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Images and Interviews Available on Request

SAIC GRADUATE EXHIBITION OPENS FRIDAY, APRIL 27; PREVIEW RECEPTION FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 8:00–10:00 P.M.

Chicago, IL—One hundred and thirteen new artists hit the scene Friday evening, April 27. The MFA 2012 Graduate Exhibition is on view from April 28 to May 16 at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago’s Sullivan Galleries, 33 South State Street, 7th floor. This year’s guest curators are Steven L. Bridges (SAIC Dual MA 2009), grupa o.k. (Joanna Szupinska and Julian Myers), Pablo Helguera (SAIC BFA 1993), and Tumelo Mosaka.

For over a half-year the guest curators—coming from institutions as Chicago’s Museum of Contemporary Art; San Francisco’s California College of the Arts; Krannert Art Museum in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois; and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City—spent hours in SAIC’s graduate studios: seeing works, imagining outcomes, and advising on the presentation of those works. Fusing pedagogy with mentorship, they collaborated with 16 SAIC graduate curatorial fellows to develop this year’s exhibition and accompanying programs.

"Curatorial immersion and focus on artistic process is a priority in putting together the MFA Show," says SAIC Executive Director of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies Mary Jane Jacob. "And this depth of investment by students and curators is unparalleled by any other art school." A complete roster of participating artists and curatorial fellows is available on the Graduate Exhibition blog at blogs.saic.edu/gradexhibition2012. The blog takes you behind-the-scenes to the studios of the graduating artists and their insights along the way.

For the first time this year a host of unique programs and events activate the Graduate Exhibition throughout its run in the Sullivan Galleries. On Wednesday, May 2 at 4:15 p.m., Hamza Walker, SAIC faculty and Director of Education at the Renaissance Society, will lead a panel discussion on Chicago’s art scene today with Dieter Roelstraete, Manilow Senior Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art; Lisa Dorin, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art, Art Institute of Chicago; and Tempestt Hazel, Co-Founder, Sixty Inches From Center.

On Saturday, May 5 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. the artists and fellows, under guest curator Helguera, will stage “Game Night,” a special gallery event for families and art enthusiasts. This evening offers families and art enthusiasts a chance to be part of the works on view as they participate in interactive games, engagements, and performances by artists, with exhibition tours by the curatorial fellows. Other performances in the galleries will occur on a rotating basis during regular open hours.

This year also sees the launch of the student-produced MFA Review: The Experiential Issue. This online magazine will be filled with reviews, reflections, and creative writings inspired by this year’s show.
Exhibition hours are Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and admission is always free and open to the public. A free preview reception will be held Friday, April 27, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. For more information, please call 312.629.6635 or visit saic.edu/exhibitions.

About the Curators

**Steven L. Bridges** (Dual MA 2009) currently lives in Chicago, where he is Curatorial Assistant at the Museum of Contemporary Art. He also recently served as Editor of the exhibition magazine series *Exchange Radical Moments!,* a public art festival that culminated on 11.11.11 and that took place in 11 countries across Europe simultaneously. Prior to this, he worked as the Coordinator of Exhibitions and as a Teaching Artist at Marwen, a non-profit that provides visual arts education to underserved Chicago youth. In 2008 Bridges also joined the curatorial team for the exhibition *Intrude: Art & Life 366,* which presented a different artistic project each day in the public spaces of Shanghai, China for an entire year. He holds a dual master’s degree from SAIC in Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism and Arts Administration and Policy.

**grupa o.k.** is the collaborative endeavor of Joanna Szupinska and Julian Myers. Their practice includes editing, curating, writing, and research, with a focus on contemporary art, the history and future of exhibition making, and the forms and complexities of collective organization. Their current research addresses collectivist artistic activities in Poland after the fall of communism. Szupinska is the 2011–12 Marjorie Susman Curatorial Fellow at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. Myers is an art historian and Associate Professor at California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

**Pablo Helguera** is a New York-based artist working with installation, sculpture, photography, drawing, and performance, reflecting on issues of interpretation, dialogue, and the role of contemporary culture in a global reality. He is currently Director of Adult and Academic Programs at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Helguera’s work has been exhibited internationally, including at Museo Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid and MALBA, Buenos Aires. In 2008 he was awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 2011 named the winner of the International Award of Participatory Art of the Region Emilia-Romagna in Italy.

**Tumelo Mosaka** is the Curator of Contemporary Art at the Krannert Art Museum in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. Preceding this appointment, Mosaka was the Associate Curator of Exhibitions at the Brooklyn Museum, New York where he curated *Infinite Islands: Contemporary Caribbean Art and Passing/Posing: Kehinde Wiley.* Mosaka previously worked for Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina where he co-curated the exhibition *Evoking History* from 2000–02. He has organized several national and international exhibitions for other institutions such as the National Center for Afro-American Arts and the St. Louis Contemporary Art Museum.

