University of Tennessee
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Art

DEPARTMENT HISTORY

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I. EARLY YEARS: 1947-1976

In its 41-year history, the Department of Art has given definitive art leadership beyond the University to the community. It has represented, from its establishment, the professional voice of the visual arts in Knoxville and the East Tennessee region and has had substantial influence statewide.

In 1947, the University of Tennessee designated a Department of Fine Arts, including the visual arts and music. Classes in drawing, design, painting and art appreciation began in January of 1948. Kermit Ewing led the visual arts component from its inception. He and the original cadre of faculty founded the Knoxville Watercolor Society (now one of the strongest semi-professional groups in the country); helped establish several private galleries devoted to contemporary arts; juried innumerable art exhibits; served as board members on every local and regional visual arts organization; and were responsible for bringing distinguished visiting artists and critics into the community art organizations and public schools. He served as president of the Southeastern College Art Conference from 1954-57. Professor Ewing is also remembered for his colorful art auctions which provided scholarship funds for many art students over the years.

Early faculty included Joe Cox, who became associated with the Art Department in 1948 after study at the Herron Art Institute and the University of Iowa; Marie Huper Pepe, 1950-51; George Cress, 1951, who went on to direct the UT Chattanooga Art Department; Robert Schlageter, 1952; Richard Clarke, 1956 to the present; Walter (Holly) Stevens, 1957-1980 and Dale Cleaver, 1958-1988. Professor Ewing joined with Richard Clarke, Walter Stevens, Carl Sublett and students, Robert Birdwell and Joanna Higgs, to form the group known as the "Knoxville Six." In a 1960 review about the Nashville Arts Festival, Louise Lequire described the "gusty exuberance" of their work. "A look at the Tennessee art selected to be shown at the Art Festival shows one dominant group, the 'School of Knoxville' painters, no less an entity than 'The New York School,' or the 'School of Paris.'" The work of the "Knoxville Six" was shown initially in Knoxville, and then travelled to Chattanooga, Nashville and Memphis. Art reviewer Lequire stated, "It is evident that in Knoxville, painting is riding high, and looming large on five and six foot canvases. The work is serious--it is innovative, and richly expressionistic."

One of the first Visiting Artists was Marion Greenwood from New York City, who was associated with the Art Department in 1954. During that year, she painted a mural in the University Center depicting life in Tennessee.

Knoxville's first national art show, in 1961, was sponsored by the Knoxville Art Center, founded by Professor Ewing. Richard Clarke was a board member at the time of this landmark event. Juror for the exhibition was Hilton Kramer, who was editor of Arts Magazine. Kramer returned to the campus in 1979, when he was chief

art critic for the New York Times, for "Celebration, A University's Commitment to Excellence in the Arts."

By 1965, growth of the undergraduate programs and the establishment of graduate programs led to a division into separate art and music departments. Rapid growth characterized the department during the 1960s, with the faculty expanding from seven to fifteen.

The Art Department celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a year-long calendar of events in 1972-73. Highlights included exhibitions of work by Bruce McCombs (prints and drawings), Byron McKeeby (prints), Barry Tinsley (sculpture), Richard Hunt (graphics and sculpture), a Faculty Collects Exhibition (works collected by faculty members of the Art Department) and an exhibition of African Art on loan from Fisk University. Guest lecturers included Fuad Bahou who spoke on "Black Art," Richard Hunt who spoke about his graphic and sculptural work and art historian Joshua Taylor whose topic was "Where is Art?" At the time of the 25th Anniversary, the Art Department had a faculty of 24 and offered courses in the areas of painting, drawing, design, communication design, sculpture, art history, and printmaking to an enrollment of about 2,000 students.

Professor Ewing continued as department head until his death in 1976. One of his outstanding achievements was the approval of construction of a permanent art facility to replace the picturesque, but outmoded facilities of the 15 buildings of various vintage scattered over the campus in which the Art Department was "housed" until 1981. Although Professor Ewing did not live to see his dream facility completed, he was honored with the dedication of the Ewing Gallery and a living memorial in the form of the Ewing Scholarship.

The long-awaited move to the newly completed Art & Architecture Building took place in the summer of 1981 and the building was formally dedicated September 25, 1981. The 160,000 square-foot facility was designed by McCarty-Bullock-Holsaple of Knoxville following a statewide competition entered by forty-three individuals and firms. The completion of the building brought together the Art Department and the School of Architecture who share the space in a variety of configurations from an atrium space in the center of the building to both open and private studio areas in four floors of modern design which include cantilevered office and studio spaces, three lecture rooms with audiovisual facilities and student study and lounge areas. Display areas for student and professional work are located throughout the building.

