

Dear Friends,

I am sorry to report that the Fall 2007 semester for the Department of Art and Art History took a sudden and tragic turn on Saturday, September 22nd when Robert Flynn, our new Assistant Professor in drawing, suffered a massive heart attack. He was rushed to Fletcher-Allen Hospital and his condition worsened throughout the day. Robert died early Sunday morning, with his wife Stephanie by his side.

Robert Flynn earned his MFA in 1992 from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Robert had a broad background in teaching, having taught drawing, painting, printmaking, and Art History at several institutions in Florida, including Barry University, Florida State, Broward Community College, and Florida Int'l University.

His drawings, paintings, and sculpture explore life in the suburban backyard. He had been awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and twice a Florida Individual Artist Award. His recent one-person exhibitions included venues in Houston, Denver, Westchester, and Miami, and group shows in Phoenix, Monterrey, Provincetown, and Atlanta.

In his short stay at UVM, it was abundantly clear that Robert had all the ingredients to become an important member of the Department of Art & Art History. He was an intelligent and generous teacher, and he had already volunteered to take on additional departmental responsibilities. He had a great understanding of art history and a keen sense of humor. And his artwork was stunning.

Naturally, this has been a tough time for students, faculty, and staff. Many of us attended a beautifully moving memorial service on September 26 at Stephanie Flynn's residence. We will hold our own service for Robert in Williams Hall on October 2nd.

Fortunately, the fall semester has brought positive change for the Department, too. UVM earmarked two million dollars to Williams Hall for the health and safety improvement of several art studios. We began renovations this past summer with the installation of a new state-of-the-art gas kiln for the ceramics studio. We also moved the wood shop from the second floor to the basement. Construction is still underway on the wood shop and it's to be completed by October 15th. It will be a huge improvement, with new machinery, a much better dust collection system, noise dampening measures, and an adjacent project overflow space. Paul Decausemacker has done a great job planning the space, and he's looking forward to implementing it soon.

We moved the sculpture studio that had been in the basement upstairs to the former wood shop. It now has a critique wall with track lighting, lots of shelving for storage of projects, and improved acoustics. It's nice to now have adjacent sculpture rooms.

During winter break, we hope to install ventilation in the ceramics glaze mixing room and in the digital lab, and we plan to include an improved spray booth in the drawing studio. Next summer we plan to completely renovate the printmaking studio.

We're looking forward to these studio improvements but, as you know, the Department of Art & Art History has always revolved around the dedication and talent of the students and faculty. Like Madeline Veitch, a double major in Art History and Studio Art, who just had her senior thesis, "Worn: Textiles and the Cultural Body", exhibited in the Colburn Gallery. It was a smart and subversive show, combining her interest in sculpture, sewing, and performance art.

Following Madeline's exhibition is "Gone" a show of three artists' work curated by Steve Budington, our new Assistant Professor in painting. Steve got his M.F.A. from Yale, and came here from the Herron School of Art in Indianapolis.

Another new faculty member this fall is Jongwoo Kim in Art History, who has replaced Sarah Betzer during her leave of absence. Sarah is teaching this year at the University of Virginia. Jongwoo got his Ph.D. from NYU and has taught at many schools in New York, including Hunter College, FIT, Pratt, NYU, as well as the Museum of Modern Art.

Following is more faculty news:

Art Education:

Adriana Katzew is on junior research leave this semester, and **Lynda McIntyre** is handling some of the student teaching supervision and administrative work. Adriana's article, "Reconfiguring Race, Gender & Chicano/a Identity in Film", has been accepted for the book, *Race and Classification: The Case of Mexican America*, to be published by Stanford University Press. Adriana wrote another article, "Chicana/o Student Protesters and Producers of Visual Education", which has been accepted for the book, *Marching Students: Chicana/o Identity and the Politics of Education 1968 and the Present*, to be published by the University of Nevada Press.

Art History:

Kelley Helmstutler Di Dio gave birth to her daughter, Elisa, in April. She has also been productive in her research, submitting an article based on her research on the Conde de Chinchon to a refereed journal, which was accepted in March 2007. Ashgate Press accepted her prospectus on the Renaissance sculptor Leone Leoni. The book is due for publication in 2009. And Kelley's two panel proposals on Renaissance Milan were accepted for the Renaissance Society of America's 2007 national conference.

