Congratulations to Samantha Lowe for receiving the Desiree Mesolella Art Talent Award, Fall 2012. Students enrolled Fine Arts A.F.A./Art Concentration degree program are eligible for this award. Please check CCRI Department of Art website for the awards criteria.

After successfully transferring to the San Francisco Art Institute, Brian Pittman “an amazing student” states Professor Nancy Wyllie, earned his BFA in Painting. Brian studied under Prof. Wyllie’s tutelage, first at the Liston Campus, and then at the Knight Campus. Brian hopes to continue his studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

Prof. Maureen Kelman has been in contact with former student Diana Madriaga. Diana concluded her studies at CCRI in the spring of 2008. She then enrolled in the wood program at the School of American Crafts at Rochester Institute of Technology, where she earned her Bachelors of Fine Arts in 2009. She then earned a Master of Fine Arts in sculpture from California State University Los Angeles (CSULA).

Diana has established a studio space in downtown L.A. prior to graduating in the spring of 2012.

Desiree Mesolella Art Talent Award recipient, Samantha Lowe, accepts award from Donna Mesolella.

The purpose of the Desiree Mesolella Art Talent Award is to defray costs of any combination of tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment to students who are continuing their studies at CCRI in the area of visual arts. The Desiree Mesolella Art Scholarship was founded to honor the memory of Desiree Lee Mesolella.

Diana shared the following information, “I had the opportunity to teach beginning ceramics for CSULA for the last two years of my master’s program. Recently,
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one of my thesis sculptures was inducted into the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona, CA. I am currently working at the Thomas Solomon Gallery located in Chinatown, which allows me to network and be a part of the artistic community. I produce my personal work in the studio, but also commissioned sculptures, as well as pedestals and crating for galleries. My art practice continues to incorporate both wood and textiles and focuses on found and recycled materials. Moving forward, I hope to introduce a line of functional objects that incorporates wood and the natural dyed fiber process that I developed. “Congratulations to Diana from the CCRI art department: we wish you more success.

Art Department Students well represented in Film Festival

Prof. Wyllie was one of the jurors for first-ever CCRI Student Film Festival sponsored by the college’s New Media Group club. Prof. Nancy Wyllie had the pleasure of presenting ‘Best Experimental Film’ to Brent Henderson for his video short titled, “Edward Meets Charles.” This video short was created in Asst. Prof. Mark Hartshorn’s 4-D Design course with the “go motion” technique and then imported into After Effects for additional stylistic effects. The video paid homage to the genesis of the moving image by way of Eadweard Muybridge and built to a climatic ‘Darwinian’ finish that festival goers will long remember.

Pictured above Kyle Connolly, received an award for his video art short titled “BECOME” for Best Directing. Also pictured in this group shot is Video Art student Ryan Makin who won Best Cinematography for “THE SCORE.” Congratulations to all the participants.

Faculty News

Professor Maureen Kelman has been invited to present a lecture and a four-day workshop at the upcoming International Surface Design Association Conference in San Antonio, Texas, June 2013. Her lecture, “Textile Architectonics: An Interface of Skin and Skeleton”, is related in content and materials to her workshop topic: “Skins and Skeletons: 3-D Textile Constructions.” Kelman is currently exhibiting work in the traveling exhibition, “9 X 9 X 3: New Visions”, organized by the Textile Study Group of New York. The show is currently on view at the Holter Museum of Art in Helena, MT. Future venues include the Dubuque Museum of Art and the Textile Museum in Washington, DC.

Professor Kelman’s sculptural textile work is included in “Textiles: The Art of Mankind,” published and released fall 2012. Author, Mary Schoeser, is a leading authority in the field of textiles. The book is a Thames & Hudson publication. Congratulations!

Faculty Claudine Metrick expands upon the traditional notion of landscape to create imagined spaces in a solo exhibition titled, “Mystical Ground.” Collage, paint, and stitching collide to create rich topographies filled with billowing clouds and plumes of smoke. The works are
The Community College of Rhode Island Art department hosted the CCRI Ceramics Invitational, featuring an exhibition by DUWLVWVDWWKHQLJKW and a talk by two leaders in the field.

The college welcomed and listened to lectures by James Lawton, professor of art at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and previously of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Jay Lacouture, professor of art at Salve Regina University and a former member of the board of directors of the National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts. Lawton and Lacouture discussed their artwork development with students, faculty and members of the community. Other artists exhibiting were; Prof. Mazin Adam, Rachelle Adam, Monica Bock, Josephine Burr, Erica Cioe, John Fazzino, George Garcia, Chris Lee, Andrew Maglathlin, Nate Morrell, Prof. Tom Morrissey, Allison Randall (Faculty), Roseanne Sniderman (Faculty), David Swenson, Lawrence Timmins, Chris Tonsgard, Vicki Trafimova, John Vierbickas and Prof. Mark Zellers.