II. RECENT YEARS: 1977-1988

Under the leadership of Dr. Don Kurka, who became department head in 1977, the Art Department has progressed to the present faculty of 25 studio artists and 5 art historians who have been nationally and internationally recognized through

exhibitions and scholarly publications. Dr. Kurka was instrumental in the accreditation of the Art Department's programs as a Division I school by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). In 1987, Dr. Kurka and Dr. Dale Cleaver were co-directors of the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern College Art Conference which met in Knoxville and was hosted by the UTK Art Department. Over 400 art historians, studio art faculty and students from SECAC's 12-state member region and some states outside the region attended the three-day event. The largest attendance of students ever at a SECAC meeting was recorded at the Knoxville conference. Dr. Kurka's successful pursuit of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts enabled the Art Department to invite the noted New York sculptor Alice Aycock as the keynote speaker and to chair a panel discussion on "Sculpture as Metaphor." Her sculptural work, "Greased Lightning," was installed in the Art & Architecture Building from October, 1987-March, 1988. One of the most memorable events during the SECAC conference was the opening of the "Fact/Fiction/Fantasy: Recent Narrative Art in the Southeast" exhibition, co-curated by Dr. Kurka and Sam Yates, Director of the Ewing Gallery. This exhibition brought 69 works by 67 artists to the Ewing Gallery and is now travelling to other galleries in the southeast.

With the merging of the craft faculty into the Art Department, a new affiliation was established in 1978 with the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts which had formerly been affiliated with the College of Home Economics. This nationally-known school, located 45 minutes from campus in Gatlinburg, provides Fall, Spring, and Summer art workshops, conferences and special events. Over 100 visiting faculty offer specialized courses in arts and crafts. The Director of Arrowmont, Professor Sandra Blain, holds a joint appointment in the ceramics area of the UTK Art Department.

A prominent feature of the art program is the Ewing Gallery, which hosts 10-12 exhibitions each year, ranging from nationally and internationally-known artists and architects to the annual student competition and BFA Honors and MFA Graduate Shows. Some of the most memorable art exhibitions have included: Walter Stevens Retrospective, 1981; Southern Abstraction: Five Painters, 1983; Images on Paper Invitational, 1984; Robert Stackhouse: "Deep Swimmers," 1984; Byron McKeeby: Prints and Drawings 1964-1984, 1985; Joseph Delaney Retrospective, 1986; and Fact/Fiction/Fantasy: Recent Narrative Art in the Southeast, 1987; and the Ellen Lanyon Retrospective, 1988. The gallery space also serves as a laboratory for museology students who gain valuable experience in both technical and aesthetic aspects of museum and gallery operation. Present Ewing Gallery staff includes Elaine Keener, Lou Horner and Barry Fleming under Sam Yates' direction.

The Art Department's permanent collection of art has been enhanced by recent gifts and purchases made possible through the Friends of the Gallery program which began in 1981. Sam Yates, who joined the Art Department as the first full-time gallery director in 1980, has continued the philosophy that students should have access

to actual art work to view and to study. Earlier efforts of Byron McKeeby to collect prints from visiting artists and students and Fred Martinson to develop and catalog the Japanese print collection formed the nucleus of the permanent collection. Presently, works from the collection are displayed in the Art & Architecture Bldg. and throughout the campus via the Ewing Gallery's loan program. The gallery director hopes to identify additional permanent display space so that the collection will be even more accessible to students and campus visitors.

The most important component of academia is its faculty and the Art Department has fortunately been endowed with a plethora of award-winning faculty. Four Alumni Outstanding Teacher Awards have been awarded to Art Department faculty. Rachel Young received the award in 1974-75; Dale Cleaver was a two-time recipient in 1966 and in 1981; Dorothy Metzger Habel was selected in 1983; and Baldwin Lee joined this select group in 1988. All of these awards went to art historians except for Mr. Lee, who directs the photography area. Eight UTK Faculty Development Awards have been received by Art Department faculty. Recipients have included Richard Daehnert, Jim Darrow, Joe Falsetti, Dorothy Metzger Habel (2); Philip Livingston; Fred Martinson and Susan Metros. Dale Cleaver was selected as the Lindsay Young Professor in Art History for 1980-88 and was chosen University Macebearer. Dorothy Habel received the Lindsay Young Award for 1988-89. The UTK Commission for Women recognized Marcia Goldenstein for Exceptional Creative Achievement.

