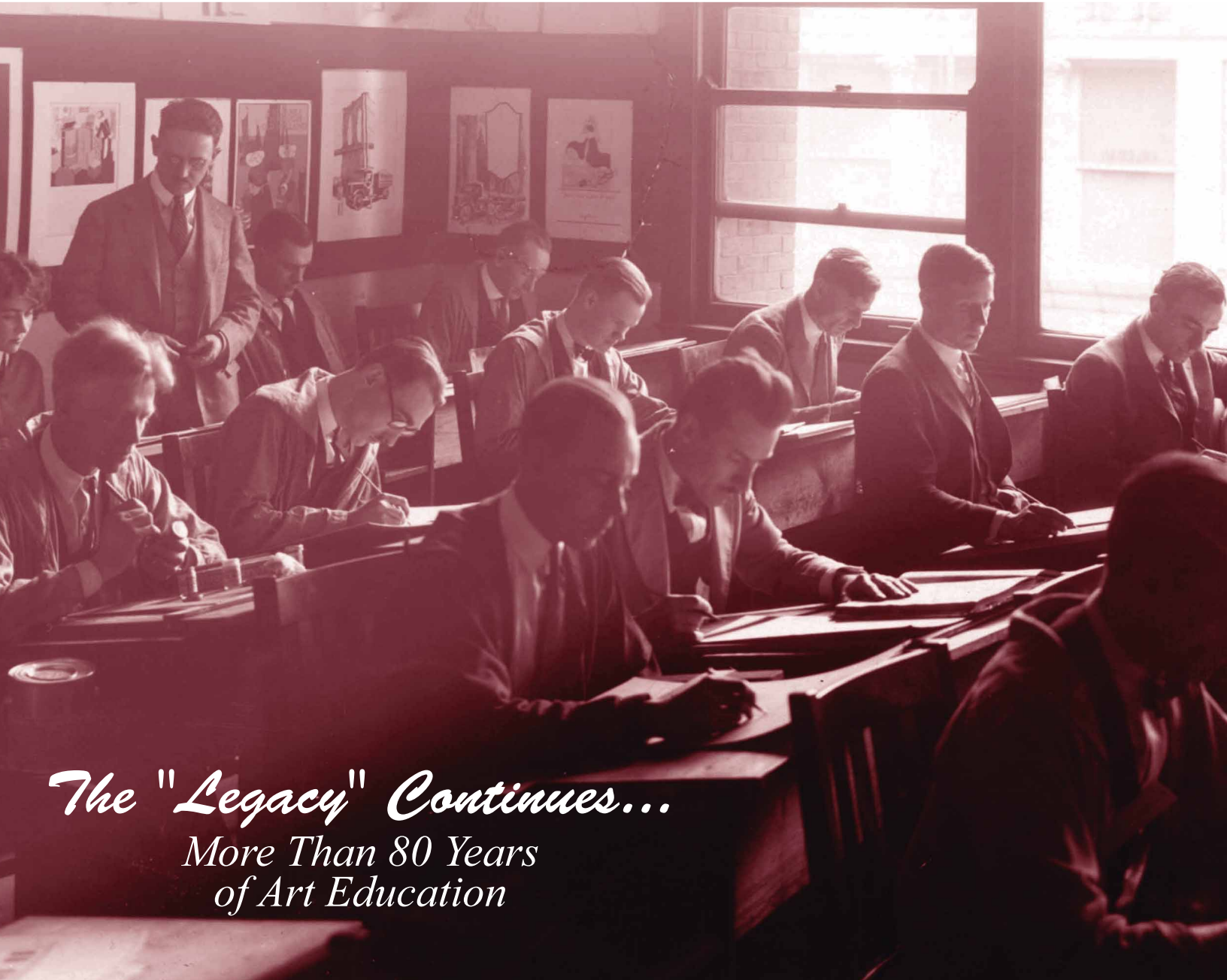


Academy News



American
Academy of
Art

The Official Newsletter of the American Academy of Art



The "Legacy" Continues...
More Than 80 Years
of Art Education

Higher Learning Commission Visits the Academy

The American Academy of Art would sincerely like to welcome the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to our institution. A four-member team will be visiting the Academy from October 23-25, to conduct a review process of the school. The Academy is seeking regional accreditation from the prestigious H.L.C. Currently, the Academy is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology and was honored with its School of Distinction Award in 2004.

