

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ART COLLEGE

ACADEMY NEWS

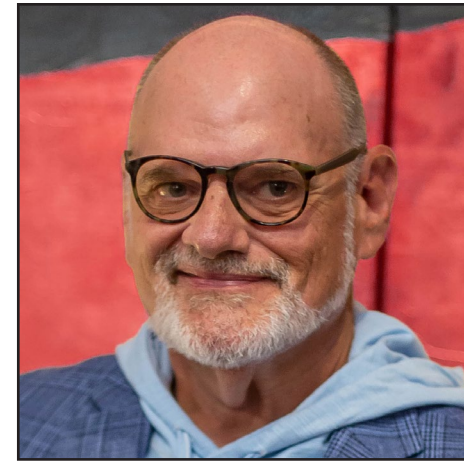
Bill Kaufmann
Receives the 2023
Distinguished
Alumni Award





■ Bill Kaufmann

Academy Distinguished Alumni of 2023



for the Walt Disney feature animation *Beauty and the Beast*.

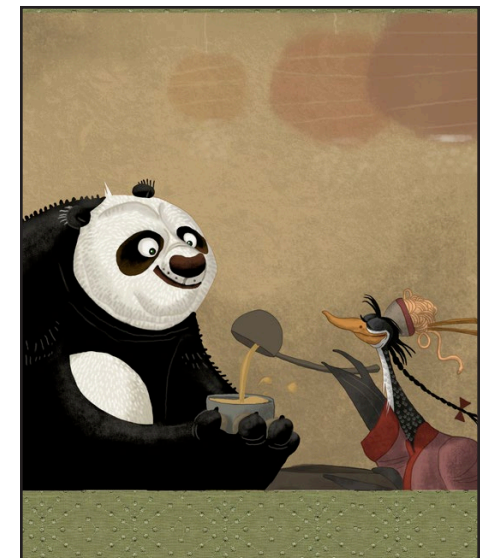
When he left Disney, Kaufmann moved to Hyperion Animation, working primarily on *Bebe's Kids*. Four years later, he was approached by a former Hyperion colleague about joining him at a newly developing animation company. After interviewing with the producer, he accepted a job on the ground level of what would become DreamWorks Studios. While there, he worked on major studio films including *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron* and *Kung Fu Panda*.



Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron

Many illustrators have dreams of going on to work for major animation studios like Disney and DreamWorks. Academy alumnus Bill Kaufmann is fortunate enough to have worked for both during his 32 year career in the animation industry. While at the Academy, Kaufmann found a love for pastels, though he initially struggled with them. He began checking out art books by artists he liked and practiced copying their techniques. Something about this method clicked for him, and he discovered the medium he would return to often throughout his art career.

Kaufmann spent two decades with DreamWorks and is now semi-retired. He frequently spends his time painting and looks back on his years at the Academy fondly, recalling the importance of learning how to work with structure and deadlines. In studio animation, 30-40 people often look at a piece of artwork before giving approval, and deadlines are tight and difficult. He believes his success in meeting them is partly due to the time management skills he learned while in school.



Kung Fu Panda

Just before leaving the Academy, esteemed former faculty member Irving Shapiro encouraged Kaufmann to enter a competition held by the Society of Illustrators in New York. His pastel piece took first place and led him to eventually compete for and win a scholarship with the Art Student's League of New York.

After finishing his postsecondary studies, Kaufmann got in touch with the Academy's Career Services Coordinator, who had a lead on a job with Disney. He put together four different portfolios, showing off his different artistic strengths, and mailed them off. In 1990, he left Chicago for Los Angeles and began his job with Disney. In his early days there, he trained in the background department by taking old film backgrounds and copying them using gouache. His most notable work at Disney was painting backgrounds



Early pastel drawing

Kaufmann's participation in the Academy's Visiting Artist Series was very special to students, staff, faculty, and for him. Throughout his talk, he shared bits of his personal artistic process, and many of the students were delighted to hear him mention animated films they loved as children. He stayed long after his talk to answer individual questions, reminisced with staff and faculty who remember him as a student, and toured the school with Academy faculty member, Rich Kryczka. The Academy feels very fortunate to have had this day with him and we look forward to his next visit.

Shawn Michael Warren

Academy Alum Paints Oprah Winfrey Portrait for Smithsonian Collection

On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery unveiled a new portrait of Oprah Winfrey painted by Chicago-based artist and Academy alumnus, Shawn Michael Warren. The portrait will be included in the museum's permanent collection as part of a continued effort to feature portraits of influential living figures who have significantly impacted American history and culture. It will be displayed on the first floor of the Washington, D.C. museum.

Warren was chosen for the commission after his involvement in a mural project featuring Winfrey in Chicago's West Loop, prominently displayed on the side of an apartment building along Green Street. The mural served as a tribute to the nearby former Harpo Studios campus, the production site of the *Oprah Winfrey Show* from 1990 to 2011.

While painting at night to avoid the daytime crowds, Warren met a former Harpo staff member who told Oprah about the mural. When Warren shared the completed mural on his Instagram in 2020, Oprah commented, "Wow! How'd you do that??" And for this to be in my old neighborhood only a few blocks from Harpo Studios. Thank you for the honor. Looks like, more importantly, feels like me."