In addition to these UTK awards, the Art Department faculty has also been recognized for achievements through state and national awards and grants. The Art Department had had two winners of the Rome Prize, the prestigious year-long stipend award from the American Academy in Rome, Amy Neff and Philip Livingston. Philip Livingston also received the Augustus Saint-Gaudens Award in the same year. In addition to the Rome Prize, Amy Neff has received an Andrew Mellon Fellowship, a Senior Fellowship from the Harvard Center for Renaissance Studies at the Villa I Tatti in Florence and a Gladys Krieble Delmas Fellowship for Study in Venice. Richard Daehnert and Tom Riesing were selected for Lilly Foundation Fellowships and Fred Martinson and Ted Saupe have received Ford Foundation Fellowships. The Samuel S. Kress Foundation awarded a fellowship to Dorothy Metzger Habel who was also selected for a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship. Michael Brakke and Baldwin Lee received National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships. Baldwin Lee was also awarded a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in 1984. Two Art Department faculty have received individual grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Fred Martinson was the recipient of an NEH Summer Grant and Fred Moffatt was selected to participate in an NEH Summer Institute for Teachers in Berkeley, California. The Tennessee Arts Commission awarded an Art in Public Places Grant to Phil Nichols and Dennis Peacock received a Tennessee Arts Commission Fellowship. The East Tennessee Foundation awarded its first individual art fellowships to two members of the faculty in 1987. Philip Livingston and Joe

Falsetti. In 1988, Ted Saupe received the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) Artist Fellowship for his work in clay and Beauvais received a Southern Arts Federation Fellowship for his achievements in printmaking.

In addition to the contributions recognized by these awards, the Art Department faculty exemplify the research, teaching and community service missions of the university through scholarly publications, exhibitions of creative work and community lectures and workshops. The 10 areas which make up the Art Department offer a broad range of courses at both general and more specialized levels.

The Art History area presently has five art historians. Dr. Karen Bearor joined our faculty in 1988 and teaches courses in the history of twentieth-century art. She has previously taught art history at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Bearor is taking on courses previously taught by Dr. Dale Cleaver, who retired May 31, 1988 after 30 years of service to the university. Dr. Cleaver was the department's first art historian and has been an inspiration to many students over the years. Dr. Cleaver has had articles published in Phi Kappa Phi Journal, The Art Journal, La revue du Louvre et des Musees de France and Bulletin des Musees Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique. His book, Art, An Introduction, is now being printed in its fifth edition. Dr. Dorothy Metzger Habel teaches courses in Italian Renaissance and Baroque art history. Her primary research interest is seventeenth-century Baroque architecture. Her publications have included articles in the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Versus: An American Architect's Alternatives, Storia dell'arte, Papers in Art History from the Pennsylvania State University II and architectura. Dr. Habel has also presented several community lectures in conjunction with the Knoxville Museum of Art. Our specialist in the history of Asian art is Dr. Fred Martinson, who was a student of Dr. Cleaver in the 1960s. Dr. Martinson catalogued the Art Department's Japanese print collection and has had lectures abstracted in the Annals of the Southeast Converence for Asian Studies and the Southeastern College Art Review. He has written reviews in Monumenta Nipponica and an article with B. Lubell in Asian Profile on The Tale of Genji. Dr. Martinson was instrumental in securing the services of two outstanding visiting art historians. Dr. Michael Sullivan participated in the China Festival sponsored jointly in 1982 by UTK and Maryville College and Dr. Edward Kidder taught courses in the Fall Quarter of 1986. Dr. Frederick C. Moffatt teaches courses in the history of American art and has published a book on Arthur Wesley Dow and has authored exhibition catalogs on Harrison Cady: The Southern Image, James M. Cowan Memorial Collection of Art and Walter Hollis Stevens. Our specialist in early Italian and Byzantine art is Dr. Amy Neff whose special interest is manuscript paintings. Her publications include articles in Il Medio Oriente e L'Occidente nell'Arte XIII Secolo and Gesta. While Dr. Neff is on leave in 1988-89, these courses will be taught by Dr. Gregory Whittington. The art history faculty utilizes the Art Department's slide collection as a teaching resource. Supporting staff in the art history area include Sandra Walker, Sr. Photographic Slides Compiler, and Bill Bishop, Slide Clerk.

Mrs. Walker edits the Southeastern Visual Resources Newsletter and has written reviews for Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation.