To prepare for the HLC visit, the Academy has gone through an extensive 18 month self-study process resulting in changes and improvements in resources, facilities and how we do things here at the Academy. Looking around the school you will see enhancements and transformations consequential to our self study, including a new computer lab and the expanded and improved library, a newly remodeled student lounge, and two new classrooms overlooking Michigan Avenue. Importantly, the Academy developed through discussion with students,

alumni, faculty, the Board, staff and employers a strategic plan for the future called "The Academy Advantage", stated Duncan Webb.

Another important development was an Assessment of Student Learning. Our faculty worked very hard to create an Assessment Plan, thus improving academic programs. The next step in the process for faculty is to establish rubrics for measuring the qualitative aspects of student work. It has been a challenging process for faculty and staff to step back and analyze the creative process and its outcomes, but all have made strides in this effort.

The self study process was co-chaired by Mary Phelan, Chair for the Foundations program and Chair for the Life Drawing program and Duncan Webb, Academic Dean. "Through this process we feel the Academy has become an even stronger institution and is prepared for an exciting future,"

We would again like to welcome the Higher Learning Commission team and hope the team will enjoy becoming acquainted with the Academy.

Career Updates... on American Academy of Art Graduates

Frank Cannone, 2005 BFA Graduate—Design, is a Production Artist for Ambrosio.

Cory Cravatta, 2004 BFA Graduate—3D, is employed at White Rabbit Games LLC.

Patrick Kelly Cunningham, 2005 BFA Graduate—Web Design Multi-Media, is the Web master at Optimum Nutrition.

Erick Garcia, 2006 BFA Graduate—Illustration, has recently illustrated a coloring book for USG Corp.

Ashton Gallagher, 2006 BFA Graduate—Illustration, is an Illustrator for Start to Finish Publishing, a division of Don Johnston Publishing.

Julian Gallo, 2006 BFA Graduate—Design, is a Designer at Zipatoni Co.

Jesse Graber, 2006 BFA Graduate- Illustration, is employed as an Illustrator at Celtic Marketing.

Kristel Gregorio, 2006 MFA Graduate—Digital Media & Design, is employed with Design Pac as a Graphic Designer.

Alexandra Satine, 2005 BFA Graduate—Design, is working as a Design Intern at Jones New York.

Joe Schmill, 2006 BFA Graduate—3D, is a 3-D Modeler for Parsons Corporation.

Jeff Simpson, 2006 MFA Graduate—Painting & Drawing, is teaching Drawing for the Evanston Adult Continuing Education Program, as well as Exhibiting in the Chicago Art Open and "Dressed in Black" AT Framing Mode Gallery.

Kasia Stach, 2005 BFA Graduate, is a Packaging Designer for Turtle Wax.

David Turkiewicz, 2004 BFA Graduate—3D, is a Game Tester at Midway Games.

Kurt Tillmanns, 2005 BFA Graduate—3D, is a Game Tester at Midway Games.

Bradford Group New AAA Recruits:

Ashleigh Stubitsch, 2006 BFA Graduate—Illustration. Product Developer, Hired Spring 2006.

Tim Shumate, 2006 BFA Graduate—Illustration. Product Developer, Hired Spring 2006.

Kira Koulouris, 2006 BFA Graduate—Illustration. Product Developer, Hired Spring 2006.

