



SACI®

Studio Art Centers International *Florence*

Newsletter 39 Fall 2008

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SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER AT SACI
PAINTED OPTICS SYMPOSIUM

DAVID HOCKNEY was a special guest speaker at a SACI symposium on *Painted Optics*, held in September in SACI's Palazzo dei Cartelloni and the Uffizi Gallery Library. For full story, see back page.

Photo above: British artist David Hockney stands by his oil painting 'Bigger Trees Near Warter' on April 7, 2008 in London, England. (Photo by Dan Kitwood/Getty Images)

Notes from SACI's President

It was a special pleasure for me to contribute one of the prefaces to *The Żejtun Painting: Shades of Caravaggio* (EDIFIR—Edizioni Firenze, 2008), a monograph on the painting *The Martyrdom of St. Catherine of Alexandria*. This artwork, formerly attributed to followers of Caravaggio, was restored at SACI over a two-year period by SACI conservation instructor **Dr. Roberta Lapucci** and her students and is now again on display in Malta's St. Gregory Żejtun Church. The publication, which is the initial volume in the *Florence-Malta: Cross References* series, was sponsored by SACI (the Caravaggio Foundation of Malta and SACI will sponsor alternating volumes in the series). It features articles by Roberta, SACI conservation instructor **Leonardo Borgioli**, 2007-2008 SACI conservation teaching assistant **Emily Derse**, SACI graduate student **Nicole Huter** (Post-Bac 2007-2008), and a number of other scholars, including **Dr. Tonio Fenech** and **Dr. Jovan Mizzi** of the Caravaggio Foundation and **Canon Joe Abela** and **Father Gino Gauci** of the diocese of Malta.

In July, I participated in a symposium in Dubrovnik, Croatia sponsored by the International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD). I served on a panel that discussed "Working with European Institutions: Profiles in International Partnerships." I am grateful to **Dr. Michael Stepiak** and ICFAD executive director **Dr. Elizabeth S. Cole** for inviting me to join this panel, which served as a platform for exploring how we can build relationships that will foster international arts education.

For the third year in a row, SACI was honored to receive an invitation from the Altavallesina-Grottefrasassi

Rotary Club to participate in the annual Mannucci Sculpture prize competition, which is held each spring in Arcevia to encourage the development of new artists. Three students were selected by SACI to exhibit their sculptures alongside those of students from art schools in Italy, Greece, and Albania: **Daniel Dallabrida** (Post-Bac 2007-2008), **John Wesley Todd** (Spring 2008), and **Jacquelyn Walther** (Spring 2008). At the opening of the exhibition, in Arcevia's Chiostro di San Francesco, which I attended accompanied by SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** and SACI Advisory Council member **Sergio Traquandi**, John Wesley Todd was awarded €1,000 for the best SACI sculpture. We note with sorrow the passing of **Giulio Residori**, who initiated SACI's participation in this competition.

In April, three recent SACI alums participated in *Art Clash*, a group exhibition of works by students from Florence's major art schools. The exhibition, which was curated by **Marsha Steinberg**, was held in the gallery of California State University in Florence. Artworks exhibited by SACI students included a photograph by **Brooks Dierdorff** (Fall 2006), a painting by **David Teichner** (Fall 2007-Spring 2008), and ceramic sculptures by **John Wesley Todd** (Spring 2008). David's painting was one of seven winning artworks that will be featured at an exhibition in Prato sponsored by the Pecci Contemporary Art Center and then become part of the permanent collection of the Accademia di Belle Arti di Florina in Greece.

A generous gift from long-time SACI donor **Dr. Peter Dayton** enabled seven SACI students, accompanied by

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SACI jewelry design instructor **Naomi Muirhead**, to travel to Ravenna in March to attend a day-long workshop on mosaic techniques offered specially for them by the renowned mosaicist **Enzo Scianna**.

SACI scholarships for Fall 2008 applicants included major awards to **Hadassa Goldvicht**, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design (BFA) and School of Visual Arts (MFA), who is the 2008-2009 recipient of the *Elizabeth A. Sackler Museum Educational Trust SACI Scholarship* of \$30,000, which enables a talented woman to attend SACI who would not otherwise have the opportunity to do so, and **Justin Reese**, a fine arts major at Columbus College of Art & Design, who received the Fall 2008 *SACI Consortium Scholarship*, which awards full tuition to a student selected from those nominated by SACI Consortium member institutions.