Bill Mierse is on sabbatical for the entire year as he works on a book and does research in Argentina. Bill had his article, "Excavations in the Roman Forum" published in the peer reviewed *New England Classical Journal* 33.1. **John Seyller** was on half-sabbatical in Fall 2006, and spent six weeks in India conducting research on Indo-Islamic seals and on Indian drawings for a catalogue for the Jagdish and Kamla Mittal Museum of Indian Art, Hyderabad. He traveled to London in February 2007 to participate in a film on the Hamzanama, the monumental 16th-century Mughal manuscript that was the subject of an international exhibition he organized in 2002-03. And he traveled to Bonn (Germany) and Zurich (Switzerland) in June 2007 to conduct research for a catalogue of Indian paintings for which he will be co-author. And **Margo Thompson** had a productive research year in 2006. She published the article, "Dear Sisters: The Visible Lesbian in Community Arts

Journals” in *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 12, no. 3. And the article, “Agreeable Objects and Angry Paintings: ‘Female Imagery’ in Art by Hannah Wilke and Louise Fishman, 1970-1973” appeared in *Genders* no. 43. Both articles were peer-reviewed. This past summer she traveled to the Netherlands to research paintings for her book “*Nothing to Be Gained Here*”: *Jean-Michel Basquiat and Graffiti Art*.

Studio Art:

Tom Brennan was awarded a \$3,000 Opportunity-Artist Project Grant from the Vermont Arts Council. **Steve Budington** was an artist-in residence at the Vermont Studio Center this past summer. Steve Carter was in a group show at the Kentucky Museum of Arts and Design. **Nancy Dwyer** had a solo show at the Sandra Gering Gallery in NYC, and another at the Firehouse Gallery in Burlington. **Jane Kent** is currently on a junior research leave, working in NYC. She exhibited in the significant *The Book as Artist-Artist's Books From the National Museum of Women in the Arts* in Washington, DC in 2006, as well as a group exhibition at the Grolier Club in NY, *Hot Off the Press, Prints of 2006 from New York Printshops*. Jane also produced a 3-plate etching in an edition of 265 for the Print Club of Cleveland, and she wrote an essay for the exhibition *Thirty Years of New Year's Graphics From the Jewish Museum* for the Firehouse Gallery in Burlington. **Tarrah Krajnak**, our lecturer in photography, will be part of the show entitled "Women to Watch" at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC scheduled for March 2008. She was one of ten international artists chosen for the show. One of **Ted Lyman's** films, “Fla.Me”, was shown at Humboldt State University in 2006. Ted continues to work on “Flat Earth”, a multi-media project that explores the transformation of three dimensional space and time to a two dimensional, frame by frame surface. **Kathy Marmor** participated in a group exhibition at the A.I.R. Gallery in New York. Kathy's article, “Bird Watching”, was accepted by the peer reviewed *Leonardo Journal*. Kathy also participated in “Location Shifts”, a group show and panel discussion at the Firehouse Gallery. **Lynda McIntyre** exhibited paintings on Martha's Vineyard and in the Netherlands Antilles. She also was a guest lecturer at a National Art Education Association meeting and she was a conference co-organizer for the 2006 Vermont Art Teachers Association conference. **Frank Owen** had shows at the Nancy Hoffman Gallery in NYC and the Atea Ring Gallery in Westport, NY. **Kathleen Schneider** is on a sabbatical leave this semester, and she will be working at the Print Center in NYC. Kathleen has an exquisite sculpture in the new show at the Fleming, “Material Pursuits”. She had a solo exhibition at the A.I.R. Gallery in New York, as well as participating in a group show at the same gallery. Kathleen was also part of a delegation of four artists invited to Budapest, where they exhibited at the 2B Gallery and gave a panel presentation at the Ernst Museum.

Staff news:

For those who might not have known, **Nadine Carpenter** retired as office manager in spring 2005 after 17 years holding the Department together, and **Simone Blaise-Glaunsinger** has ably taken her place. Nadine continues to teach oboe. **Sally Wales**, our financial administrator, is doing a great job navigating a new university-wide accounting program, and we've hired **Tom Helmstutler** (Kelley's dad!) to help with the accounting. **Deborah Boothby** still knows where every slide is in the slide library, even the ones she

made last week, and **Paul Decausemacker** is now in his 25th year in the Department, and patient as ever, awaits the return of his wood shop.

Please keep in touch and let us know how your lives are faring. Come visit.

All the best,

Bill McDowell
Chair