Matt Hryniewiecki, 2005 BFA Graduate—Illustration

The Tavern Club Welcomes Academy Students

The Tavern Club hosted an artist's reception for the "Lucky 13" exhibition. This show consisted of thirty-six pieces of artwork by 13 senior illustration majors: Sam Balfour, Kathleen Bieker, Crishenza Borman, Derek Fritz, Ashton Gallagher, Erick Garcia, Eliza Geornoiu, Jesse Graber, Jourdon Gullet, Heather Hussion, William Jarchow, Kathy List and Ashleigh Stubitsch. The students put in a lot of hard work getting their pieces ready and hanging the show, and their hard work paid off. Heather Birkhead, from Career Services comments that the reception was "packed from start to finish" and she hopes that this will be the "beginning of a hopefully long-standing tradition".

The Tavern Club and The American Academy of Art in fact, do have a longstanding relationship. Gary Young, who is the grandson of the founder of the American Academy of Art, and a member of The Tavern Club, is also the curator for the collaboration shows. Following on the heels of Rich Kryczka's New Seasons show, the Lucky 13 show is another successful partnership with



THE AMERICAN
ACADEMY OF ART
EMERGING
ILLUSTRATORS
EXHIBITION
THE TAVERN CLUB
333 N. MICHIGAN
AVE. 25TH FLOOR
FEBRUARY 27TH TO
MARCH 31ST 2006



American Academy of Art Instructors Tom Herzberg and Rich Kryczka

Gary Young and The Tavern Club. More Academy shows are planned for the space.

Among the artist's colleagues, instructors, families and friends; many local employers were also present at the reception. The professional postcard also sparked interest from such companies as The Bradford Exchange and Wenzl & Co. who have decided to conduct interviews on campus.

According to Ashton Gallagher, "The show was a great success. Everyone should be proud of the work that went into the show."

Employer Night...

Recently, the Academy hosted “Employer Night” at the Bill L. Parks Gallery at the American Academy of Art. Sponsored by Career Services, Portfolio Night was an opportunity for recent Academy graduates to network with employers in their field by interacting face-to-face with employers and show their portfolios. Twenty-one graduates participated in the event as well as 26 Chicago



A Huge S

26 Employers Vi



area employers, such as Leo Burnett, Skyline Design, Kohoe Design, Bradford Group, White Rabbit Games and Midway Games. This event also gave the employers the opportunity to become familiar with the quality of work produced by Academy graduates, as well as give feedback for improvements and additions. Heather Birkhead, Coordinator of Career Services commented, “The portfolio night is a fantastic opportunity for graduates to meet and ask questions of people in their field, and it helps build confidence from the positive

Academy Alumnus Designs Cover for Rolling Stone Ma

No need to look any further than your local newsstands and bookstores to see new work from an American Academy of Art alumni. Featured on the cover of *Rolling Stone* is work by Michael Elins, a 1981 graduate of the academy. The cover features the three American Idol judges and has the banner title of “‘Idol’ Worship”.

This is not the first magazine cover that Elins’ work has graced. He is a critically acclaimed and much sought after artist. *Advertising Age* considers his New York magazine cover featuring Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes in straight-jackets to be one of the top ten best magazine covers of 2005. His work has also been featured on the covers of *Wired*, *Newsweek*, *U.S News and World Report*, *Business 2.0*, *Psychology Today*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Rolling Stone*, *Time*, *ESPN The Magazine* and within several of the above mentioned periodicals as well as *The New York Times Magazine*.

Elins has also designed many movie posters, including *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* and advertising images for Mac Computers and Apple Cinema Displays. Elins’ work is mostly of a digital and photographic nature; he is quoted as saying, “I love my Photoshop. What I do is not retouching, it’s re-imaging. I infuse my aesthetic into these pictures using the tools of photography and painting.”

Nevertheless, he has defied anyone to categorize his work and credits his “rigorous classical training” to his high quality of work. He explains the Academy as a “very regimented art school” and said although the instructors were very tough, he “definitely learned his technique”.