**SAIC Graduate Curatorial Fellows**

Lise Haller Baggesen (MA 2013)
Ionit Behar (MA 2013)
Natalie Clark (MA 2012)
Sharmyn Cruz Rivera (MA 2013)
Robyn Farrell (MA 2013)
Mary Gallagher Warbelow (MA 2012)
Allison Glenn (Dual MA 2012)
Michaela Hansen (MDes 2012)
Ly Hoang Ly (MFA 2013)
Laura-Caroline Johnson (Dual MA 2012)
Ross Jordan (Dual MA 2013)
Mia Lopez (Dual MA 2013)
Elçin Marasli (MA 2013)
Ann Meisinger (Dual MA 2014)
Gan Kanji Uyeda (Dual MA 2014)
J. Gibran Villalobos (Dual MA 2013)

**Exhibition Programs**

**Ongoing Performances**
Saturday, April 28–Saturday, May 16
Sullivan Galleries, 33 S. State St., 7th floor
Admission is free
For more information, visit blogs.saic.edu/gradexhibition2012

**Panel Discussion: “Chicago is Having a Moment”**
Wednesday, May 2, 4:15-5:45 p.m.
Sullivan Galleries, 33 S. State St., 7th floor
Refreshments 3:45 p.m.; Panel commences at 4:15 p.m.
Inspired by fresh and exciting changes to the landscape of the Chicago art scene, we have gathered an intimate group of compelling voices for a dynamic and reflective conversation. Please join us for this dialogue about the panelists' goals and desires for the future.

Panelists: Lisa Dorin, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art, Art Institute of Chicago; Tempestt Hazel, Co-Founder, Sixty Inches From Center; and Dieter Roelstraete, Manilow Senior Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art

Moderator: Hamza Walker, Director of Education, Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago

**Game Night**
Saturday, May 5, 4:30–7:30 p.m.
Sullivan Galleries, 33 S. State St., 7th floor
Admission is free
An evening of interactive games, engagements, and performances by artists, with exhibition tours by the curatorial fellows. For more information, visit blogs.saic.edu/gradexhibition2012
MFA Review: The Experiential Issue
Open Call for Writing on the MFA Show
Ongoing
Electronic Submissions
What is the MFA show experience? Read student responses through artist interviews, exhibition reviews, program commentaries, Op-Ed columns, and other writing reflections on these experiences. For inquiries and submissions contact mfa.review@gmail.com.
To read postings and for more information, visit blogs.saic.edu/gradexhibition2012

Additional SAIC Graduate Level Year-End Programs

Impact: Graduate Performance Festival
April 28 & 29, 7:00 p.m.
SAIC Performance Space (280 S. Columbus Dr., room 012)
Graduate students completing their degrees in Performance at SAIC present their thesis works, which cross the borders of theater, movement, and the visual arts, and collectively present a vision of the next wave of performance art.

MA Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism Thesis Symposium
May 3 & 4, 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
The Art Institute of Chicago, Millennium Park Room, 111 S. Michigan Ave.
Twenty-two MA students receiving their degrees in Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism present papers based on their theses for 15 minutes each. Participating students include Alison Bovaird, Jennifer Breckner, Katherine Brown, Bridget Carron, Jennifer Eun, Allison Glenn, Marcelina Guerrero, Rebecca Hernandez, Laura Caroline Johnson, Brandi Kulakowski, Maura Lucking, Matthew Mullane, Destinee Oitzinger, Daniel Orendorff, Megan Owoc, Vipash Purichanont, Zohra Sakwall, Emily Scibilia, Rebecca Schlossberg, Natalie VanOverbeke, Morgan Walsh, Rachel Wolff, and Hanna Yoo.

MA Art Education and MA Teaching Graduate Symposium
May 9 & 10
Gene Siskel Film Center, Theater 2, 164 N. State St.
Wednesday, May 9, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 10, 12:00–4:00 p.m.

Film, Video, New Media, Animation, and Sound Festival
May 9–11, 4:30–10:00 p.m.
Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St.
Encounter the next generation of film, video, animation, and new media artists as SAIC students present their thesis projects in this festival of innovative live-action shorts, animation, feature-length narrative and nonfiction works, and experimental digital and audio pieces.

MA New Arts Journalism Graduate Thesis Presentations
Thursday May 10, 1:00–4:00 p.m.
Sullivan Galleries, 33 S. State St., 7th floor
Art Education Apprentice Teaching Video Screening And Graduation Reception
Thursday, May 10, 4:30–8:00 p.m.
Sullivan Galleries, 33 S. State St., 7th floor
Join us to celebrate the accomplishments of Art Education and Teaching students who have completed master's theses and apprentice teaching. The two-day event will feature guest speakers, a thesis symposium, and an evening reception. For more information please contact arted@saic.edu.

AIADO and Fashion Graduate Exhibition
June 9–July 21
Sullivan Galleries, 33 S. State St., 7th floor
Reception: Monday, June 11, 4:30–7:00 p.m.
Showcasing design from the Departments of Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects, and Fashion, this exhibition brings together thesis work by graduating students that explores recent innovations in material, technology, fashion, and form.

About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago
A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate programs to nearly 3,200 students from around the globe. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC has an educational philosophy built upon an interdisciplinary approach to art and design, giving students unparalleled opportunities to develop their creative and critical abilities, while working with renowned faculty who include many of the leading practitioners in their fields. SAIC's resources include the Art Institute of Chicago and its new Modern Wing; numerous special collections and programming venues provide students with exceptional exhibitions, screenings, lectures, and performances. For more information, please visit saic.edu