After being selected to paint her portrait, Warren, along with Chicago portrait photographer Darius Carter, traveled to Winfrey's 25-acre Montecito estate in California. They were given access to private portions of the estate, where Warren discovered the group of oak trees that would serve as the backdrop of the final portrait.

Warren's artistic style is characterized by realism, drawing inspiration from Renaissance painters. His subjects include notable figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and significant historical narratives like the Great

Migration. Additionally, his mural work can be found in Los Angeles and Indianapolis.

A critic of his own work, Warren described his process by saying, "The drawing is the most important. If the drawing is incorrect, the painting is not going to do well. The drawing is the bare bones. I am a very avid believer and practitioner of drawing. Having the fundamentals of drawing down pat for a portrait is essential, and I would encourage any artist always to draw."

The full-length oil on linen portrait is approximately 6 feet, 10 inches tall and is described on the National Portrait Gallery's museum label:

*Wearing a purple taffeta gown to symbolize the significance of Alice Walker's novel *The Color Purple* (1982) in her life, Winfrey is portrayed surrounded by twelve interwoven oak trees. Being a woman of strong faith, she likens them to the twelve disciples. The Chicago-based artist Shawn Michael Warren grew up watching and admiring Winfrey on television. In showing her smiling and extending an olive branch, he conveys Winfrey's elegant, playful, warm, and generous spirit.*



Oprah & Shawn | Photo Credit: Tony Powell



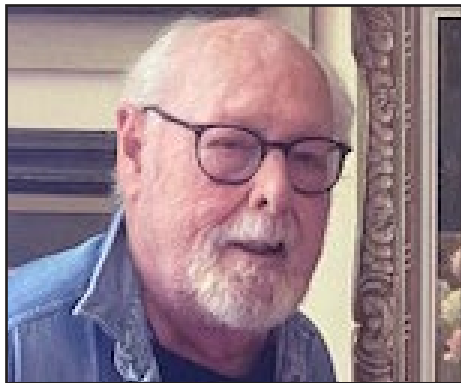
Shawn's mural of Oprah



Shawn Michael Warren, *Oprah Winfrey*, 2023 (oil on linen, approximately 6 feet 10 inches x 5 feet 8 inches, framed). | National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

James Ingwersen

Alum Donates Bill L. Parks Portrait



James Ingwersen

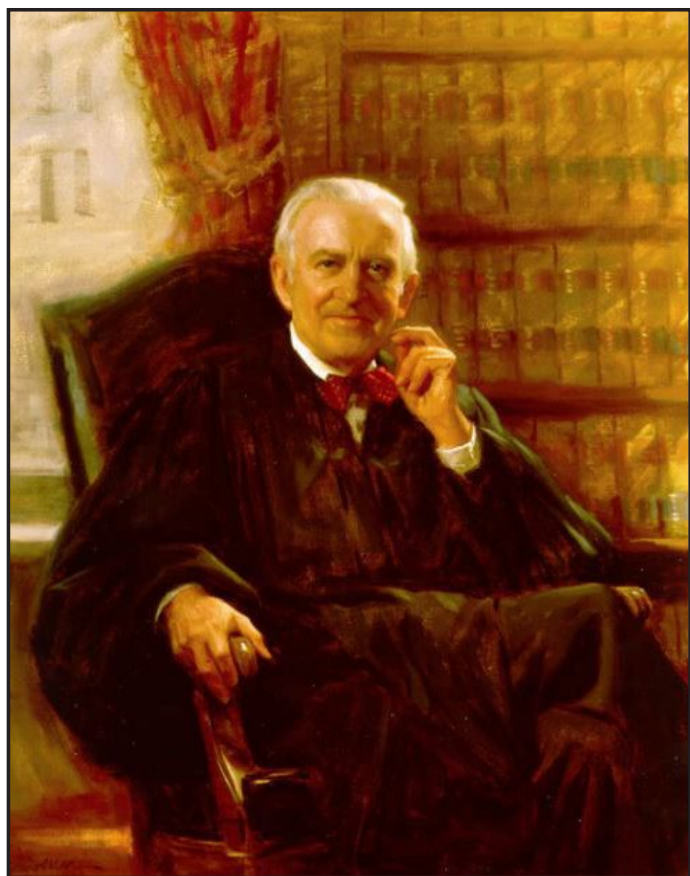
Portrait artist James Ingwersen attended the Academy in 1948. He is known for his profound connection to nature and his fine attention to detail. Residing on an 80-acre restored farm with his wife, Phyllis, near Sister Bay, Wisconsin, Ingwersen's surroundings deeply influence his artistic endeavors. Beyond his work as a portrait artist, he is also interested in landscapes and still-lives, finding them serene subjects that "don't complain about sitting."

With an artistic lineage tracing back to his father, an art director for an ad agency, Ingwersen's talent was nurtured from a young age. While he always possessed a preference for drawing, it wasn't until his time at the Academy that he ventured into painting. James embarked on a successful career shortly after school, even having the honor of painting significant personalities like Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

Recently, Ingwersen contacted Dean Joel Pace about donating a painting to the Academy. The portrait is of former instructor and namesake of our gallery, Bill L. Parks. It is now hanging in the gallery in honor of the artist and the subject.