The academy was recently in contact with the artist and he reminisced about his former instructors, citing that they have had a lasting effect on him and he was happy to help out the school in any way that he could.

Success

Visit the Academy



feedback they received. Graduates were encouraged on the directions they have chosen. Several graduates were able to land interviews with employers who attended." One student commented, "Participating in portfolio night helped with my nerves. I realized that they (the employers) are just people like me." The Academy plans to make the Portfolio Night a regular event. Many of the employers that participated have already committed to the next event.

Magazine



To see Michael Elins' work
please visit his website at
www.michaelelins.com

Academy's First MFA Graduate

Officially finishing his MFA degree in August of 2005, Chris Adraneda was recognized on May 23, 2006 at the American Academy of Art graduation ceremony as the first Master of Fine Arts graduate. Chris Adraneda received his MFA in Digital Media Design. He also received his BFA in Commercial Art/Visual Communications from the Academy in 2000.



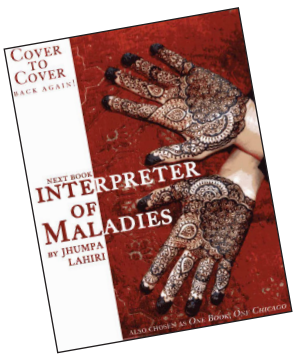
When asked about his experience in the Academy's MFA program, Chris responded, "[The] program was great. During my time in the program I feel that I was enlightened about art and design in a way that I haven't been before...the MFA program helped me to open my eyes about the purpose of design and its place in the art world". He also acknowledged Vance Mellon, Misha Goro and Latonia Baker as instructors that provided him with encouragement, knowledge and experience.

Presently, Chris works full-time as a graphic designer with the Schiele Group, Chicago, IL. He is also teaching a variety of courses at Westwood College, as well as many freelance projects for various clients. His future goals including starting his own graphic design company, specializing in print material.

Chris explains his drive for lifelong learning, "Personally, as an artist, I'm still exploring many visual and conceptual ideas that I touched base on during grad school. After I finished my final show, I knew there were ways that I could push my ideas about graphic design and fine art further. I'm continuing to refine my personal methods of creating digital aesthetics". He summarizes his work and career as "fulfilling, overwhelming and challenging. I get to wake up everyday and be creative. I get to practice and preach what I love. Who gets to say that? Not many people."

CHOOSE A CARRER IN ART





New Selection for Academy Book Club “Cover-to-Cover”!

In conjunction with the City of Chicago’s “One Book, One Chicago” Fall 2006 program, this semester’s pick for Cover-to-Cover is “Interpreter of Maladies” by Jhumpa Lahiri, a collection of short stories by the Pulitzer Prize winning author. These short stories focus on the depiction of immigrant and Indian-American life. Her poignant stories also capture universal themes of longing, loneliness and barriers of communication.

Cover-to-Cover is the Academy’s book reading and discussion group, which selects one book per semester and meets several times over the semester to discuss the book. The book club is attended by faculty, staff and students and provides a great arena for interaction between the different groups.

The “One Book, One Chicago” program is presented by the Chicago Public Library. The program includes a talk and book signing event with Jhumpa Lahiri at the Harold Washington Library (two blocks from the Academy) on October 9th at 6:00 pm and is free to the public. Other events include book discussions throughout the City of Chicago and Suburbs. The Academy is emulating this idea of “One School, One Book” to encourage life-long learning, intellectual curiosity and public involvement from the students.

Keep on the lookout for posters with meeting times and places for Cover-to-Cover. Come check out a copy of the book at the Irving Shapiro Library here at the Academy and start reading. See you there!

Members of the Academy Visit ACME, Inc.