The Ceramics area includes Dr. Jim Darrow, Sandra Blain and Ted Saupe. Professor Blain is the director of Arrowmont and has exhibited widely in the United States. She was one of four Americans invited for the Carmen Dionyse International Exhibition in Ghent, Belgium and serves as a Board Member for the International Ceramic Symposium. Dr. Darrow has also exhibited widely in the United States and participated in the International Artists Exhibition in Bassano, Italy and an International Symposium in Yugoslavia. In addition to his exhibitions, Ted Saupe has taught in the Cortona, Italy summer program sponsored by the University of Georgia.

Present faculty in the Drawing area includes F. Clark Stewart, Marcia Goldenstein and David Wilson. In addition to numerous group exhibitions, Clark Stewart has had five solo exhibitions in America and a solo exhibition at the American Gallery in Bern Switzerland. Marcia Goldenstein's media include watercolors and drawing and her work has appeared in group and solo exhibitons in the south and midwest as well as a solo exhibition at the American Gallery in Bern, Switzerland. The newest member of the Drawing faculty, David Wilson, has exhibited primarily in the southwest, including a solo exhibition at Mira Costa College.

Courses in the Fiber/Fabric area are taught singlehandedly by Richard Daehnert, who has exhibited widely in the United States. Mr. Daehnert has been invited to participate in a fiber workshop in Germany, Summer 1989.

The Graphic Design/Illustration area presently includes William Kennedy, who is also the associate department head, and Richard Clarke, Richard LeFevre and Susan Metros. In addition to his administrative duties, Mr. Kennedy has exhibited in both group and solo exhibitions. His interest in the history of Graphic Design and Illustration prompted him to initiate a slide collection in this area which supports a course offered once each year. In addition, Mr. Kennedy has taught an off-campus History of Graphic Design course in London and Scotland. Richard Clarke, who joined the faculty in 1956, has done design and technical illustrations for many publications as well as watercolor paintings. Richard LeFevre has won over 50 awards in design and painting. Susan Metros joined the UTK faculty after having taught for several years at Michigan State University where she initiated a Graphic Design in London summer program. At UTK, she has continued her interest in microcomputer enhanced problem solving and has been instrumental in obtaining grants and vendor gifts of computer equipment to set up the computer graphics lab in the art department. She has presented papers at several national and international conferences concerning computer enhanced graphic design. Several seminar courses have been taught by graphic design/illustration professionals in addition to the regularly offered classes.

Michael Tomlinson directs the Metal Design area. Mr. Tomlinson has exhibited widely in the U.S. and Europe and is presently curating an exhibition of avant-garde jewelry design. The exhibition will be shown first at the Ewing Gallery and then will travel to several other sites. A Tennessee Arts Commission Grant will help to sponsor the exhibition.

The Painting area includes the diverse talents of Don Kurka, our department head, Whitney Leland, Michael Brakke and Tom Riesing. In addition to his administrative duties, Dr. Kurka continues to paint and exhibit his own work as well as to teach at least one course each year to undergraduate students. Whitney Leland's paintings have been exhibited both in the U.S. and Switzerland and have won numerous awards. Michael Brakke's paintings make use of computer technology for conceptual design and his numerous exhibitions have drawn reviews in various national art publications. Tom Riesing is perhaps best known for his serial works which have previously explored the subject of fans and most recently have concentrated on natural and urban landscapes. One of his most notable exhibitions was a one-man show at the Franz Bader Gallery in Washington, D.C. in 1987.

The Photography area is directed by Baldwin Lee, who in addition to his enormously popular photography classes, travels throughout the south, photographing southern people in everyday activities. His black and white photographs movingly document the regional flavor of people living in small towns in largely rural areas.

The Printmaking area includes Beauvais Lyons and Pam Longobardi as lithography and intaglio teachers, respectively. Both have exhibited widely and carry on the tradition of student involvement initiated by Byron McKeeby, who taught at UTK from 1965 until his untimely death in 1984. Beauvais Lyons is best known for his interest in invented archaeology and his work is documented through the Hokes Archives. Mr. Lyons has also initiated travelling exhibitions of prints created by both students and faculty in the art department. Pam Longobardi's work includes both prints and paintings. Screenprinting courses are taught by Richard Daehnert.

