and screened André Heller's 1987 video about Luna Luna, a park on the Moonweide in Hamburg that featured works by artists such as Keith Haring, Roy Lichtenstein, David Hockney, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Jean Tinguely.



SACI Receptionist **Laura Filippini** and **Flavio Filippini**.

An excerpt from "Biogenetic Toy," a video about chance and femininity by SACI printmaking instructor **Melania Lanzini**, was screened in November as part of the "Invideo 2003 'Poetronics'" presentations at Spazio Oberdan in Milan, Italy.

SACI conservation instructors **Roberta Lapucci** and **Alessandro Gori** received word in November from the Oficina del

How to apply for a SACI Teaching Assistantship

The SACI Teaching Assistantship Program offers SACI alumni the opportunity to realize their personal, artistic, and cultural goals while assisting SACI staff and faculty. These positions provide both income and the possibilities for part-time continued study and research. 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 a completed BA or BFA degree are invited to apply. Preference, however, will be given to those who have completed their MA or MFA. Teaching Assistants are employed by SACI from the beginning of September through the end of April. The award is \$1000 per month.

Teaching Assistantships are competitive and are awarded to those of outstanding artistic and academic ability. For the 2004-2005 academic year, Teaching Assistants are needed in the following areas: 2-D; 3-D; design; photography; conservation; and art history.

To apply, please send the following: a letter in which you specifically indicate the areas at SACI in which you would be able to work as a TA and why you'd like to work at SACI as a TA; your curriculum vitae; transcripts from all colleges and universities attended; and one recommendation from someone with whom you have been working during the past year.

Also include one of the following, depending upon your area of specialization: a portfolio of 20 images of your work in slide or CD format (studio art applicants); an essay written by you on an art-historical topic (art history applicants); an essay written by you on a conservation topic and a portfolio of slides of works restored by you (conservation applicants).

Application deadline: May 1, 2004

The application to be a Teaching Assistant should be mailed directly to SACI in Florence to: Dean David Davidson, Studio Art Centers International, Palazzo dei Cartelloni, Via Sant'Antonino 11, 50123 Florence, Italy.

Historiador in Cuba that retouching work has been completed on *St. Peter Curing the Lame*, the painting Roberta and Alessandro helped to restore during their SACI-sponsored visits to Cuba in April 2000 and May 2003. The painting now hangs in the Basilica Menor del Convento de San Francisco de Asis in Havana.

SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** was awarded a month-long artist's residency at Florence's German Cultural Institute in the Villa Romana. He worked in a studio there



SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff**, *Wednesday Nights at Poe Park*, mixed medium, 160cm x 180cm.

throughout September, and a solo exhibition of paintings, drawings, and prints completed during his residency, entitled "Trenta Giorni a Villa Romana" ("Thirty Days at Villa Romana"), was held at the villa in October. This exhibition was followed by a solo exhibition of Jules's artwork entitled "NATALEXMAS 2003," which opened in December at Florence's Giubbe Rosse, the famous historic literary and artistic *caffè* in Piazza Repubblica where Futurist writers and painters gathered and exchanged ideas. Alumni and other friends can keep in touch with Jules by e-mailing him at: julmar@dada.it

"Piccolo Trattato di zoologia immaginaria" ("A Small Imaginary Zoology Treatise") was the title

of an exhibition held this fall at the Ospedale Pediatrico Meyer in Florence of animal illustrations by SACI illustration instructor **Daniele Nannini**. The works were culled from those Daniele created for the many children's books he has illustrated during his award-winning career.

SACI painting instructor and graduate studies area head **Lorenzo Pezzatini** has been at the center of a whirlwind of artistic activity. In September, Lorenzo helped to launch the 2003 Miniartextil Exhibition in Como with an "Artist-in-Presence" performance piece in which he produced Filo throughout the entire inauguration day. Later that month, he travelled to the Palazzo Gallio in Gravedona, where he offered a slide presentation and lecture on his work entitled "Un Filo di Speranza" ("A Thread of Hope"). From October 20-26, Lorenzo literally lit up the conference in Florence of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO) through a series of performance pieces entitled "Il Ciclista Illuminato a Corte" ("The Illuminated Court Cyclist"). Each day, Lorenzo produced Filo in the main hall of the Grand Hotel, where the YPO participants held their meetings, and during the week twelve extem-

poraneous performances involving Filo, in which Lorenzo was assisted by six SACI students, occurred throughout Florence. The final performance was held in the courtyard of Palazzo Pitti, and consisted of Lorenzo, surrounded by twelve books, six of which were painted and sketched by SACI students, pedalling a stationary bicycle that generated light onto a large fiberglass "Filosculpture" hoisted above Lorenzo's head.