On the invitation of alumnus Alex Ross, and owner and founder of ACME, Clint Borucki, our own Rich Kryczka and Aron Gagliardo toured ACME Design Inc., an Elgin, IL company. ACME Design Company, Inc. is a design firm concentrating on modeling and sculptural work. ACME works on contract on a small scale (this family-like company has only ten employees) to create unique collectible items, and has worked extensively with The Bradford Exchange and Alex Ross. ACME has a long standing relationship with the American Academy of Art and its students, including summer field trips. Currently, three graduates of the academy, John Olimb, Dean Millerman and Ken Kooi, are employed at ACME.



Left to right: Rich Kryczka, Ken Kooi, John Olimb, Alex Ross, Dean Millerman, Tom Most, and the dog Mike

During their visit, Rich and Aron talked with the alumni employed at ACME and checked out their current projects. Both Aron and Rich agree that the artwork is really remarkable and both said they had a great time visiting the studios. ACME is a talent-centered, customer-service based company that likes to assist young artists in the field.

Although many companies are succumbing to the pressure of outsourcing, Kryczka commends this company for staying a close knit group of true friends that have great pride in their work as well as extraordinary talent. Kryczka believes that “by keeping the doors open to the public, [Clint] keeps this industry open to people as a career option, not often thought of.”



Rich Kryczka and “Batman”

One Saturday every month, ACME opens its doors and hosts a “model club”. Artists are invited to come to ACME’s studios and talk about their work with other artists, and use the company’s facilities to work on their own projects. Rich Kryczka praises this program, and says it gives students a chance to “network with the company early on.” Several current students and alumni also participate.



Academy Instructor Michael Goro Wins Prestigious Award

Faculty member Michael (Misha) Goro was one of two entrants to win the “Excellent Prize” in the “14th Seoul_Space International Print Biennial from over 750 entries from more than 55 countries. This biennial contest is held at the Seoul Museum of Art in Seoul, Korea, and is juried by a panel of judges composed of world renowned print art experts from Korea and abroad. Although digital art was considered, priority was given over to print works crafted using traditional techniques.

Guided by a prospectus about the competition, and previous success exhibiting in Asia, Mr. Goro entered two pieces of his recent work. His work, titled “Urban Serenity” was chosen among the 99 works for highlight. “Urban Serenity” is a black and white Etching & Engraving done in 2005, featuring the “El” in Chicago. Misha says of his work,

“Urban Serenity depicts a place and a weather condition that is very familiar to Chicagoans—the elevated train (locally known as the El) tracks and a fresh snow. If you have ever lived in Chicago, you can imagine waiting for the train on the platform, standing underneath the heated lamps for warmth, and watching a train passing in the opposite direction. ...Etchings, more than any other medium, convey contradictory images by reducing them to the most basic color contrast. Urban Serenity not only reflects this color contrast, it examines a series of contrasts within one scene, such as the contrast between the aggressive movement of the train and the soft movement of the falling snow. It also depicts the contrast of the controlled, built environment and untamed nature.”

“Urban Serenity” is now part of the Seoul Museum of Art’s collection.

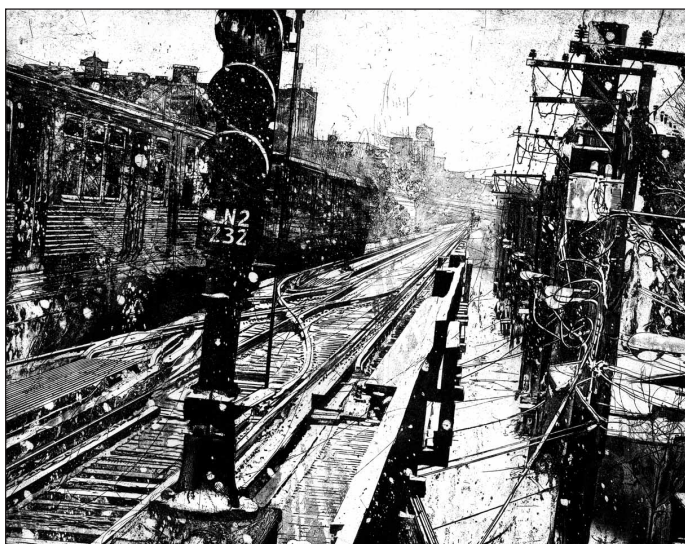
\$5000 for his work. The museum also took an imprint of Goro’s hand in wet concrete to be displayed in the museum.