SACI's ONLUS sponsored a workshop for children aged 11 to 16, entitled "Six Adolescents in Search of an Author," which was conducted by SACI graduate area head **Lorenzo Pezzatini** with the assistance of **Valeria Nardi**. Meeting on four Saturday mornings in May, participants, who included three children with Down Syndrome, worked in groups and individually to create a series of colorful self-portraits. The workshop included a Sunday field trip to Ferrara, where the group explored the city and visited a Joan Miró exhibition at the Palazzo dei Diamanti. Participating in the workshop were **Axel Belig**, **Brando Baumgartl**, **Damiano Massai**, **Gianni Chavez**, **Giovanni Pezzatini**, and **Simone Lubrano**.

Congratulations to **Susan Curnutte** (Spring 2008), winner of SACI's first annual Clayton Hubbs Award! This \$250 prize will be offered each year to honor SACI students who, like the late SACI trustee emeritus **Dr. Clayton Hubbs**, made special efforts during their period abroad to connect with members of the community in which they were living. Susan worked as a volunteer tour guide at Florence's Santa Croce church and wrote a pamphlet for the Florentine charity Progetto Zambia.

In June, SACI hosted the first international **Adobe Systems/Intel** conference in Europe on education design and technology. 73 individuals from more than 40 institutions attended the conference, which met in SACI's Clayton Hubbs Lecture Hall and the adjacent SACI Garden. We were delighted at the conference's success in bringing together the most creative and



Jules Maidoff, *The Secular Annunciation*, oil on linen, 90 x 90 cm, 2003 (photo by Angelo Pontecorboli and Amalie R. Rothschild)

SACI founder and director emeritus **Jules Maidoff** held a one-person exhibition in Florence's Museo Marino Marini from September 12 to October 25. The retrospective, entitled *Arte come Totem (Art as Totem)*, featured 70 of Jules's artworks from the last 15 years. It was curated by the well-known art critic **Giuliano Serafini**, who wrote the text for the catalogue (published by Angelo Pontecorboli Editore, Firenze; obtainable by contacting info@pontecorboli.it).

SACI is grateful to **Dr. Cristina Acidini**, Soprintendente per il Polo Museale Fiorentino, and **Dr. Carlo Sisi**, Presidente del Consiglio Amministrativo del Museo Marino Marini, for their support and BNL BNP PARIBAS Group for a generous grant that helped to make this exhibition possible. SACI also wants to thank **Gabriella Sorelli** from the Marino Marini Museum, gallerist **Steven Music**, artist and publisher **Angelo Pontecorboli**, and SACI Artists Council member **Amalie R. Rothschild**. The exhibition was supported by the Region of Tuscany, the Province of Florence, and the Cultural Heritage Office of the Municipality of Florence.

influential minds in the European education community—from design, film and interactive media educators to Adobe and Intel executives and industry luminaries—are and are grateful to Adobe for its generous support of SACI's mission and programs.

Alumni News

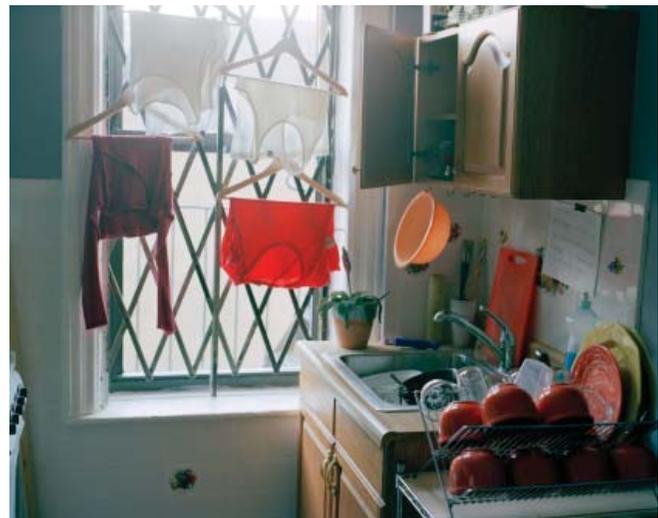
Photos by **Catherine Bauknight** (Summer 1998) have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone*, *People*, and numerous other newspapers and magazines. Formerly adjunct professor of photography at California State University, Fullerton and California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, Catherine resides in Pasadena, California and is currently a contract photographer for Zuma Press and Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Visual Artists Guild. She has completed a short documentary, *Hawaii—A Voice for Sovereignty*, which spotlights the struggle of indigenous Hawaiians to preserve their ancestral islands. For information about this film and Catherine's other projects, visit: www.catherinebauknight.com



Jean-Pierre Roy, *The Defeat of Anthropy*, oil on canvas, 57 x 81", 2007

"I learned new techniques for my career in my graphic design classes" at SACI, writes **Julia Lovallo** (Fall 2003), who currently lives in Hoboken, New Jersey and works as a graphic designer at New York University. She notes that, when interviewing for design positions, mention of her "Italian experience added something special to the process."

