



Communications

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

Historic program becomes free and open to the public for all events

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. VAP hosts more than a dozen public presentations by artists each year in lectures, symposia, performances, and screenings. This fall, SAIC is pleased to present all of its speakers at no charge.

"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 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 21 with graphic designer **Harry Pearce** and is followed by the fall semester's Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series presentation by **Maria Martinez-Cañas** on October 5. The series continues with recent MacArthur Foundation Fellowship winner **Camille Utterback** (October 25). Performance and conceptual artist **Martha Wilson** visits November 9, followed by author **Lynda Barry** on November 15. The season concludes with a lecture from scholar **Richard Sennett** (December 6).

Information on each presenter is included below.

Admission:

FREE and open to the public. All lectures begin at 6 p.m. and are held at the **SAIC Auditorium**, 280 South Columbus Drive.

September 21: Harry Pearce
October 5: Maria Martinez-Cañas
October 25: Camille Utterback
November 9: Martha Wilson
November 15: Lynda Barry
December 6: Richard Sennett

Harry Pearce

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Tuesday, September 21, 6:00 p.m.

Graphic designer Harry Pearce joined Pentagram's London office as a partner in 2006 having co-founded and grown Lippa Pearce to become one of the UK's most respected design agencies over the previous 16 years. Encompassing the public and private sectors, local and global charities, and commercial enterprises, his diverse clients include the Co-operative, Halfords, Phaidon Press, the Science Museum, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Shakespeare's Globe and Boots. To each he brings his own brand of intelligence combined with elegance and warmth mixed with wit. Pearce is also a member of the advisory board and lead designer for Witness—a human rights charity founded by Peter Gabriel. Throughout his career he has been concerned to make connections, to use design to connect minds so that they share a different and clearer vision. In 2009 he published his collection of design puzzles, *Conundrums*. Following the lecture, Harry Pearce will sign copies of his book, *Conundrums: Typographic Conundrums*.

Maria Martinez-Cañas: Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Tuesday, October 5, 6:00 p.m.

Cuba-born and Miami-based, SAIC alumna Maria Martinez-Cañas (MFA 1984) fuses aspects of painting, photography, and collage to excavate an allusive journey back to starting points, both personal and cultural. Her artistic quest juggles contradictory elements and innovative media to resolve feelings of displacement and exile. Martinez-Cañas's multidimensional images explore the complexities of identity with a balance of fragility and power. Her works have been exhibited extensively in the United States and abroad, with 34 one-person exhibitions and more than 250 group exhibitions, and are included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, Philadelphia Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, and many others. *This lecture is presented in collaboration with SAIC Alumni Relations.*

Camille Utterback

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Monday, October 25, 6:00 p.m.

Camille Utterback is an internationally acclaimed artist whose interactive installations and reactive sculptures engage participants in a dynamic process of kinesthetic discovery and play. Utterback's work explores the aesthetic and experiential possibilities of linking computational systems to human movement and gesture in layered and often humorous ways. Her work focuses attention on the continued relevance and richness of the body in our increasingly mediated world. Utterback's extensive exhibit history includes more than fifty shows on four continents. Recent awards include the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (2009),

Transmediale International Media Art Festival Award (2005), Rockefeller Foundation New Media Fellowship (2002), and a Whitney Museum commission for their ArtPort website (2002).

Martha Wilson

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Tuesday, November 9, 6:00 p.m.

Over the past four decades, pioneering artist Martha Wilson has created conceptual performance, photography, and video works that explore her female subjectivity and sensitivity to surveillance. Wilson was a founding member of the all-girl, conceptual feminist punk rock group DISBAND, and she has widely performed her signature impersonations of high-profile political figures since the early '80s—Alexander Haig, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, and Tipper Gore. In 1976 Wilson founded (and has since directed) Franklin Furnace Archive, Inc, the stalwart institution that presents and preserves artists' books, temporary installations, and performance art. During the last 30 years, Franklin Furnace has presented nearly 2,000 events and Wilson has developed exhibitions, publications, courses, and pedagogical resources concerning the artistic movement and philosophy we now know as Postmodernism.

Lynda Barry

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Monday, November 15, 6:00 p.m.

The inimitable creator behind the syndicated strip *Ernie Pook's Comeek*, Lynda Barry works as a painter, cartoonist, writer, illustrator, playwright, editor, commentator, and teacher. Barry explores the depths of the inner and outer realms of creation and imagination, where play can be serious, monsters have purpose, and not knowing is an answer unto itself. Widely praised, her works include the books *One! Hundred! Demons!*; *The! Greatest! of! Marlys!*; *Cruddy: An Illustrated Novel*; *Naked Ladies! Naked Ladies! Naked Ladies!*; her bestselling and acclaimed *Drawn & Quarterly*, *What it is*, which received the Eisner Award for Best Reality Based Graphic Novel and the R.R. Donnelly Award for highest literary achievement by a Wisconsin author; and *The Good Times are Killing Me*, which was adapted into an off-Broadway musical. Following the lecture, Lynda Barry will sign copies of her new book, *Picture This*.

Richard Sennett

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Monday, December 6, 6:00 p.m.

Chiefly known for his elegant and scholarly writing, Richard Sennett deftly explores the disciplines of architecture, design, music, art, literature, history, and political and economic theory. Celebrated for his studies of social ties in cities, Sennett has produced more than a dozen books, including three novels, mostly on aspects of the urban experience and the interconnection between authority, modernism, and public life. In the 1970s Sennett co-founded the New York Institute for the Humanities at New York University, and since the mid-90s he has

split his time between NYU and the London School of Economics. His books include *The Fall of Public Man; Respect, In an Age of Inequality; The Culture of New Capitalism*; and, most recently, *The Craftsman*. This lecture is supported in part by the William H. Bronson and Grayce Slovet Mitchell Lecture Series in the Departments of Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects and Fiber and Material Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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, the Visiting Artists Program (VAP) is one of the oldest public programs of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Formalized in 1951 with the establishment of an endowed fund by Flora Mayer Witkowsky, the Visiting Artists Program hosts public presentations by artists, designers, and scholars each year in lectures, symposia, performances, and screenings. It is an eclectic program that showcases artists working in all media including sound, video, performance, poetry, painting, and independent film, as well as significant curators, critics, and art historians.

VAP Online

In addition to making their appearances open to the public, SAIC presents many Visiting Artist Program lectures as recorded in audio and/or video through SAIC Wired, online at www.saic.edu/vap. Recent presenters include Saya Woolfalk and Doug Aitken.

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.

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