A solo exhibition of paintings by former SACI painting and graduate studies instructor **Chris Ryan** was held in October at the Frohring Art Center of Hiram College in Ohio, where Chris is Assistant Professor of Art.



SACI painting instructor and graduate area head **Lorenzo Pezzatini** performing *The Illuminated Court Cyclist* at Florence's Palazzo Pitti.

SACI video instructor **Bruno Spinazzola** created the videos and graphics for a major multimedia exhibition that opened in September at the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. Entitled "Firenze la Città Nuova" ("Florence, the New City"), the exhibition highlighted new urban design projects that, while recognizing Florence's rich architectural heritage, aim to transform Florence into a thoroughly modern city.

SACI welcomes new staff members **Chiara Toller**, Student Affairs Coordinator in Florence, and **Alison Yeager**, Program Coordinator in the USA. Chiara received a dottoressa in foreign language and literature (English and Japanese) from the Università degli Studi di Firenze. After graduating, she worked for three years at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and for an additional three years at Milligan & Milligan Real Estate Agency in Florence. Alison earned a bachelor's degree in music from Ithaca College. While an undergraduate, she studied for a semester at the Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione in Milan. Following her graduation, she worked for several months in Bologna.

Alumni News

Congratulations to the SACI alums who exhibited work in the Boston Alumni Art Show held on August 16, 2003 at the Dante Alighieri Society in Cambridge, Massachusetts! Participants included **Alecia Augspurg** (Fall 1998), formerly **Alecia Martin**, **Justin Augspurg** (Fall 1998), **Jennifer Benn** (Fall 1988), **Lynette Ingram** (Spring 1999), **Henry Kaufman** (Fall 1986), **Katherine Miller** (Late Spring 1992), and **Elissa Von Letkemann** (Spring 1993), who organized the show and designed the exhibition notice.



Left to right: **Katherine Miller**, **Lynette Ingram**, **Justin Augspurg**, **Alecia Augspurg**, and **Elissa Von Letkemann** at the opening of the Boston SACI Alumni Art Show.

Actor **Nick Basta** (Spring 1992) and his wife, Joanna Miles-Basta, have recently moved to New York City's Upper West Side. In 2003, Nick received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard University through its joint program with the Moscow Art Theatre. Nick and Joanna will be performing in an upcoming production of *Macbeth* that will be directed by Alexandre Marine. More about Nick and his forthcoming projects can be found at: www.nickbasta.com

Sculptures by **Michael Bennett** (Post-Bac 2002-2003) were featured in the October grand opening of the Resaca Gallery in Chicago.

John Bishop (Summer 1998), who received a Robert P. Beckinsale scholarship which enabled him to attend SACI, is living in the village of Welford on Avon in England. In addition to painting with watercolors, oils, and acrylics, John has begun to experiment with computer graphics. He has also written nearly 4000 poems. In October 2001, John appeared as a featured guest on Carl Chinn's BBC WM radio program. John's web site, which features his paintings, graphic designs, photographs, and poetry, is located at: www.bishshat.co.uk

After receiving a Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale University, **Gideon Bok** (Summer 1989) began teaching painting at Hampshire College in Massachusetts, where he is currently Assistant Professor of Art. He is represented by Alpha Gallery in Boston, where in April 2003 he held a solo exhibition, and Plane Space in New York City.

Martha Coles (Spring 1992), formerly Martha Williams, recently opened Tuscanino Bed & Breakfast/Spa & Studio in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Tuscan in theme, the B&B features an art gallery and was inspired by Martha's experience in Florence while at SACI. Martha can be reached at: tuscanino@aol.com

In October 2002, four paintings by **Jessica Falango** (Fall 1995) were featured in an emerging artists and designers exhibition at the Eickholt Gallery in New York City. Jessica lives in Astoria, New York and works as a designer at Grey Interactive. Her artwork can be viewed at: www.falango.com

A mammoth sculpture entitled "Royal Pine Tree" by **Rosemarie Fiore** (Spring 1993) was featured from May to August, 2003 at Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City, New York. A 28-foot telephone pole served as the tree's trunk, and 5,500 Royal Pine car fresheners, attached to rebar tree limbs, provided plenty of leafy green foliage.

