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SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO (SAIC) ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON OF VISITING ARTISTS PROGRAM

Leading public forum on the presentation and contemplation of contemporary art, design, and scholarship begins new season on Feb. 7

Diverse new season unites live musical performance and screenings with visual art, product design, literature, and horticulture

Chicago, IL—The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) is pleased to announce the newest guest speakers for its Visiting Artists Program (VAP), continuing a tradition formalized 60 years ago. All events are open to the public.

VAP hosts more than a dozen public presentations by artists and scholars each academic year through lectures, symposia, performances, and screenings. “This program is a cornerstone of Chicago’s visual arts community, and an invaluable resource for those interested in the art of our time,” notes Andrea Green, Director of the Visiting Artists Program. “The ideas of these internationally renowned artists and scholars are inspiring. VAP features some of the most compelling thinkers at work today—probing, provoking, and questioning the subjects at the core of the creative process and critical inquiry.”

The new season begins on February 7 with 2008 Guggenheim Fellow Sam Lipsyte and editor of The Anchor Book of New American Short Stories, writer Ben Marcus, then continues February 16 with sustainable design activist and SAIC alumna Emily Pilloton (MFA 2005) before welcoming influential artist Marilyn Minter on March 12. Brent Green presents a lecture and live musical performance on March 28, followed by curator of Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles, 1960–1980 Kellie Jones on April 5 and self-taught topiary sculptor Pearl Fryar on April 18. The season concludes April 24 with internationally renowned performance artist Tehching Hsieh. Information on each presenter is included below.

SAIC’s collaborative installation with Fall 2011 VAP presenter Wolfgang Laib has also just been extended through January 28 in SAIC’s Sullivan Galleries, 33 South State Street.

VAP Online
In addition to making their appearances open to the public, SAIC presents many Visiting Artists Program lectures as audio podcasts online at saic.edu/vap. Recent presenters include Richard Sennett, Martha Wilson, Bill Fontana, and Wolfgang Laib. Join the conversation by following VAP on Facebook or by signing-up for their eNewsletter.
Admission
Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and lectures begin promptly at 6:00 p.m.
All lectures are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted (see Brent Green screenings March 29 and 31). Reservations for groups of 10 or more must be made two weeks prior to the lecture. Otherwise, seating is on a first come, first served basis.

Sam Lipsyte and Ben Marcus
SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Tuesday, February 7, 6:00 p.m.

Ben Marcus is the author of four books of fiction: Notable American Women, The Father Costume, The Age of Wire and String, and The Flame Alphabet, and he is the editor of The Anchor Book of New American Short Stories. His stories have appeared in The New Yorker, Harper’s, The Paris Review and McSweeney’s. Presented in collaboration with SAIC’s Writing Department. Provided by the MCA store, books by both authors will be available for purchase (credit cards only).

Emily Pilloton
Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series
SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Thursday, February 16, 6:00 p.m.
SAIC alumna Emily Pilloton (MFA 2005) founded the nonprofit design firm Project H to use creative capital to improve communities and public education from the inside out. Trained in architecture (University of California, Berkeley) and product design (SAIC), Pilloton believes in design as an honest process of building and activism that benefits communities by engaging them in public education experiences. She spends most of her days in a woodshop with high school students in Bertie County, North Carolina as part of Studio H, a one-year design/build/community program that teaches design thinking and vocational construction skills within the public school system. Pilloton is the author of Design Revolution: 100 Products that Empower People, and has spoken worldwide, from the TED conference stage to the Colbert Report. Presented in collaboration with SAIC Alumni Relations.

Marilyn Minter
The Art Institute of Chicago, Rubloff Auditorium, 230 S. Columbus Dr.
Monday, March 12, 6:00 p.m.
Marilyn Minter’s paintings, videos, and photographs explore humanity’s search for pleasure by depicting lushly rendered high heels, mouths, or babies. Her recent work, created by placing a pane of glass between herself and her subject becomes splattered with glistening paint, infusing her hyper-realistically rendered work with oozing abstraction. Her solo exhibitions include Salon 94, New
York: San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Center for Contemporary Art, Cincinnati, OH; La Conservera Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Ceutí/Murcia, Spain; Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, OH; and the Deichtorhallen in Hamburg, Germany and the Venice Biennale, both in 2011. Her video Green Pink Caviar was exhibited in the lobby of MoMA for more than a year, and shown on digital billboards on Sunset Boulevard in LA, and the Creative Time MTV billboard in Times Square, New York.