1937, a 44-minute film by **Nora Martirosyan** (Late Spring 2000), won the *prix son* in last year's International Documentary Film Festival of Marseille. The film explores how, in 1937 in Yerevan, the capital of then-Soviet Armenia, the happy childhood of Nora Dabagian, the filmmaker's grandmother, was shattered by her father's arrest during a Stalinist purge.



Margot Herster, *i didn't notice i wasn't alone (t-shirts)*, digital c-print, 2004

Leah Berglas (Summer-Fall 2006) has launched a career as a soul singer under the name of LOCA. She has recently co-written and recorded an enthusiastically received five-track demo, songs from which can be heard at: www.myspace.com/lealiemusik

After graduating from the University of Hartford, **Kristen Cavagnet** (Fall 2002) worked for two years as an edition printer at the Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She now lives in Venice, Italy, where she is an assistant at the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica. Last year, four of her prints were featured in an exhibition at the school's Sotoportego Gallery.

Photographer and installation artist **Margot Herster** (Late Spring 1998 and Fall 2001), who completed her MFA at the School of Visual Arts in 2006, is currently living in Brooklyn, NY. Her photographs have been featured in a solo exhibition at SCALO in New York City and in group exhibitions in Florence and throughout the USA. She recently organized *Through the Walls*, a photo-based initiative that portrays Guantánamo Bay detainees and their families. Her photos from this project were shown from June 2007 to February 2008 in a group exhibition entitled *Moving Walls* at the Open Society Institute in New York City.

Doretta Miller (Spring 1989), professor of art at Skidmore College, curated an exhibition entitled *Beijing Now: Oil Paintings by Twelve Chinese Artists* that ran in February at the First Street Gallery in New York City.

Anisa Romero (Spring 1990), lead singer of Sky Cries Mary, sends word that the Seattle-based rock group has released a new album on Hoodooh Records entitled *Small Town*. A painter as well as a vocalist, Anisa now resides in New York City. Her artwork can be viewed at: www.anisaromero.com

Landmarks, a one-person exhibition by **Jean-Pierre Roy** (Fall 1994), was held last fall at RARE Gallery in New York City. Art critic Casey Ruble wrote in the February edition of *Art in America* that the show “included five deftly executed mid- to large-scale paintings (all from 2007) featuring dramatically lit urban landscapes in devastating states of ruin.”



Julia Swanson, *Cherries on Blue Silk*, archival digital print, 8 x 12”, 2005

Boston-based freelance photographer **Julia Swanson** (Spring 1997) recently won Dom Perignon’s “A Bottle Named Desire” photo competition. Images of her winning photos can be seen on her website: www.juliaswansonphotography.com



Kathy Smith, still from the film *Slippages*, 2004 - present

Australian artist **Kathy Smith** (Fall 1987-Spring 1988) is currently Associate Professor at the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts and chair of USC’s John C. Hench Division of Animation & Digital Arts. Her films have screened at numerous international venues, including the Sundance Film Festival, the Hiroshima International Animation Festival, and the Ottawa International Animation Festival. Kathy and her colleagues have been collaborating with SACI on a joint venture that, beginning in Fall 2009, will enable students attending SACI to study animation with instructors from USC’s animation program.

Sara Zarrella (Fall 2001) graduated *magna cum laude* from Northeastern University and now lives in East Greenwich, Rhode Island where she runs her own photography studio. Her photographs have been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Florida Architecture*, and *Naples Magazine*. Her most recent work can be viewed at: www.sarazarrella.com

To All SACI Alumni

SACI alumni can access contact information for fellow alumni by logging on to the Alumni Directory on the SACI website — www.saci-florence.org — and inserting:

