2011-12 Olin Art Gallery Exhibition Schedule

W&J Senior Show

Washington & Jefferson College art and art education majors graduating in spring 2012 exhibit their work across a variety of media in this annual senior capstone event.

April 20 - May 6, 2012

Valerie BOTT         Joanna KRAUSE    William LEWIS     Amber MCINTYRE

Michael MORRIS   Kate PUTKOSKI   James RANSAY  Tierney RISLEY
Christian Benefiel

HOT AIR

March 9 - April 6, 2012

Using new and reclaimed commercial building materials and scrap, Christian Benefiel’s formalist sculptures explore the transformation of craft, the way products are manufactured, shipped and assembled instead of being built. Through abstract form suggested by the natural and synthetic properties of the materials, Benefiel’s work questions the shift from workmanship and trades to automation and labor; product identity to pre-fabrication; and permanence to disposability.

Living and working out of Baltimore, Maryland, Christian Benefiel received his BFA from East Carolina University, Greenville, NC and his MFA from the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Benefiel has exhibited throughout the eastern United States and Europe, and has just completed a William J. Fulbright Post-Graduate Research Grant in Helsinki, Finland.
Michelle Acuff

_SURROGATE_

Feb. 3 - 26, 2012

As a sculptor and installation artist, Michelle Acuff implicates viewers in a phenomenological situation, in which the experience of objects is ambiguous, corporal, and direct. Acuff’s imagery springs from a handful of diverse sources, in which actual and mediated visions of animals and landscapes blur. It is the product of a suburban imaginary and of an accompanying cultural narrative that positions nature and culture at two extreme ends of a spectrum. This polarization paints nature as an ideal; a space or thing unadulterated, authentic, and real.

Michelle Acuff originally hails from the Midwest where she received her BA from Augustana College, Rock Island, IL and her MA and MFA from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. Currently Acuff lives in Walla Walla, Washington and is an Assistant Professor of Art at Whitman College.
Betsy Timmer

INNER INVESTIGATIONS

Oct. 21 - Dec. 4, 2011

Using armatures, fabric, felt and found objects, Betsy Timmer creates figurative sculptures that become connected to the viewer as sympathetic and empathetic characters. These characters feel worn out, weighted down, torn and overstuffed. Fueled by observation of women’s endless ‘to-do’ lists, Timmer’s sculptures explore demands and expectations of a non-stop, bigger, better, faster, more culture. The artist investigates anxiety attacks, negative self-image and crumbling relationships as the physical and mental manifestations of this unsustainable, frenzied pace.

Betsy Timmer lives and works in Lawrence, Kansas. She received her MFA from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS and her BFA from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
Patrick Schmidt

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE: New Work

Sept. 16 - Oct. 9, 2011

Patrick Schmidt creates vibrant, decorative paintings that “cross-pollinate" with sculpture, printmaking, craft and textiles. The results are artistic hybrids that playfully modify the traditional format of painting in subtle and not-so-subtle ways. At it’s boldest, Schmidt’s work literally moves off the gallery walls, reaching out into architectural space, ceilings and floors in unexpected ways.

Patrick Schmidt is an Associate Professor at Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA. His exhibition record includes solo and group shows in Kansas City, MO; St. Paul, MN; Tallahassee, FL; Pittsburgh, PA; Santa Monica, CA; Washington, DC; Chicago, IL; and New York City, NY. Schmidt’s paintings have been featured three times in New American Paintings, and in New Art International.