Portrait of Bill L. Parks



Portrait of Justice John Paul Stevens

Nicole Shepherd

Grad Speaks about Career in Medical Illustration

When Academy alum Nicole Shepherd completed her BFA in Illustration, she wasn't sure which area of the field she wanted to enter professionally. She loved illustration and being in an academic setting. When she came across the medical illustration field, she knew it would be a good fit for both her skills and her academic interests.

A career in medical illustration requires a Master's Degree in Science and Biomedical Illustration. Nicole attended the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), where Academy faculty member Kristin Mount earned her Master of Associated Medical Sciences degree. While at UIC, Nicole developed skills in 3D modeling and virtual reality and had the opportunity to work on anatomy cadavers alongside medical students. Coding is another necessary skill in the field, which Nicole and others in her program began learning through an interactive game design class.

"I never imagined working with code or 3D VR, but now that's what I do for a living!"

While in her master's program, Nicole developed a medical graphic that illustrated what shingles would look like on the skin of a person of color. Most medical images show skin disorders on white skin. This project earned her a Merit Award at the Association of Medical Illustrators Salon. Under the research advisement of Kristin Mount, Nicole also completed her graduate thesis, *An Interactive Neuroanatomy Application Depicting the Internal Anatomy of the Brainstem*, with the hope of creating an "interactive learning tool that will serve as a supplemental study aid for graduate neuroanatomy students."

Nicole's first job after earning her masters was a two month contract with the NYU College of Dentistry, where she optimized 3D models. Shortly after, she took a full-time organic artist position with Osso VR, a company

she'd been hoping to work for since grad school. Osso is fully remote and Nicole is able to collaborate with her team virtually. She loves being part of a job and a community that helps people and credits the Academy with giving her a strong foundation in illustration and problem-solving skills.

A bit of advice from Nicole: "If you are interested in pursuing medical illustration, make plans as early as possible and take all of the science courses you can. A love of research is also a benefit, given that a large portion of time is dedicated to in-depth research of scientific papers. There is a high demand for workers in medical illustration, with only about 2,000 people working in the field worldwide."

After graduating, Nicole and her classmates had corporations reaching out to them about job opportunities. For now, Nicole loves her job with Osso and, after a much needed break, plans to continue work on her graduate thesis project.



Alum Nicole Shepherd with two of her Academy instructors K. Mount & R. Kryczka

Faculty Spotlight: Michele Stutts

New Assemblages



Michele Stutts

Michele Stutts, a Fundamentals instructor at the American Academy of Art College, had several shows during the month of October, including a group show at Ceres Gallery in New York titled *Internal Perspectives*. She also participated in a traveling show titled *Tapestry of Voices*, which included works that she created alongside a published poet. The traveling show began at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights, Illinois and then moved on to Downing Museum in Bowling Green Kentucky. Locally, her works were included in a group show at Artists & Residents of Chicago (ARC Gallery) in celebration of all the women who founded the nonprofit organization fifty years ago and all members past

and present. The Academy also featured five of her pieces in the Bill L. Parks Faculty Show this past fall.

"When I was a young girl, my life was very sheltered. When I wasn't at school I spent most days in the house. Art was something that I could do by myself. It gave me color and a sense of creativity in my life," Stutts explains. "I became interested in teaching when I went to Chicago State University in the 1980s. It has always felt good to help people and to combine that with art education, to me that was my happy medium."

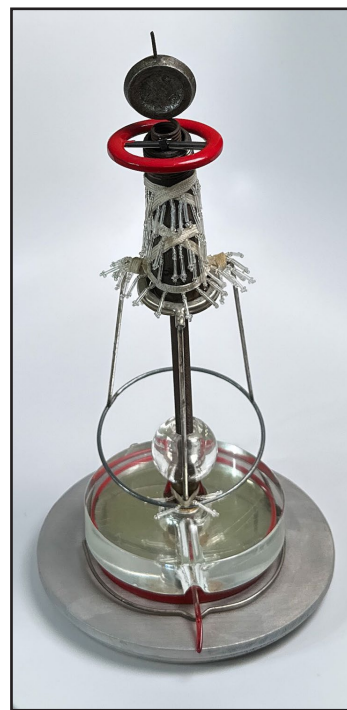
Stutts offers this advice to young, aspiring professional artists: "Become a professional in your chosen field. Do your best to let nothing stand in the way of your creativity and your need to graduate. Always be willing to learn new things and adapt to the ever-changing technology."

Stutts received her AA degree from the American Academy of Art College, BFA from Chicago State University, and MFA from Columbia College Chicago. Since 1990, Stutts has taught at the American Academy of Art College and has been a member of ARC Gallery & Educational Foundation. Her work has been exhibited in group shows in New York, Rhode Island, Indiana, Ohio, Washington, and Minnesota. Her international exhibitions include shows in Australia, Germany, Bulgaria, and Canada, as well as an artist's residency completed in October of 2005 in Paris.

