



Communications

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

*Seven new lecturers examine art and the humanities through lenses of post-colonialism, masculinity, feminism, politics, and biology*

Chicago, IL—The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) is pleased to announce the newest guest presenters for its **Visiting Artists Program (VAP)**, continuing a tradition formalized nearly 60 years ago. Six of its eight presentations this fall are free; all are open to the public.

VAP hosts more than a dozen public presentations by artists and scholars each year in 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 September 8 with Harvard Professor and post-colonial theorist **Homi K. Bhabha**, then continues with the New York-based artist collective **Type A** on September 26, and welcomes world-renowned sound art pioneer **Bill Fontana**—this fall's William and Stephanie Sick Distinguished Professor—on October 5. Visual artist **Wolfgang Laib** discusses his work with SAIC's Mary Jane Jacob and Nora Taylor on October 17, followed by art historian and Distinguished Alumni lecturer **Jenni Sorkin** (BFA 1999) on November 2 and New Delhi-based filmmaker **Amar Kanwar** on November 16 & 17. The season concludes December 6 with a lecture from the BioCouture Research Project Director **Suzanne Lee**. Information on each presenter is included below.

**Admission**

Lectures begin at 6 p.m.

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.

FREE and open to the public, except

September 8 (Homi K. Bhabha):

Free with museum admission

Free for SAIC students, faculty, and staff with a valid ID

The Art Institute of Chicago, Fullerton Hall, 111 S. Michigan Ave.

November 17 (Amar Kanwar):  
\$11 general admission, \$7 students, \$6 Gene Siskel Film Center members, \$4 SAIC faculty, FREE for SAIC students  
SAIC's Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N State St.

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September 8: Homi K. Bhabha  
September 26: Type A  
October 5: Bill Fontana  
October 17: Wolfgang Laib  
November 2: Jenni Sorkin  
November 16: Amar Kanwar  
December 6: Suzanne Lee

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### **VAP Online**

In addition to making their appearances open to the public, SAIC presents many Visiting Artists Program lectures as audio podcasts online at [www.saic.edu/vap](http://www.saic.edu/vap). Recent presenters include Wangechi Mutu, José Muñoz, Harry Pearce, Richard Sennett, and Martha Wilson. Join the conversation by following VAP on Facebook or by signing-up for their [eNewsletter](#).

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### **Homi K. Bhabha: Culture and Security**

The Art Institute of Chicago, Fullerton Hall, 111 S. Michigan Ave.  
Thursday, September 8, 6:00 p.m.  
Free with museum admission  
Free for SAIC students, faculty, and staff with a valid ID

Homi K. Bhabha is the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities in the Department of English, director of the Mahindra Humanities Center, and senior advisor on the humanities to the President and Provost at Harvard University. He is the author of numerous works exploring postcolonial theory, cultural change and power, and cosmopolitanism, among other themes, including *Nation and Narration* and *The Location of Culture*. This lecture will explore the thin line that lies between barbarism and civility, examining the aesthetic and political technologies that attempt to provide security and solidarity while activating the anxiety and excitation of abandonment and annihilation. *Presented in collaboration with SAIC's Department of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies and the Art Institute of Chicago.*

### **Type A**

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.  
Monday, September 26, 6:00 p.m.  
Free admission

Type A is a collaboration between Adam Ames and Andrew Bordwin. Working together since 1998, Type A creates videos, video installations, photography,

sculptures, and drawings that deal with issues of masculinity, territory, competition, and collaboration in contemporary society. Type A explores the ways in which men compete, challenge, and play, and the resulting social and psychological imbalances, in works ranging from psychologically disarming to profoundly absurd. Type A has exhibited extensively including at the Indianapolis Museum of Art; Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Saratoga Springs, NY; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; List Visual Arts Center at MIT, Cambridge, MA; Centrum Beeldende Kunst, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Centro de la Imagen, Mexico City.

**Bill Fontana: William and Stephanie Sick Distinguished Professor**

The Art Institute of Chicago, Fullerton Hall, 111 S. Michigan Ave.

Wednesday, October 5, 6:00 p.m.

