



Festival Offerings

Keynote Speaker: **Melissa Wilkinson**
(Waukegan Graduate)

Melissa Wilkinson received her BFA in painting from Western Illinois University in 2002. She then went on to receive her MFA in painting from Southern Illinois University in 2006. Her work has been featured in wide reaching publications throughout the country including two editions of *New American Paintings*. She has shown in various galleries nationally and internationally including South Korea and India and has won numerous awards throughout her career. She has won several fellowships and grants including the Arkansas Arts Council Fellowship in Painting in 2012 and a Middle East Travel Grant in 2016 to perform research throughout Israel. She was named a "Woman to Watch" in 2016 by the Arkansas Arts Council touring her work for 18 months throughout the region. Her work is amongst private collections throughout the country and abroad and she exhibits currently at Greg Thompson Gallery and M2 Gallery in Little Rock Arkansas. She serves as Associate Professor of Art-Painting at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. She lives and works in the Memphis Tennessee area.



melissawilkinson.net



Workshops

Collage as Process

Through an in depth investigation into the various techniques and approaches to collage, students will gain a working knowledge into space, perspective and narrative. Students will learn how to create, compose and craft collages as both original artworks and preparatory designs. A short lecture on digital processes as well as art historical examples will be reviewed. Students will create a suite of 5 collages that are consistent in aesthetic and subject matter.

Presenter: Melissa Wilkinson melissawilkinson.net

Sticker Slapping

I will be doing a sticker workshop that focuses on using adhesive paper as a platform for creating unique art that can be placed anywhere. Students will learn different themes and techniques that are common in creating sticker art. They will create stickers and trade some of their creations at the end of the session. They will also walk away with a few tools of the business (i.e. USPS Priority labels and paint markers).

Presenter: Ryan Morris cityofgiants.com

Seeing Light

Artificial light, natural light and the modifiers can help you shape light. From there we will go into a hands on portrait workshop where the students will take turns behind the camera, as subjects and as a lighting tech. We will learn how different light and modifiers affect the mood of a photo.

Presenter: Michael Schmidt michaelschmidtphotography.com

Banners as a Medium for Art and Conversation

Students will look at the works of two important artists working in this medium, Cauleen Smith and Cheryl Pope (I am highlighting women and women of color). The banner throughout history has represented sports, royalty, important events, and is often marched with during protests. Students will learn how this medium in art goes beyond painting, drawing, and photography aesthetics. There will be a strong emphasis on the importance of text to create a conversation. Students can choose to make their work a banner to protest a topic they feel strongly about or make something that reflects their personality.

Presenter: Jessica Ann Wagner jessicaawagner.com

Encaustic Painting

Encaustic painting involves using molten pigmented beeswax to create exciting, luminous paintings. The molten liquid is then applied to a surface. Metal tools and special brushes can be used to shape the paint before it cools, or heated metal tools can be used to manipulate the wax once it has cooled onto the surface. Today, tools such as torches, heat guns, irons and other methods of applying heat allow artists to extend the amount of time they have to work with the material. Because wax is used as the pigment binder, encaustics can be sculpted as well as painted. Other materials can be encapsulated and collaged into the surface, or layered, using the encaustic medium to adhere it to the surface. The wonder of encaustic is not in applying the paint, but the manipulation. Artists working in all genres will enjoy the limitless possibilities and wonder encaustic has to offer. This class cover safety, fusing, line & fill, pastel transfer, photo transfer, collage, stenciling, monotype on paper, creating textures and painting techniques.

With its ancient roots and modern enhancements, it is the perfect medium to connect and explore.

Presenter: Lance Larsen

A Scientific Approach to Bohemian Fiber Art and Dyes

Students will learn the background of fiber art and the basics of fiber reactive dyeing process and the science behind it. Basic Chemistry will be covered to help students understand the dyeing process (Plant based dyes high pH {cotton, linen etc} vs Animal Hairbased dyes low pH {wool, angora etc}) and some color theory of how dye colors mix and blend. Students will have some hands on lessons and opportunities to dye some of the cotton yarn used in making their own Boho Wall Hanging. Pre-dyed and blank (white) cotton yarn will be available for creating one of a kind wall hangings. This workshop will briefly touch on the spectrum of fiber arts and go over some pioneering fiber artists as reference (for example: Sheila Hicks, and Nike Schroeder).

Presenter: Donovan Wolfgeher fireandloom.weebly.com

Exploring New Materials

Students will be introduced to a variety of new materials that they may not necessarily equate with "art making". They'll be allowed time to play and explore as well as paint and sketch with these new materials on paper. They can sew, cut, staple, tear and will ultimately create a small mixed media piece on paper.

Presenter: Dana DeAno danadeano.com