Originally born in Liverpool, England, Stutts now resides in Chicago. She utilizes painting, drawings, collage, installations, and video as her media of choice. Recently her work has been exclusively in assemblage. Her works are often related to sociopolitical ethics, mental health, beauty, and sexuality.



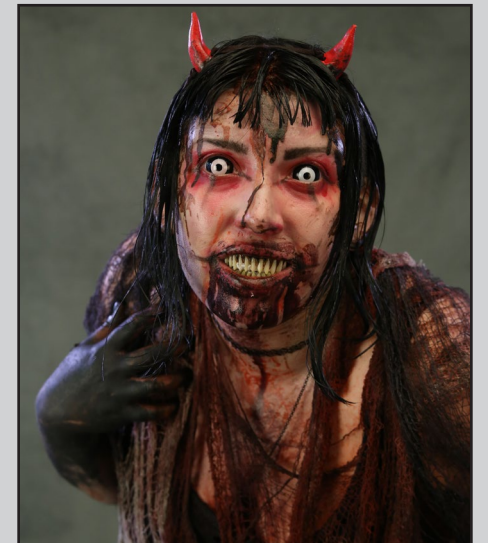
Slumber on Lumber



Bloody Mary Monday

HALLOWEEN

at the Academy



Emmett McBain

Art Direction as Social Equity

Academy Alum Emmett McBain's work has often been described as "art direction as social equity." The art director and co-founder of Chicago-based ad agency, Burrell-McBain, Inc., was influential in his choice to center Black people and Black life in his advertising campaigns.

McBain attended the Academy in the mid-1950s. After graduating, he worked for the newly established Vincent Cullers and Associates, the first Black-owned and Black-focused full-service advertising agency in the United States. After years of rejection from white-owned agencies, Cullers created his namesake advertising agency in 1958 with the purpose of training new Black designers to create ads for Black consumers.

During his time at Cullers, McBain designed his groundbreaking *Black is Beautiful* advertisement and was in charge of the company's first million-dollar campaign—a new ad for Newport cigarettes targeted at Black audiences. After two years at Cullers, McBain took an assistant art editor position with Playboy Records, leading him to become their promotional art director and carving out a niche as a successful album cover artist. That same year, his Playboy Jazz All-Stars album art was awarded Billboard Magazine's Album Cover of the Week.

In 1971, along with Tom Burrell, Burrell-McBain, Inc. was founded. Prior to the 1960s, very little effort was given toward creating advertisements that included and were made for Black communities. McBain and Burrell co-founded their company as "An Advertising Agency for the Black Commercial Market." Their goal was not to exploit Black Americans but to instead depict authentic images of Black people. One of their most influential ads replaced Marlboro's white cowboy with a young, cool, and cultured Black man out and about in his community. At the time it was common to simply replace a white actor or model with a Black actor or model in the same ad. This new approach was far more relatable to Black audiences, and thus more successful.

After the wild success of the Marlboro



Various McBain Designs



True Two (1968)



Where the Flavor Is (1972)

campaign, Burrell-McBain, Inc. won big name clients like McDonald's and Coca-Cola and eventually became the largest Black-owned advertising agency in the country.

Academy staff member Don Woodson also worked in advertising and considered McBain a mentor. He first learned of the advertising and design legend in the 1970s while attending Ray Vogue, a commercial art and fashion design school in Chicago. It was there that he first saw McBain's work for Playboy. When it came time for Woodson to look for a career, a headhunter sent him to interview at Burrell-McBain where he was hired shortly after they won their noteworthy campaign with McDonald's. Woodson and McBain both lived in Hyde Park at the time and would often spend time chatting about art and advertising after work hours. McBain taught Woodson the important distinction between art direction and illustration, which Woodson carried with him throughout his years working in advertising. He fondly recalls a time when McBain gave him a pencil and a pad of paper and insisted that he draw his portrait without looking down at the paper (known as blind contour drawing). At first Woodson thought he was joking, but soon realized it was a fundamental lesson in actually seeing your subject rather than simply drawing what you know.

McBain eventually left Burrell-McBain, (now Burrell Communications), in 1974 to embark on a new career as an artist. He opened The Black Eye, a gallery space and consultancy that advised advertising agencies on how to create stronger connections with the Black community.

Until his passing in 2012, Emmett McBain celebrated Black culture and worked to promote and include the lives of Black people in media. In addition to his advertising work, he also organized nationwide art programs, community projects, and scholarships to uplift Black voices. In 2017, the American Institute of Graphic Arts honored McBain with the AIGA Medal, awarded to designers who have made exceptional contributions to the field of graphic design.

Garrett Popcorn Mock Ad Campaign

Art Direction Class Collaborates on Project

Recently, faculty member Rich Kryczka tasked students in his Art Direction class with creating a mock advertising campaign. Each student took on a necessary role, including art direction, photography, photo editing, graphic design, and illustration — a reflection of what a real ad agency team might look like. In less than three weeks, the group worked collaboratively to create a multiple piece campaign for a new flavored product from a Chicago-based company. The campaign had to include illustration, photography, an original headline, and a unique brand name.