Free admission

Bill Fontana is a world-renowned pioneer of sound art who has created monumental, site-specific, and experiential aural installations around the globe. His works engage the human and natural environment as a living source of musical information, interacting with and transforming our perceptions of visual and architectural spaces. He has realized sound sculptures and major radio sound art projects for the European Broadcasting Union, ABC, NPR, and West German Radio. His work has been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Post Museum, Frankfurt; Vienna Natural History Museum; Tate Modern London; 48th Venice Biennale; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; and National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto. *Established in 2006 by a generous gift from William and Stephanie Sick, this distinguished professorship enables internationally renowned artists and designers to visit and teach at SAIC. Previous participants have included Bruce Mau and Jaume Plensa.*

**Wolfgang Laib in Conversation with Mary Jane Jacob and Nora Taylor**

The Art Institute of Chicago, Fullerton Hall, 111 S. Michigan Ave.

Monday, October 17, 6:00 p.m.

Free admission

Wolfgang Laib's installation for the Sullivan Galleries, *Unlimited Ocean*, comprises more than 20,000 piles of rice and pollen. He will discuss this work and his practice with Mary Jane Jacob, Professor and Executive Director of SAIC's Department of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies, and Nora Taylor, SAIC's Alsdorf Professor of South and Southeast Asian Art. Laib has exhibited extensively, including at the Venice Biennale; Documenta 7; Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris; Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C.; and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid. Laib has had major retrospectives at Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City and Museo Nacional de Arte de La Paz, Bolivia. *Presented in collaboration with SAIC's Department of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies.*

**Jenni Sorkin: Ancient Modernisms**  
**Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series**

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.  
Wednesday, November 2, 6:00 p.m.  
Free admission

Jenni Sorkin (BFA 1999) is Assistant Professor of Critical Theory, Media, and Design at the University of Houston. She is currently completing her book *Live Form: Craft as Participation*, which examines the confluence of gender, artistic labor, and craft pedagogy from 1950 to 1975. She has written numerous essays on feminist art and material culture topics, and her writing has appeared in the *New Art Examiner*, *Art Journal*, *Frieze*, *The Journal of Modern Craft*, *Modern Painters*, and *Third Text*. In 2010 she co-organized *Blind Spots/Puntos Ciegos: Feminisms, Cinema, and Performance*, for the Eighth International Symposium of Contemporary Art Theory, held in Mexico City. She holds a BFA from SAIC, an MA from the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, and a PhD in the History of Art from Yale University. From 2010–11 she was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. *Presented in collaboration with SAIC's Alumni Relations.*

**Amar Kanwar**

Lecture: SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.  
Wednesday, November 16, 6:00 p.m.  
Free admission

Screening: Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St.  
Thursday, November 17, 6:00 p.m.  
\$11 general admission, \$7 students, \$6 Film Center members, \$4 SAIC faculty,  
Free for SAIC students

Amar Kanwar's films explore the politics of power, violence, sexuality, and justice. His multilayered installations originate in narratives often drawn from zones of conflict and are characterized by a distinctly poetic approach to the social and political. In retracing history through images, ritual objects, literature, poetry, and song, Kanwar creates lyrical, meditative film essays that do not aim to represent trauma or political situations as much as to find ways through them. Kanwar's work looks deeply into the causes and effects and how they are translated into everyday life and cultural forms. His recent solo exhibitions include Marian Goodman Gallery, New York; Haus der Kunst, Munich; and Stedilijk Museum, Amsterdam. He has participated in Documenta 11 and 12 and was the recipient of the Golden Gate Award, San Francisco International Film Festival; the Golden Conch, Mumbai International Film Festival; and the Jury's Award, Film South Asia, Nepal. *Presented in collaboration with SAIC's Department of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies, the Art Institute of Chicago's Department of Asian Art, and Conversations at the Edge in the Department of Film, Video, New Media, and Animation.*

**Suzanne Lee**

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.

Tuesday, December 6, 6:00 p.m.

Free admission

Suzanne Lee is the Director of the BioCouture Research Project and Senior Research Fellow in Fashion at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design (University of the Arts London). BioCouture is a research project harnessing nature to propose a radical vision for future fashion. It investigates the use of microbial cellulose grown in a laboratory to produce clothing with the ultimate goal of growing a dress from a vat of liquid. Lee is collaborating with scientists to unite design with cutting edge bio and nano technologies. She is the author of the groundbreaking book *Fashioning the Future: Tomorrow's Wardrobe* (Thames & Hudson 2005/7) and lectures and exhibits internationally. BioCouture is exhibiting as part of the Victoria and Albert Museum's *Power of Making* exhibition and the Craft Council's *Block Party* (UK). She is a 2011 TED Fellow.

**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 each year, 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 across 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 [www.saic.edu](http://www.saic.edu).

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