In September 2003, **Eowynn Kerr** (Two-Year Diploma

1994-1996) and **Matthew Skopek** (Post-Bac 1998-1999), both members of the 31st graduating class of the Art Conservation Department at Buffalo State College in New York, gave slide presentations at Buffalo State's Rockwell Auditorium on their work as conservators. Eowynn recently was an Intern in Paintings Conservation at North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh and Matthew was an Intern in Paintings Conservation at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. In November 2003, Eowynn returned to SACI to assist this academic year with thesis advisement of Conservation Post-Bacs and Two-Year Diploma students.

Ohio Regional SACI Alumni Representative **Andrea Lindner** (Fall 1999), formerly Andrea Grudosky, reports that on August 2nd SACI Ohio area alums visited the annual Gallery Hop on the Short North in Columbus, Ohio. Andrea, who organized the trip, writes that "the Short North is full of galleries, coffee houses, restaurants, and unique shops. Every first Saturday of the month, shops and galleries stay open late and the street livens up with the sounds of music and crowds of people." Those interested in participating in SACI alumni activities in the Ohio region are welcome to contact Andrea at: shingifire94@yahoo.com

In 2002, **Catherine ("Buzz") Masters** (Fall 1978) was awarded a Robert M. MacNamara grant for her artwork. Buzz and her husband recently opened a gallery in Deer Isle, Maine where her work is frequently on display. Buzz has held solo exhibitions at Élan Fine Arts in Rockland, Maine and participated in group exhibitions in Philadelphia and New Mexico. This spring she will undertake a five-week residency at the MacNamara Foundation Colony.



Rosemarie Fiore, *Royal Pine Tree*, 5,500 Royal Pine car fresheners, rebar, telephone pole, 28 feet x 7 feet x 7 feet, Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, New York.

Cecile Molina (Post-Bac 1998-1999) has organized and coordinated the Annual Sculpture Exhibition

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



Gabrielle Schaffner,
ceramic pitcher,
Boston, Massachusetts

of the Escuela de Artes Plasticas in San Juan, Puerto Rico which opened in December 2003. Since earning a Masters degree in Ceramics three years ago from the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff, England, Cecile has been teaching at the Escuela de Artes Plasticas. In 2003, Cecile participated in group exhibitions in Santo Domingo, Mayaguez, and San Juan. The second solo exhibition of her work, entitled "Ciclos Oseos," was held in October 2003 at Pamil Fine Art Gallery in San Juan. Cecile's ceramic sculptures can be viewed at: www.pamil.com

"Basic Instincts," a solo exhibition of paintings by **Susan L.S. Morley** (Late Spring 1994), was held in July at the Maryland Institute College of Art, where Susan earned her Master of Fine Arts degree. In 2002, Susan was International Artist in Residence at Sanbao Ceramic Arts Center in Jingdezden, China and a Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar in Japan. For many years, she has taught art at the Berkshire School in Sheffield, Massachusetts.

Charlie Nicholas (Spring 1995, MFA 1998-1999) writes from Willemsted, where he is teaching art at the American School, "I'm just about as happy as I can be down here on the little island of Curacao, capital of the Netherlands Antilles." The program Charlie helped develop includes courses in drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, and 3-D design. "Two of my seniors have gone on to Parsons School of Design and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City," writes Charlie, "and hopefully one will go on this year to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago." Charlie cites "the opportunity to study internationally at SACI" as the key factor in his becoming an international educator.

Danielle Oteri (Post-Bac 2001-2002) is currently completing her Master of Arts degree in Art History at Hunter College in New York City. Inspired by her travels to Naples while at SACI, Danielle wrote a paper while here on Neapolitan

humanism and the Aragonese Arch in Naples. In April 2003, she presented an expanded version of this paper at a conference on Renaissance studies at Yale University.

Simone Paterson (Spring 1997) is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Newcastle and an instructor of Multimedia at TAFE, Hunter Institute of Technology in Newcastle, Australia. In 2003, while serving as visiting artist at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, Simone exhibited her artwork at Georgetown's Gallery 101 Walsh. The exhibition consisted of large-scale digital prints, an interactive CD-ROM, digital video, sound work, and fabric sculptures.

Embarking on a career as a physician in the United Kingdom is **Alice Roueche** (Summer 1998), who recently graduated from the medical school of King's College, London.