**Brent Green**
Lecture and Live Musical Performance
The Art Institute of Chicago, Rubloff Auditorium, 230 S. Columbus Dr.
Wednesday, March 28, 6:00 p.m.

Screening: Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then
Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State Street
Thursday, March 29, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 31, 12:30 p.m.
$10 general admission, $7 students, $5 Film Center members, $4 SAIC faculty, Free for SAIC students

Brent Green is a visual artist, filmmaker, and storyteller. His rickety, folk/punk style has taken many forms, beginning with hand-drawn animated shorts, moving to three-dimensional wooden stop motion characters and, most recently, to pixilation of humans. A true outsider artist, Green sees the potential in all materials and molds them with a sense of urgency and wonder that permeates throughout his work. He will present his films live, via his signature narrative style, accompanied by musicians Joe Adamik (Califone, Iron & Wine), Jim Becker (Califone, Iron & Wine, The Paulina Hollers), Donna K (sound designer for Gravity), and Mike McGinley (Califone, The Bitter Tears). Green’s films have screened at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, The Getty, Walker Art Center, Rotterdam Film Festival, and the Sundance Film Festival. His latest EMPAC-commissioned work, Too Many Men Strange Fates Are Given, will premier at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. Presented in collaboration with the Department of Film, Video, New Media, and Animation’s Conversations at the Edge series.

**Kellie Jones**
*EyeMinded: the lives of a curator*
SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Thursday, April 5, 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Kellie Jones is Associate Professor in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University. Her research interests include African American and African Diaspora artists, Latino/a and Latin American artists, and issues in contemporary art and museum theory. She was the inaugural recipient of the David C. Driskell Award in African American Art and Art History from the High Museum of Art in 2005, and was named an Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellow in 2008. Dr. Jones’s writings have appeared in *Artforum, Flash Art*, and *Third Text*. Her book *EyeMinded: Living and Writing Contemporary Art* was named one of the top art books of 2011 by *Publishers Weekly*. She has also worked as a curator with more than 25 major national and international exhibitions to her credit, including *Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles, 1960–1980*, for the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. Book signing to follow; provided by the MCA Store,
EyeMinded: Living and Writing Contemporary Art will be available for purchase (credit cards only).

Pearl Fryar  
SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.  
Wednesday, April 18, 6:00 p.m.

Pearl Fryar is a sculptor who uses live plant material to create original, elegantly abstract forms of topiary. Self-taught, he takes risks which are outside the normal bounds of horticulture, and has been said to “tame trees” through the development of his unique techniques. Much of the plants in his garden were cast-offs, nurtured by Fryar into incredibly expressive topiary sculptures. He looks for the potential in each plant and encourages the growth and creativity within, reflecting his desire to inspire people, particularly youth, to find their own potential. Born in 1939 in rural North Carolina, Fryar came of age in the racially segregated South. After college, military duty, and working for 36 years at a soda can factory, his garden has brought him the most satisfaction. It is a Preservation Project of the Garden Conservancy, a national not-for-profit that preserves exceptional American gardens. Supported in part by SAIC’s Roger Brown Study Collection and Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art.

Tehching Hsieh  
The Art Institute of Chicago, Rubloff Auditorium, 230 S. Columbus Dr.  
Tuesday, April 24, 6:00 p.m.

Born in Taiwan in 1950, Tehching Hsieh began work on his iconic series of One Year Performances starting in the late 1970s. Using long durations, making art and life simultaneous, Hsieh spent one year locked in a cage, one year punching a time clock every hour, one year completely outdoors, and one year tied to another person. For his final performance piece, Thirteen Year Plan, Hsieh intentionally retreated from the art world between 1986–99, setting a tone of sustained invisibility. Since 2000, having been released from the restriction of not showing his work during the 13-year period, Hsieh has exhibited and lectured in North and South America, Asia, and Europe, including major exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. In 2010 Hsieh was included in the Liverpool Biennial in the United Kingdom and the Gwangju Biennial in South Korea.

ABOUT THE VISITING ARTISTS PROGRAM
The primary mission of the Visiting Artists Program is to educate and foster a greater understanding and appreciation of contemporary art through discourse. Founded in 1868 and formalized in 1951 with the establishment of an endowed fund by Flora Mayer Witkowsky, the Visiting Artists Program is one of the oldest public programs of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In addition to public presentations by artists, designers, and scholars, VAP arranges studio critiques, round table discussions, and workshops for SAIC students, providing them with direct access to world-renowned speakers working across disciplines.

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 that is 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.

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