The group chose to create a new food item for Garrett Popcorn Shops, a beloved Chicago institution. Academy alum Jodi Hoover (class of 2008), who is now the Art Director for Garrett, was able to help with packaging materials and scheduling a photography session in one of the Garrett retail locations. The final product, *Spicy & Icy Cinnamon* seasonal popcorn, was taste-tested for approval and given a professional mock campaign that could be used in advertising.

Students involved in the project:
 Jacqueline Enty: Art Direction
 Carmel Ada: Graphic Design
 Brooklynn Osborne: Illustration
 Rei Baiker & Kenneth Riddick: Photography and Editing



Multipurpose Signage



Promotional Stickers

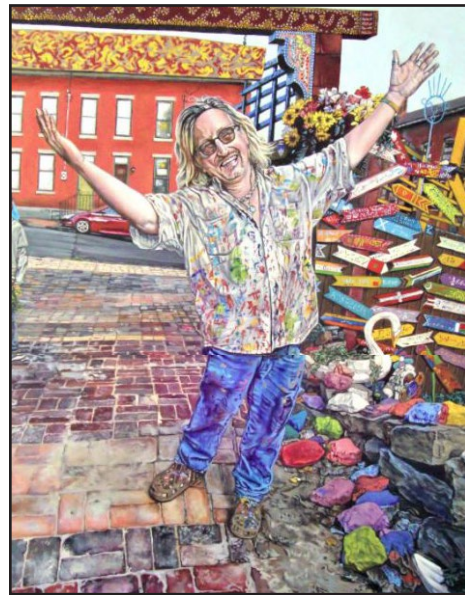


Multipurpose Signage

Drawing, the Key to Becoming a Successful Artist



Joel Pace, Academy Dean & Art Instructor



Happy Guy Painting by Joel Pace

The American Academy of Art College's philosophy, like my own, is that drawing should be a major element of the training of every artist, for many reasons. One is tradition: Particularly in regard to the figure, the act of drawing is an experience shared by artists for centuries. Students are replicating the process of Raphael, Rubens, and Rembrandt. Figure drawing is a kind of initiation into the artist club.

A second reason is design: When students are concentrating on representing people and objects through drawing, they are learning valuable lessons in design. Setting the figure in the page, cropping, balancing values, focusing interest, link dynamics, and storytelling are all issues that go beyond drawing.

Third, discipline: Students grow up in their beginning drawing classes. They learn to not be satisfied with their first attempt or idea and to elevate their expectations as to the quality of their work. Through drawing, students learn to accept and respond to criticism, which is one of the most valuable lessons of art school.

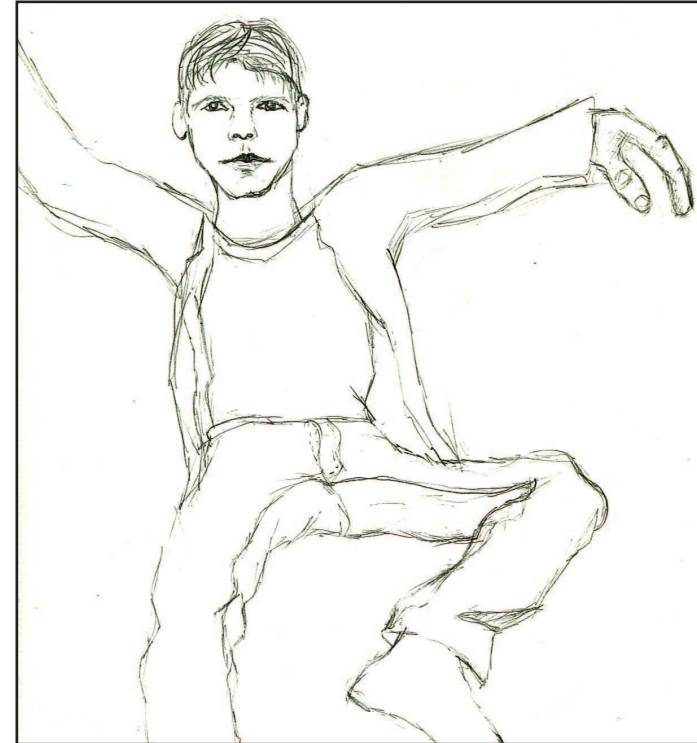
Fourth, objectivity: Drawing is an ideal training tool for students because it can be judged objectively—at least in a school that focuses on representational art. Either the drawing looks like the object or figure in question or it doesn't.

Fifth, drawing is the basic language for artists, as math is for scientists. A student who majors in graphic design may eventually become an art director and needs to be able to sketch when presenting ideas to clients.

