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SAIC MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM EARNS MAJOR ACCREDITATION

Chicago, IL—The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) has conferred its initial 3-year term of accreditation to the **School of the Art Institute of Chicago's** (SAIC) Master of Architecture degree. Master of Architecture graduates in four tracks organized by SAIC's **Department of Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects** (AIADO) are now eligible to apply for professional licensure.

SAIC's master's degree becomes one of just five [accredited by NAAB](#) among all those granted by the 41 members of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design ([AICAD](#)). Joining programs at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Illinois Institute of Technology, SAIC is the third school in the city to offer the accredited degree.

SAIC President **Walter E. Massey** stated, "We are tremendously proud of SAIC's curriculum in architecture. Our program stands as a vigorous, contemporary model for inquiry into built environments, and this accreditation is an endorsement of the excellent work by our faculty, staff, and students."

"This initial accreditation is a testament to the hard work and creativity of our students as well as the dedication and professionalism of the AIADO faculty," notes **Douglas Pancoast**, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Programs in Architecture and Interior Architecture. "Though design education has been a part of SAIC's mission since its inception, the accreditation of the MArch program is a milestone for the AIADO department, SAIC, and the city of Chicago—enriching them all. With this accreditation decision, the AIADO faculty is excited to transition the MArch program from outset to fully operating platform. It's only the beginning."

[NAAB](#) is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degrees in architecture. Accreditation involves an extensive review of a program's curriculum and student work over the course of several years, with period site visits from an accreditation team. SAIC's visiting NAAB review team commended the program's dedication to the development of critical professional practices. It acknowledged SAIC's interdisciplinary educational community as a provocative and effective context for exploring the social and cultural implications of material and technological creative work.

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago offers a single NAAB -accredited professional architecture program with the following four well-differentiated tracks:

- Master of Architecture (102 credits; requirement: non-professional degree)
 - Master of Architecture – Option II (60 credits; requirement: pre-professional degree)
 - Master of Architecture with an Emphasis in Interior Architecture (102 credits; requirement: non-professional degree)
 - Master of Architecture with an Emphasis in Interior Architecture – Option II (60 credits; requirement: pre-professional degree)
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Recent Faculty Accomplishments at SAIC

SAIC Associate Professor **Tim Parsons** (AIADO) presented *Adhocism*, a two-week installation at Chicago's **Museum of Contemporary Art**, July 19–24. Created with his wife Jessica Charlesworth to explore the activity of solving problems using materials at hand, the show was part of *We Are Here—Art & Design Out of Context*, a month-long series curated by MCA Design Director James Goggin. The title referred to the eponymous 1972 book by Charles Jencks and Nathan Silver.

The Unstable Object, a film by **Daniel Eisenberg** (Film, Video, New Media, and Animation) that had its world premiere last month, has received the **International Georges de Beauregard Prize**. The award is one of two prizes granted to films in the International Competition at **FIDMarseille**, the International Festival of Documentary Film, Marseille.

Nadav Assor (Art and Technology Studies, MFA 2010) is one of 10 recipients of the Israeli Ministry of Culture's 2011 **Emerging Artist Awards** for artists under the age of 35. The award includes a monetary prize and a 2012 show at one of Israel's leading museums of contemporary art, the **Petah Tikva Museum**.

Mary Jane Jacob (Sculpture) participated in the panel discussion "A Review of Critical Pedagogy: Contemporary Art and Museums, contexts and possibilities" at the second **International Museum Education Institute** at the **Museum of Modern Art, New York**, on July 21. Jacob addressed participatory practices in public art at the two-day event, which explored the legacies of the pedagogical theories of Paulo Freire and Augusto Boal as present in artistic practices and museum education in Brazil and the United States since the 1960s.

On the July 18 presentation of WTTW's *Chicago Tonight*, host Phil Ponce interviewed SAIC faculty member **Laurie Palmer** (Sculpture) and alumnus **Abraham Richie** (MA 2011) on the recent installation of "Forever Marilyn"—a 26-foot tall statue of Marilyn Monroe unveiled July 15 on Michigan Avenue's Pioneer Court—and subsequent attention in the local press regarding its merit. While much debate regarding the piece has focused on its suggestive nature, Palmer argues that the real issue is that the piece, which is technically on private property, is being viewed as public art. "It's more interesting to me in its questions of public and private space," said Palmer, "and the blurring of those boundaries." The video segment, titled "Forever Marilyn," is archived [online](#).

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 www.saic.edu

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