Username: **alumni** Password: **florence**

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

SACI Teaching Assistantships

SACI invites alumni to apply for Teaching Assistantships in the following areas: Photography, Conservation, and Art History. Completed applications must be received at SACI by **May 1**. For information about how to apply, see the Alumni section on the SACI website:

www.saci-florence.org

News of SACI Faculty, Staff, & Friends

Last winter, *Prospettive*, a one-person exhibition/installation by SACI graduate instructor **Margherita Abbozzo**, was showcased for three months at Galleria Campo as part of *ArteFiera Bologna*. A large photographic work by Margherita was bought by the Florence City Council and displayed in May at the opening ceremony of Florence's new Center for Arts and Crafts. In July, Margherita participated in the 13th *Biennale d'Arte Sacra* in Isola del Gran Sasso near Teramo. She is now preparing for an exhibition at D'A Spazio d'Arte Gallery in Empoli. For more about Margherita's recent work, see: www.margheritaabbozzo.com



Margherita Abbozzo, *At Janet's*, color photograph, 2007

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SACI is delighted to welcome to its faculty color photography instructor **Michele Borzoni**. After receiving a *laurea* from the University of Florence, Michele studied at the International Center of Photography in New York City and worked as an intern for Norwegian photographer Jonas Bendiksen. In 2007, Michele's series of photographs entitled *Srebrenica: Struggle for Justice* received first prize at the Yann Geffroy international photography competition in Milan. Photos by Michele have appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *Elle France*, *Der Spiegel*, *Panorama*, and numerous other publications. A picture he took of Naples during a trash collectors' strike last winter appeared on the February 25th cover of the international edition of *Newsweek*.

Textile manufacturer Cuccirelli & C. S.p.A. in Cassano Magnago, which holds regular exhibitions on its premises, opened its 2008 "Art Passages" season with *Life Frames*, a display of prints and a video by SACI 2D area head **Melania Lanzini** that ran from February to July.

Last winter, SACI music history instructor **Gian Luca Lastraioli** and his fellow musicians in the Capella di Santa Maria degli Angiolini ensemble released a recording of instrumental and vocal music by the late

Renaissance musician Enrico Radesca. The CD, which featured renditions of Radesca's *canzonette*, *madrigali*, and *arie alla romana*, was recorded in the Clayton Hubbs Lecture Hall at SACI's main building, the Palazzo dei Cartelloni. A generous grant from the International Music and Art Foundation (IMAF) provided funding for this recording. The release is part of a long-term project to preserve and promote music from the 16th and 17th centuries, a period from which many musical texts remain unedited and unpublished and are rarely performed or recorded.

A solo exhibition of recent paintings and drawings by SACI Artists Council member **Simonetta Moro** was held in May at the SACI Gallery. Later in the summer, artwork by faculty from two SACI Consortium schools—Western Michigan University and East Tennessee State University—was featured in separate group exhibitions at the SACI Gallery.

2007 was a banner year for SACI ceramics instructor **Lisa Nocentini**. It began with a two-person exhibition, entitled *Do Not Disturb*, with **Fiorenza Pancino** at *Artour*—in Florence's Grand Hotel Minerva and was followed by group shows in Florence's Istituto degli Innocenti (*Pater*), Milan's Fiera (*MiArt*), Pontassieve's La Barbagianna (*Padre/Padri*), Pietrasanta's Galleria Techne (*Reverie*), Capraia Fiorentina's Fornace Pasquinucci (*Toscana: tra terra e mare*), and San Gimignano's L'Albero Celeste Art Gallery (*SACI Faculty Exhibition*). To catch up with Lisa's latest activities, check out: www.lisanocentini.com



Michele Borzoni, *Swim Race in the Hudson River, New York*, chromogenic print, 2006



Lorenzo & Giovanni Pezzatini, TREMONTI_ottobre, mixed media on canvas on board, 120 cm Ø, 2007

On December 12, 2007 — 30 years to the day after **Lorenzo Pezzatini**, SACI graduate area head, presented in public for the first time his artwork/art concept *FILO*—SACI celebrated by

holding a commemorative

event in the SACI Gallery which showcased installations by Lorenzo and his son, **Giovanni Pezzatini**. Their collaboration, *TREMONTI*, consisted of three tables (each representing one month father and son worked together on the project), with round tops that had been painted in different *FILO* colors (blue, yellow, and red) and featured a colorful array of images from *FILO*'s past, present, and future.