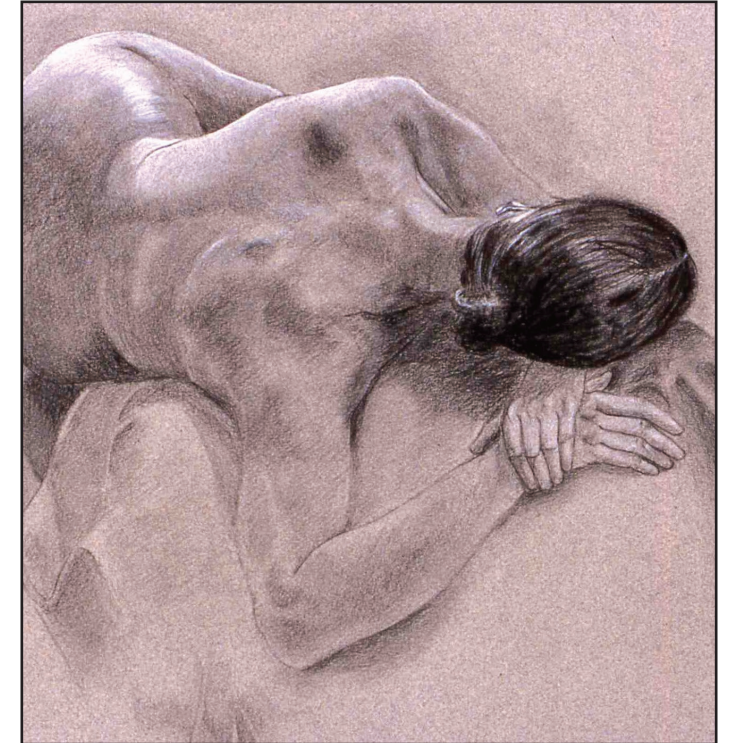
Finally, the future is unknown. Students may start their college career with a specific direction in mind, but that direction often changes during school or after graduation. So even if students think they will not need to draw in their careers, it is sensible to have drawing in their skill set.

— Joel Pace
Dean & Art Instructor
American Academy of Art College

Before & After



High School Artwork, Israel Reza



Freshman Year, Second Semester of School, Israel Reza



Freshman Year, First Month of School, Angela Swart



Senior Year, Angela Swart

Carmel Ada

Current Student Participates in Hermès Event



Academy student Carmel Ada (class of 2024)

About the Artist

Carmel Ada is a Chicago-based designer, illustrator, and visual thinker currently pursuing her BFA in Art Direction at the American Academy of Art College in Chicago. Upon graduating, Carmel plans to pursue a career on a creative team at an advertising agency. Born in the Philippines, Carmel was given the opportunity to explore her artistic pursuits with more opportunities after moving to Chicago. It wasn't until Carmel was in high school that she really decided to pursue art as a career.

"Ultimately I chose the Academy because I valued the structure and discipline in its curriculum, as well as the smaller classroom environment. I felt like this was a place that I could start from the ground up and develop my artistic style. The Academy has given me the support and resources to grow as an artist—there is no place I would rather be!" says Carmel.

What is *Hermès in the Making* and how did you get involved?

Hermès in the Making is a six-day public event featuring craftspeople and artisans from France that showcase live demonstrations, workshops, interactive activities, and films spread throughout the Grand Hall in Chicago's Union Station. Guests are able to experience a sneak peek into the techniques used to craft Hermès objects that are designed to last and be repaired.

The first that I heard of the event and the opportunity was mid-September from our Career Services Coordinator, Ashley Biggs, and my portfolio teacher, Jessica Mueller, who strongly encouraged me to apply and send in my resume.

What was the training process like?

Silk screen training occurred the day before the event and was open to the VIP and public. That evening we were shown what materials we were to work with (a silk screen press, 8 screens, red water-based ink, solvent, squeegees, and more—all brought over from France) and instructed on our role for this event. During training, we were tasked with making test prints, making sure everything ran smoothly for the days to come.

On the other end of the exhibit, there was a live demonstration of the silk screen printing process of the Hermès silk scarf. After guests had the opportunity to watch the demonstration, they were able to create their own personal prints with us, applying the same techniques and methods used for the silk scarf. Our silk screen activation gave the guests context and a chance for them to create something of their own that they are able to take home with them.

What was a typical day of the event like?

I would arrive at Union Station each morning by Metra train, clean and set up my screen printing station, make sure I had enough paper, ink, and screens, and start by making a couple test prints before the space opened. Throughout the day, there would be a consistent flow of foot traffic making its way through the exhibition. I would help out those who



Carmel Ada printing while spectators look on



Carmel Ada with Academy Instructor Jessica Mueller and fellow Academy classmates

would want to make their own screen print or those who were interested in seeing the process of how it works. During these eight-hour days, I would have a chance to talk to a wide variety of people — the productions team, the artisans, my screen print partner, the guests at the event, and even other students like me!

Toward the end of the day, around 5:45, we would start cleaning up our stations — making sure that our screens and squeegees were clean, refilling our ink pots, and helping each other out so that we were set up for the next day.

What did you learn that you plan to use in your own future projects?

After doing screen print upon screen print everyday in this event, I definitely want to incorporate more of this technique in my own work! There is such a vibrancy and uniqueness that silk screening offers and I hope to translate that into future projects that I do. The thing I enjoy most is that you are able to make multiple prints of the same design but still keep the integrity of the original.

Did anything inspire you? If so, what?

I grew a lot of admiration for the team of Hermès artisans and craftsmen. As an aspiring artist that's still in school, it was neat to catch a glimpse of different practices and "métiers" (trades/occupations) and how dedicated each person was to their

craft. It really inspired me to strive to be better at my craft so that I can attain that level of professionalism and confidence in my work. It's not just the set of tools and materials that make the artisan great but also the work ethic and respect for the process that contributes a great deal to the craftsmanship.