A special thank you to our wonderful support staff for their hard work! Leslie Florio (Technical Staff Assistant), Etsuko Foster (Clerical), and Eileen Namaka (Visual Resources Curator/Web Site Content Manager.)

Faculty News (continued)

psychological rather than physical landscapes filled with images of home, nighttime, and the heavens. The misty atmospheres shrouded in veils of paint and texture charge the paintings with an aura of magic. In Mystical Ground the works distill the energy of nature delivering its majesty, mystery, and force in raw material and color. The exhibition features medium format mixed-media paintings employing both traditional and non-traditional materials.

The Mystical Ground exhibition dates have been extended*, and there is a second AHA Night! which means the public can view the exhibit plus the rest of the museum for free.

This spring semester, adjunct faculty member Keith Fox has been teaching not only Introduction to Visual Arts at the Community College of Rhode Island, he has also been teaching courses at the Newport Art Museum and the South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department. This past January and February, he taught the following two painting classes at the Newport Art Museum: Abstract Painting inspired by Henri Matisse and Learning from Master Artist Vincent van Gogh. He is currently teaching drawing courses within the South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department, which are as follows: Drawing Luminosity and Innovative Textural Drawing. His students in the South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department include high school students from the Middlebridge School, which is a private boarding school located in Narragansett, Rhode Island.

Prof. Mary Benton will be participating in a group exhibit of former and active members of “19 on Paper” at the Newport Art Museum August 31-December 29th, 2013. The reception will be at the Newport Art Museum on September 27th from 5-7pm which is located at 76 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI.

Prof. Tom Morrissey had an exhibition at the AS220 Project Space, 93 Mathewson Street, Providence from March 2-30, 2013.

Faculty member Matthew Swarts photographs were featured on the Empty Stretch (http://emptystretch.com/2013/02/matthew-swarts/)
Christine Kazmer: “My artwork is comprised of a variety of different mediums. I strive to continually push my artistic abilities, creating limitless boundaries. I would describe my art as eclectic since I enjoy exploring all different styles.”

Chris Bouchard: “In my artwork, I attempt to blend my realistic drawing style with influences from pop culture, comics and science fiction.”

Anne Ofstie: “My main objective is to inspire, shock, and awe”

John Trainor: “My work has a poetic story telling quality. I invite the viewer to finish the stories that I have started, making them their own. I’ve shown my work throughout Rhode Island.”

Laura Cary: “My name is Laura Cary and my work varies from 3d, mixed media, ink wash and acrylic paint. What links my work together is an edgy, broken, and scattered theme throughout.”

Bradford Allard: “Several pieces inspired by nature and the dreams from a better tomorrow.”

Dan Rao: “I enjoy sculpting, painting, drawing, and photography. My inspiration comes from the natural environment and is the subject matter in most of my works.”

Brendon Boucher: “My work combines the basis of construction, as well as other various aspects of visual art formed together as one. Simple materials, ideas, and inspirations help to create a visual art process in my work.”

Somsanouk Louangvixa: “My car designs are inspired by what surrounds us from mentality to reality.”

Jose Suero Jr: “My artworks will consist of drawings made on 9” x 12” paper that will have the viewer feel intrigued when looking at my artworks, and also a feeling of curiosity as to why I made it.”

Flanagan Campus Art Gallery
Professor Yvonne Leonard exhibited drawings and prints including work in intaglio and relief. The work on display represented a variety of thematic interests exploring the relationship between natural and material culture. Prof. Leonard combined disparate subject matter depicting organic forms and existing or contrived structures.

GALLERY NIGHTS
CCRI Flanagan Fine Art Seminar Exhibition
April 24th – 30th
Opening night: Thursday, April 25th from 5:00pm – 7:00pm

SOFT AND SHARP, Fine Art Seminar closing reception: Friday May 3, 4 -7p.m.
Knight Campus Art Gallery, Room 3500

“The Fine Art Seminar Course is a vital part of the CCRI art program. During our sessions we learned important skills for preparing portfolios and mental preparation for transfer to four-year institutions and continued future careers. Portfolio creation was an important part of the learning process along with exploring our possible schools of transfer. Most of us had to break out of our shells in order to present our work to the class in a formal setting. We also learned the importance of research to inform our possibilities for the future. This class has been a positive experience and has given us the necessary skills to move on to the future. In Fine Art Seminar class we learned how to better manage our time. For the exhibit we had to meet the set deadlines and due dates to make sure everything was done on time for the gallery opening. We had to set time aside to work on a long-term project and manage our time effectively. Setting up the show was difficult. We had to form smaller groups to take care of certain parts of the show. This meant putting a lot of trust in others, which helped us learn how to work with others to achieve one goal as a final stepping-stone, which is the resulting exhibit. These acquired skills will continue to aid us, not just in our college development, but also in our future careers and endeavors.”