Mr. Goro said he is grateful for the extensive support that the Academy gave him throughout the process of this contest.



Michael Goro has been a faculty member at the American Academy of Art since 2002. He currently teaches Digital Pre-press and Production, Visual Communication and Illustration. He is an accomplished artist with extensive international work and exhibition experience. His work has been exhibited in more than forty national and international exhibitions. In 1998, he competed in the International Print Triennial in Kanagawa, Japan and was ranked the third best printmaker in the world.

Congratulations Misha!



The Seoul Museum of Art flew Goro into Korea for a whirlwind two days to speak at the awards ceremony, a private invitation-only event attended by the Korean Minister of Environment, Curators from Korean Museums, and Ambassadors. He received a medal and

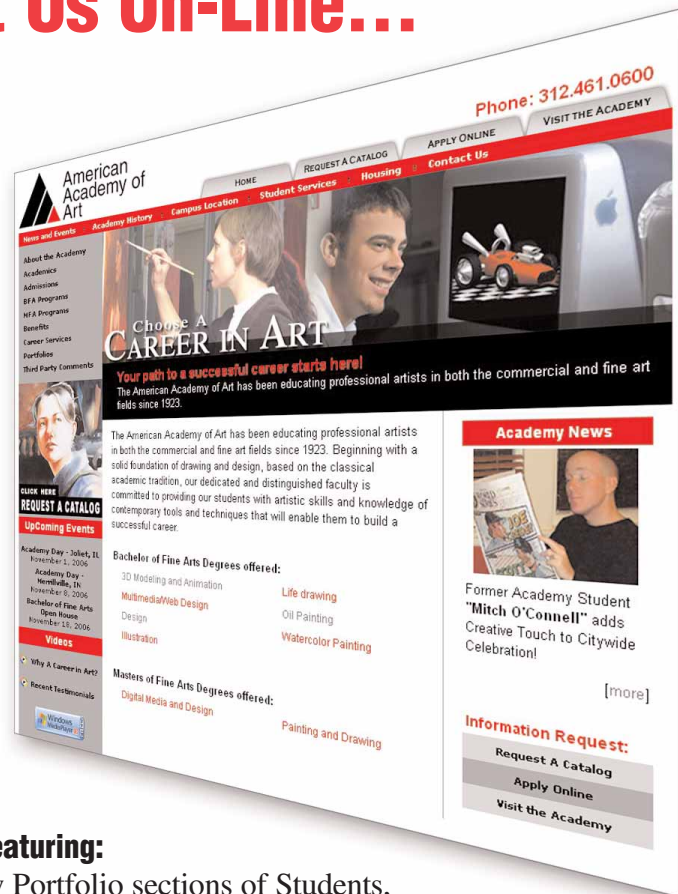
The "Legacy" Continues...



When Frank Young Sr. founded the American Academy of Art in 1923, he was an internationally recognized authority in advertising design. He believed the Academy should "provide the best instructors, attract the best students, and neglect nothing that will help them to build successful careers." The same goals and traditions hold true today. His son Frank Young Jr. managed the Academy from 1964 until 1970, when Clinton E. Frank, founder of Clinton E. Frank Inc. Advertising, took over as chief executive. Mr. Frank's agency was widely known for its exceptional creative departments.

Richard H. Otto, our current president, assumed the role of owner and president in 1992. During his tenure, he has established the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree program and the Master of Fine Arts Degree. He has maintained the Academy's tradition of excellence while developing new programs and initiatives to ensure the continuing quality of education for future generations.

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