Everardo Acosta

Visiting Artist Alum Inspires Students

Many Academy students have hopes of pursuing a career in video game design. Academy Alumni Everardo Acosta took advantage of every career opportunity that came his way. Without realizing it, he built a set of in-demand skills that would prepare him for success in the video game industry.

When Everardo started at the Academy in the mid-90s, he aimed to study illustration. He'd always loved painting, drawing, and creating mixed-media pieces. A career in illustration seemed like the best fit for his interests and his dream of working on films in Hollywood. While studying at the Academy he was able to take a class in Desktop Publishing just as digital media was starting to take off.

After earning his BFA from the Academy, Everardo worked at several companies offering on-the-job training and unexpected new skill sets that would prove helpful in his video game career. Over the course of a few years, his responsibilities included everything from digitizing old graphics using Photoshop, to creating 3D designs of shipping ports, and finally taking on his first video game-related job as an Environment Artist with Midway Games.

While at Midway, he had the opportunity to take a job in California with a different video game company, which allowed him to experience different styles of operation within the same industry. A year later, he returned to Chicago to

“Allowing myself to try different paths and different roads got me to where I am today.”

pursue a leadership role with Midway Games, which eventually split into three separate companies, including Iron Galaxy. Everardo has been with Iron Galaxy since 2011 and has seen the company grow from about 30 employees to over 200. He now works as an Environment Lead, combining Art Lead and Art Director skills.

During his Visiting Artist series presentation at the Academy, Everardo emphasized the importance of community. Most of his jobs were introduced to him by co-workers and alumni of the Academy. The wide variety of new skills he acquired from each of his jobs proved to be valuable when moving from one to the next and eventually landing in the world of video games.

Flexibility along with continuously refining his craft, whether at work or at home, has been Everardo's key to success. A piece of advice he offered students was to always be flexible in their career pursuits. “Allowing myself to try different paths and different roads got me to where I am today.”



Iron Galaxy Studios: Killer Instinct—Riptor Stage



Iron Galaxy Studios: Extinction



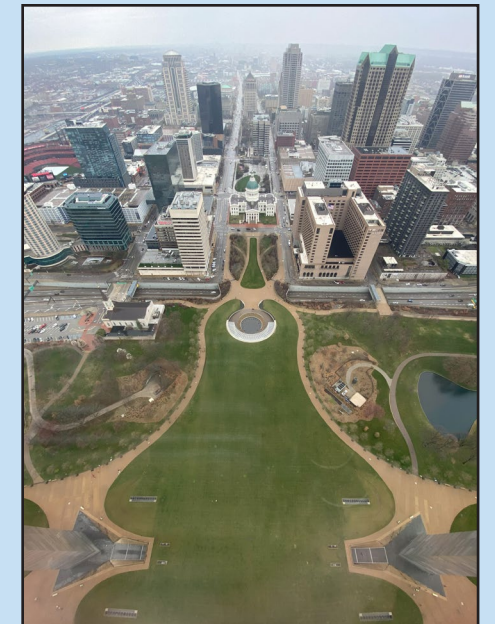
Iron Galaxy Studios: Rumbleverse

After years of working in video games, Everardo found himself with a “creative itch” to do more traditional work and began to do sculptures in his personal time, purely for the love of creating. He now has visions of himself hammering away at stone from a scaffold. Which leads one to wonder what might come next for him.

St. Louis Trip



Students pose in front of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis



Downtown St. Louis from the top of the Arch



Wood type at Central Print



Students attend workshop at Central Print

The Academy's Graphic Design department took a weekend trip to St. Louis, Missouri. The group enjoyed three days filled with art, laughs, adventures, and discovered a newfound love for the city of St. Louis and traveling by train. After a five hour Amtrak ride from Chicago's Union Station, students and faculty members visited the famous Gateway Arch, took a boat tour on the Mississippi River, stayed at Angad Arts Hotel, visited the Contemporary Arts Museum St. Louis (the CAM) and the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, and enjoyed lots of wonderful food.

The goal of the trip was to provide students with an opportunity to experience inspiration and connection with their peers outside of the classroom. Through curated tours of galleries, they learned about the process of selecting artwork for viewing and how their individuality and unique perspective is what makes their own artwork powerful. A major highlight of the trip was a visit to local non-profit arts organization, Central Print. There, students toured St. Louis's historic letterpress equipment and attended a rich and inspiring letterpress and bookbinding workshop with Marie Oberkirsch, longtime printmaker and co-founder of Central Print.

The grand finale of the trip was a visit to the City Museum, housed in an old shoe factory in downtown St. Louis. City

Museum is an ever-evolving, artist-built playground made of reclaimed pieces of the city.

All of this was made possible through student-led fundraising which included bake sales, sales of merchandise designed and screen-printed by students in the design program, and headshots taken by photography students Miranda Cammelot and Michael Harris. Design students Chey Linder and Tori Garcia played a huge role in organizing the sales and helping to plan the weekend's itinerary.