Gabrielle Schaffner (Fall 1984-Spring 1985) is living with her partner and their daughter Michela in the Fort Point section of Boston, which houses over 400 artists. "I produce a line of functional ceramics which is sold in stores across the US," she writes. "I am still inspired by my time at SACI and my many post-SACI trips to Italy. Although, with a five-year-old daughter, we don't travel as much as we once did!" Gabrielle can be reached at: gschaffner@rcn.com

"I am grateful for the year I spent in Italy with SACI that first introduced me to art conservation," writes **Amber Meier Tarnowski** (Fall 1993-Spring 1994). Amber has just completed a Master of Art Conservation degree from Queen's University in Canada and is now a Samuel H. Kress Foundation Research Fellow at Harvard University. She is working with microbiologists at Harvard to apply techniques and theories used in microbiology to explore problems and issues in art and heritage conservation. Amber's e-mail address is: ambertarnowski@yahoo.com

In September 2003, Ethiopian artist **Elias Tassew** (Spring 2002), who was a recipient of a full-tuition SACI scholarship aimed at supporting talented art students from developing nations, held a solo exhibition of his sculptures at Platform 3000 in Florence.

A solo exhibition of paintings by **Linda Wallgren** (Spring 1995-Fall 1995), entitled "The Phoenix Series and Other Work," was held in October at San Francisco's Pier 70 Noonan Building. In a review of paintings exhibited by Linda in 1996 at the d.p. Fong Galleries in San Jose, critic Ann Elliott Sherman pointed out that Linda "made the most of her year's residency in Florence, Italy" and noted that Linda "paints retro-Renaissance oils like a woman possessed." The daring can reach Linda at: llwallgren@sbcglobal.net

One of the first students to study at SACI, **Stephen Ware** (Fall 1975) is the owner of Ware Designs in Lafayette, California. He's run this jewelry design and remodeling business since 1977. Friends of Stephen—and those whose jewelry is in need of repair—can contact him at: Stephen@waredesigns.com

After completing a Master of Fine Arts degree in 2003 at Byam Shaw School of Art in London, England, **Fredrik Weerasinghe** (Spring 1992) has moved back to Malmö, Sweden, where he was raised. His artwork is featured at: www.f-weera.com

A recent visitor to SACI in Florence was **Tracey Winn Pruzan** (Spring 1984). A resident of New York City, Tracey is married, has two children, and works as an interior designer at Cullman & Kravis. Of her SACI days, she writes, "Florence was great. Jules was a great teacher, very inspirational." She'd especially like to hear from her SACI roommates—Jackie, Sarah, and Karen—and can be reached at: Pruz24@verizon.net



N E W S L E T T E R

Letter to Alumni from SACI Founder Jules Maidoff

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INTERNATIONAL

SACI is a program administered through the Institute of International Education

Dear SACI alum,

SACI will be celebrating its 30th year in 2006, and I hope you will be part of our "remembering" process. It may seem early to be talking about an event two and a half years away, but the proposals that follow will need time to be achieved successfully. I know many of you who were at SACI prior to 1997—and certainly almost all of you from the first fifteen years—and I look forward to the possibility of seeing many of you at the anniversary. SACI has become a major institution with its own beautiful palazzo in the center of Florence—the Palazzo dei Cartelloni. Those of you from the early years will be amazed and, I trust, delighted to see how far the promise of those first years has been fulfilled. This success and recognition is to a great degree based on the performance of our alumni who helped make SACI known through their own success and professional performance. Many of you have let others know that your time at SACI was an important component in your self-realization. As the "Founder/Director Emeritus," I have been asked to help involve alums and to inquire whether you wish to participate in the following proposals.

- a. Attend the Alumni Reunion in Florence (which will include fundraising events).
- b. Send your favorite photograph of Florence or Tuscany for an alumni "SACI Photos from Tuscany" exhibit.



SACI Founder and Director Emeritus **Jules Maidoff**

- c. Become part of the SACI 30th Alum Committee, which will help initiate and organize events.
- d. Participate in a "Tuscan Tour" fundraiser which will visit the various places you may recall plus others you always wanted to visit. This will be a mixture of access to unusual cultural sites as well as a visual and gastronomic experience for you and your family.
[All funds raised will be tax deductible.]

I hope you will get back to me soon with your own ideas and let me know more about you at the same time. I also hope that you have visited the SACI web site, are as pleased as I am about what SACI is today, and will let this note serve as a stimulus for you to be part of our future.

Very sincerely,
Jules
julmar@dada.it



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