The Sculpture area includes four sculptors. The first of these to join the UTK faculty was Phil Nichols who came to UTK in 1961. His work, including both drawings and stainless steel sculpture, has been exhibited widely in the U.S. Joe Falsetti's sculpture has included both corten steel structures and painted wood sculpture. Mr. Falsetti has been the recipient of several corporate and state commissions for outdoor sculpture. Philip Livingston's talents have led him to investigate several diverse media including wood, marble, metal and film and video design. In addition to his own sculpture, which is welded steel construction, Dennis Peacock has become well-known for instigating campus and community commentary on art. The famous "Bathtub Caper" of 1978,

a student group project which required the students to formulate a public sculpture using bathtubs donated by a Knoxville manufacturer, led to avidly reported discussion among Knoxville city officials, zoo officials and newspaper columnists. The project was finally placed at Fort Sanders School and removed only recently. Peacock is still raising issues and art consciousness. In 1982 he conceived the idea of a campus-wide Sculpture Tour which would travel, after a year-long exhibition at UTK, to other sites in the state. Now in its sixth year and with the able assistance of LeeAnn Mitchell, the Sculpture Tour is an exciting, thought-provoking addition to the campus scene. It brings together 25-30 large outdoor sculptures by prominent regional and national sculptors for placement across the campus. It is documented each year by an illustrated catalog.

Another highly successful method of exposing art students to new ideas has been our Visiting Artist/Critic Program and Artists-in-Residence Program. The Visiting Artist/Critic Program invites prominent professionals for short term lectures, workshops and studio critiques. The Artist-in-Residence Program invites three or more practicing artists for 10-week residences. The emphasis has been on inviting young, emerging artists who provide special seminars and studio courses to augment both undergraduate and graduate courses.

Previous visiting lecturers have included: Mary Ahrendt, Garo Antreasian, Robert Brady, James Butler, Herb Creecy, Laurel Fendrich, Margaret Ford, Jim Ford, Ray George, Dorothy Gillespie, Richard Haas, Marcy Hermansader, Oliver Jackson, Len Jenshel, Roy Johnston, Ivan Karp, Glen Kauffman, Gerhardt Knodel, Karen Koblitz, Charlie Levine, Judy McWillie, Ron Meyer, Andy Nasisse, Robert Nelson, Peter Plagens, Tom Rippon, Ed Rossbach, Donald Saff, Barbara Shawcroft, Robert Stackhouse, Reuben Tam, Stanley Tigerman, Ruth Weisberg, Charles Wilson and James Wines. Previous Artists-in-Residence have been: Jim Chatelain, Joseph Delaney, Nancy Dwyer, Mary Beth Edelson, Biff Elrod, Roy Fowler, Brenda Goodman, Cathryn Griffin, Kenny Higdon, Royce Howes, Richard Hull, Suzanne Joelson, Paul Krainak, Johannes Lacher, Seaver Leslie, Al Loving, Joseph Nechvatal, Shiro Otani, Nancy Pletos, Eleanor Rappe, Lance Rutledge, Andrew Rubin, Karen Shaw, Gary Stephan and Richard Tobias. Graphic Designers/ Illustrators who have visited for seminars or lectures are: John de Ceasar, Seymour Chwast, Allen Cober, Mark English, Andrew Epstein, Robert Heindel, F.H.K. Henrion, John Massey, Wilson McLean, Barbara Nessim, Fred Otnes, Allen Peckolick, Michael Richards and Shelly Williams. Visiting Critics/Art Historians have included: Marcella Bedford-Nesom, Gulnar Bosch, Peter Frank, Oleg Grabar, John Huntington, Ada Louise Huxtable, Edward J. Kidder, Hilton Kramer, Thomas Lawson, Laura Lieberman, Thomas Mathews, Michael Sullivan, Joshua Taylor and Harrie A. Vanderstappen.

Artists-in-Residence for 1988-89 are Holly Hughes during the fall semester and Guynemer François Giguère during the spring semester. Ellen Lanyon will present a lecture in conjunction with the opening of a retrospective exhibition of her work at the Ewing Gallery and Roland Ginsel will do a monotype demonstration in the printmaking area in September. Katharine Carter will present a lecture on current art in New York City in November. Stephen Ellis will be a visiting artist in the spring semester.

Our first permanent Artist-in-Residence is Joe Delaney. As an outgrowth of the "Joe Delaney Retrospective" exhibition which was shown in the Ewing Gallery as part of the Homecoming '86 celebration, Mr. Delaney, a native son of Knoxville, was invited to return to the city on a full-time basis. He is an important black artist who established his place in American Art in the 1930s to 1960s.

The Art Department presently offers the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art, Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design/Illustration and Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art. Student enrollment for Fall 1986 through Spring 1987 totalled 4,209. Currently, there are 350 BFA majors, 20 BA majors and 30 MFA candidates.

Assistance to students and faculty is provided by department office staff which presently includes Lynn Glustoff, principal secretary, Dino Griffitts and Cheryl Johnston, secretaries and Jane Knable, bookkeeper.