This community effort drastically reduced the cost for students to attend the trip. Special thanks to Academy faculty members Jessica Mueller and Misha Goro for chaperoning the trip and sharing their stories and photos and to the Academy for their support.

Andrew Loomis & Alex Ross

The Timeless Artistry of I'd Love to Draw!

Throughout history, the art world has been graced by countless luminaries. Among these remarkable individuals, two names stand out in the realm of illustration and comic book art: Andrew Loomis and Alex Ross — and they just so happen to be alumni of the Academy as well!

Before Alex Ross became a household name in the world of comic book art, there was Andrew Loomis. The artist, and former Academy instructor, left an indelible mark on the field of commercial art and illustration during the mid-20th century when he authored a series of instructional books. *Fun with a Pencil*, *Creative Illustration*, and *Figure Drawing for All It's Worth* have been continuously celebrated for their clear, insightful



Andrew Loomis



Alex Ross

"The knowledge he left behind has enriched the lives of generations of illustrators. I'm one of them."

—Alex Ross

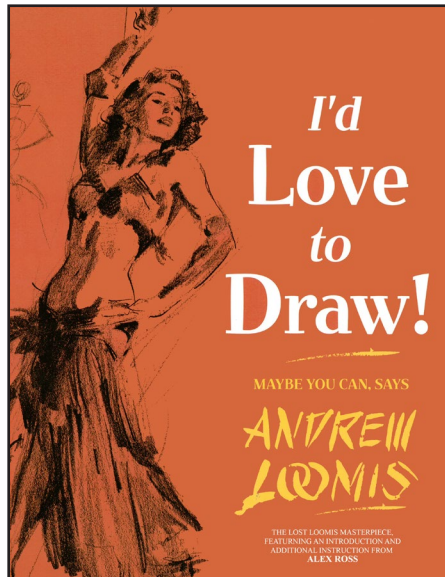
guidance and step-by-step instructions. Loomis's ability to break down complex artistic concepts into manageable lessons has helped countless artists hone their craft. His legacy endures, and his influence can be seen in the work of many contemporary artists, including Alex Ross.

Alex Ross is known for his impressive photorealistic superhero artistry. He has carved a niche for himself as one of the most renowned comic book artists of his generation. His distinct style, characterized by its lifelike depictions of iconic characters, has earned him a dedicated following and numerous awards.

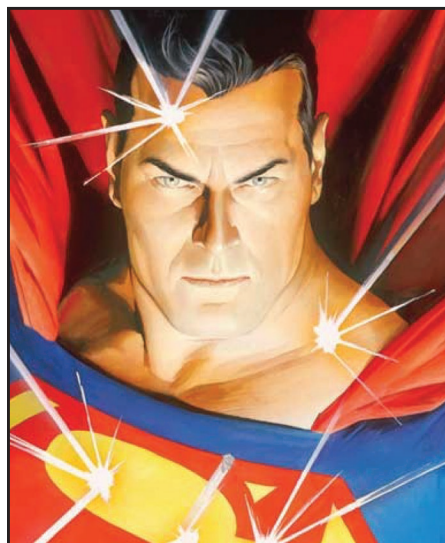
One book that beautifully illustrates the connection between the two artists is *I'd Love to Draw!* Published posthumously in 2014, the book was considered something of a "lost" work. In the introduction, Ross shares his admiration for Loomis's work and reveals how his instructional books played a pivotal role in his artistic development. Ross writes, "The knowledge he left behind has enriched the lives of generations of illustrators. I'm one of them."

The artistic journey of Alex Ross and the enduring legacy of Andrew Loomis are testaments to the power of passion, dedication, and the influence of great mentors. Andrew Loomis's timeless teachings remind us that the art world is built upon a foundation of knowledge and shared wisdom, making it possible for artists of all generations to thrive and leave their mark on the canvas of history.

Recently, the Academy extended this legacy by gifting each of our incoming students with a copy of *I'd Love to Draw!* We hope that they will find as much inspiration in Loomis's guidance as the generations of artists before them.



Cover of *I'd Love to Draw!* (2014)



Superman by Alex Ross

Portfolio Night



Student shows portfolio to potential employer

The Academy's annual **Portfolio Night** event is an opportunity for alumni and industry professionals to review portfolios of recent graduates in Illustration, Art Direction, Oil Painting, Graphic Design, Photography, and 3D Modeling/Animation. Potential employers can scout the talent of up-and-coming artists who display their portfolios throughout the school. The young artists are eager to discuss their art while listening to advice from reviewers.

The energy at this year's event felt warm and cheerful, filled with attendees who were excited to socialize with fellow artists and members of the Academy community. We wish all of our recent graduates the best of luck on their career paths and look forward to hosting more Portfolio Night events in the years to come.



More students show portfolios to potential employer



Raffle winner



Portfolio Night group photo

Chicago – A Great Campus!



The American Academy of Art College offers the following programs:

- **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration**
- **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design**
- **Bachelor of Fine Arts in 3D Modeling/Animation**
- **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting with a Specialization in Oil Painting**
- **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Direction**
- **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography**

For more information, please call us at 312-461-0600, email us at info@aaart.edu, visit www.aaart.edu or scan this code.



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