From January 26 to February 9, seven young curators from the Museum of Rare Books and Manuscripts of the Library of Alexandria, Egypt participated in a training workshop at SACI conducted by SACI museology instructor **Maria Antonia Rinaldi**. The workshop, which was coordinated through the Italian Embassy in Cairo and made possible by a generous grant from UNESCO, featured guest lectures by SACI president **Mary Beckinsale** (on “Landscape Painting”); SACI conservation instructor **Dr. Roberta Lapucci** (on “Restoration of Works on Canvas and Paper”); Library of Alexandria Museographic Display Section head **Dr. Ahmed Moussa** (on “The ‘New’ Library of Alexandria: Past, Present and Future”); and Soprintendenza Speciale per il Polo Museale Fiorentino **Dr. Mario Scalini** (on “Islamic Art in Medici Collections”). The group met curators and received guided tours, in Florence, at the Uffizi, the History of Science Museum, the Palatine Gallery, the Bargello, the Biblioteca Comunale delle Oblate, the National Archives, the National Library, the Medicean Library, and the Stibbert Museum and, in Rome, at the Vatican Museums: Stanze of Raffaello, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter’s Cathedral.

“Introduction to Book Arts,” which focuses on the traditions and methods of handmade bookmaking and explores expressive possibilities in creating book works, has been added to SACI’s Fall and Spring term course offerings. Instructor **Patricia Silva**, who received a BFA in Art History/Studio Arts from Massachusetts College of Art and an MFA in Book Arts/Printmaking from University of the Arts in

Philadelphia, studied at the Centro del Bel Libro in Ascona, Switzerland and the Rare Book School of the University of Virginia. “Teaching in Italy allows me to impart a sense of history and tradition in the arts which often is lacking in modern societies,” says Pat. “At a time when the book is losing its dominant position as an information carrier, I wish to expose my students to the myriad of creative, aesthetic, and conceptual possibilities available in book arts.”

In March, paintings by SACI painting and drawing instructor **Karen Yurkovich** were featured in a one-person exhibition in the SACI Gallery. A resident of Perugia, Italy, Karen recently held two solo shows in her native Canada—one in Vancouver and the other in Edmonton. In August, her paintings were showcased in a solo exhibition at the Della Pina Artecontemporanea gallery in Pietrasanta. More on Karen’s accomplishments can be found at: www.karenyurkovich.com



Karen Yurkovich, Il Fegato Etrusco (The Etruscan Liver), oil on canapa (hemp), 200 x 120 cm, 2007

Summer Non-Credit Study at SACI

During the Summer term, it is possible to enroll at SACI as a non-credit student and take one class selected from SACI's courses in studio art, design, art conservation, art history, and Italian language. Non-credit students attend classes along with regularly-enrolled students and have full use of the SACI Worthington Library and computers for word processing, e-mailing, and Internet research. They can also attend SACI lectures, gallery openings, open drawing sessions, film nights, and Sunday field trips to sites throughout Tuscany. Participants can choose to attend from **July 2-July 19** or **July 2-August 1**. For more information about Summer Non-Credit Study at SACI, visit the Academics section on the SACI website:

www.saci-florence.org

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David Hockney Special Guest Speaker at SACI Painted Optics Symposium



David Hockney (photo by Philip Sayer)

A symposium organized by SACI on *Painted Optics*, which featured a special presentation by the renowned British painter **David Hockney**, was held in September at SACI's Palazzo dei Cartelloni and the library of Florence's Uffizi Gallery. On the symposium's first day, SACI president **Mary Beckinsale** gave a welcoming address and art historian **Dr. John T. Spike** spoke on "Caravaggio's Optical Realities." The next

day, David Hockney lectured on "Camera Manufacture and Its Relationship to Power"; also giving presentations that day were art historian **Dr. Susan Grundy** and SACI conservation instructor **Dr. Roberta Lapucci**. Their lectures were followed by a visit to the *I telescopi di Galileo* exhibition at Florence's Museum of the History of Science. On the symposium's final day, participants attended a morning forum at the Uffizi Library, moderated by Dr. Lapucci, which featured lectures by Museum of the History of Science deputy vice director **Dr. Filippo Camerota**, Dr. Grundy, physicist **Dr. Charles M. Falco** of the University of Arizona, and art diagnostician **Dr. Claudio Pernechele**. In the afternoon, Dr. Spike led a lively round table discussion on artists' use of optics, after which participants toured Galileo's home, the Villa il Gioiello. SACI is grateful to SACI board of trustees chair **Stephen Rosefield** for a generous donation in support of this very special event and to the Giorgio Ronchi Foundation for a grant that will make possible the publication of papers presented at the symposium.



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