

FACULTY FOCUS

In this issue:

- **Priority Deadlines**
- Announcements & Reminders
- Upcoming Events & Key Dates
- Resources
- Faculty Activities

All times listed in Central Time

Priority Deadlines

Midterm Grades and Student Alert Reminder

Tuesday, March 30, 9:00 p.m.

Please submit Spring 2021 midterm grades in [myMCAD](#) prior to Tuesday, March 30, at 9:00 p.m. This is also a good time to submit Student Alert notices for any students experiencing attendance or performance issues in your courses. Student Alert forms may be submitted via the Faculty Info tab of myMCAD, under Online Forms.

Announcements & Reminders

McKnight Visual Artist Fellowships Application Closing Soon

Friday, March 26, Noon

The McKnight Visual Arts Fellowship program recognizes and supports mid-career artists living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence in the field of visual arts. This year a total of six \$25,000 fellowships will be awarded. In addition, the Visual Artist fellows will have the opportunity to meet with six visiting national critics, to participate in a McKnight Discussion Series that features fellows and invited critics, and to use additional funds for individualized professional development activities.

Learn more and apply [here](#)

Faculty Information Forms (FIF) with Addendum due April 19

The FIF is available for download on the [Academic Affairs intranet page](#) under “Faculty Resources.” The FIF now invites the inclusion of an addendum:

MCAD recognizes that the events of the global pandemic may have impacted your teaching, service, and professional practice/creative work or research. You are invited to include a brief narrative addendum to your Faculty Information Form (FIF) articulating the factors you would like to be taken into consideration in the evaluation of your performance and their impact on your work.

Department Chair/Director Evaluations due April 19

All faculty are invited to complete [Department Chair/Director Evaluations](#) by Monday, April 19. The responses are submitted anonymously.

MCBA Collegiate Fellowship 2021

Monday, April 19

For graduating seniors and 2nd year Graduate Students. Please encourage prospective candidates to apply for the 14th annual MCBA Collegiate Fellowship, which facilitates an opportunity for a graduating senior or graduate student to complete an ambitious project utilizing the Minnesota Center for Book Arts facility. Eligible students must be proficient in the techniques they wish to employ.

This opportunity includes a \$1,000 stipend, an 8-week summer studio residency, tuition for one MCBA virtual class or 1:1 tutorial costing up to \$300, a year long membership to MCBA, among other benefits.

View guidelines and application [here](#). Any and all questions can be forwarded to Natasha Pestich at npestich@mcad.edu. Specific COVID related protocol questions can be relayed on to Torey Erin at exhibitions@mnbookarts.org or terin@mnbookarts.org.

Upcoming Events & Key Dates

Liberal Arts Visiting Faculty Search Candidate Presentations

Art History

Yijing Wang

Friday, March 26, noon-1:00 p.m.

Join on [Zoom!](#)

Yijing Wang is PhD Candidate in the Frick Department of History of Art and Architecture at the University of Pittsburgh. He specializes in contemporary Chinese art with a transnational focus on language-based practices. His research examines the conceptual and material dimensions of artists' physical acts of inscribing in transcultural representations among and between East Asia, Europe, and the United States since the

1980s. Based on his working relationship with living artists, his current book project, “Inscribing Sinoscape: Script and Representation in Post-Mao Chinese Art, 1985-Present,” investigates the global landscape in which Chinese artists deploy unconventional material forms and media from indigenous traditions as specific scripts, writing styles, typographies, and their material carriers: talismans, scrolls, sutras, and steles, to articulate their social critique and cultural identity. It poses the question to all art historians, curators, critics, artists, and art students: what counts as contemporary art practice today?

Following the presentation, please complete this brief [online survey](#) by the end of the day on Friday, April 9

Cristin McKnight Sethi
Friday, April 2, noon-1:00 p.m.
Join on [Zoom!](#)

Cristin McKnight Sethi is an assistant professor of Art History at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at George Washington University (GW). She holds a Ph.D. in Art History from the University of California, Berkeley (2015) and a Master’s in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin (2008). Her research and teaching interests focus on South and Southeast Asia and include the study of textiles and vernacular art, the intersection of gender and practices of making, networks of circulation and exchange, and histories of colonialism and British imperialism. Prior to joining the faculty at GW, Cristin taught at the California College of the Arts and at Colorado College. She has held curatorial and research positions at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the UCLA Fowler Museum, the Asian Art Museum San Francisco, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Cristin's current book project examines gender, labor, and hand embroidery in Punjab during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Following the presentation, please complete this brief [online survey](#) by the end of the day on Friday, April 9

Creative Writing
Fulla Abdul-Jabbar
Monday, March 29, noon-1:00 p.m.
Join on [Zoom!](#)

Fulla Abdul-Jabbar is a writer, artist, editor, and curator living in Brooklyn. She teaches in the Department of Writing at the Pratt Institute where she was awarded an AICAD

Postgraduate Teaching Fellowship and is Editor and Curator at the Green Lantern Press.

In her work, she is primarily interested in the ways language constructs experience and an understanding of self. This manifests in visual art, performance, editorial projects, curatorial projects, and experimental writing and criticism. She has created projects regarding her previous career as a biochemist and the scientific poster session, PowerPoint as an emotive container, and exquisite corpses. In all of her work there is a fundamental question of structure. What are the structures we build that simultaneously engender and limit expression? Why do we return to forms that often fail us?

She has performed, screened, or exhibited nationally and internationally including at the Electronic Literature Organization, the Altered Aesthetics Film Festival, the Brussels Independent Film Festival, and the Ann Arbor Film Festival. Her writing has appeared in DIAGRAM, Bombay Gin, Jellyfish Review, Passages North, Northwest Review, Prairie Schooner, and elsewhere. She received her B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Michigan and M.A. in Visual & Critical Studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Following the presentation, please complete this brief [online survey](#) by the end of the day on Monday, April 12

Aamina Ahmad
Tuesday, March 30, noon-1:00 p.m.
Join on [Zoom!](#)

Aamina Ahmad grew up in London. She holds an MA in Television Drama, an MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and received a Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University. Her debut novel, *The Walled City*, will be published by Riverhead in 2022. Her short fiction has appeared in *One Story*, *The Southern Review*, *The Normal School*, *The Missouri Review*, *Ecotone* and the anthology, *And the World Changed*. Her play, *The Dishonored*, was produced by Kali and toured the UK in 2016. In addition to the Stegner, she has been a recipient of a Pushcart Prize, a Screencraft Stage Play Award, and a Rona Jaffe Writers Award.

Following the presentation, please complete this brief [online survey](#) by the end of the day on Monday, April 12

Alexander Ramirez
Monday, April 5, noon-1:00 p.m.
Join on [Zoom!](#)

Alexander Ramirez is an instructor of record and Ph.D. candidate in the English Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His fiction, nonfiction, and refereed articles have appeared in Image Journal, Potomac Review, The Journal of American Culture, and Full Bleed, among other publications.

Following the presentation, please complete this brief [online survey](#) by the end of the day on Monday, April 12

MFA Spring 2021 Professional Practices Series

Roadmap for a Successful Career: Goal Setting with Ellen Mueller

Thursday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.

This talk will focus on best practices for setting goals and reaching them. We'll look at a variety of ways to work smarter, not harder, including tips on wellness. [Ellen Mueller](#) is Director of the MCAD MFA Program and an interdisciplinary artist.

[Learn more](#) & [register](#)

Freelancing and Contracts with Allegra Lockstadt

Thursday, April 8, 6:30 p.m..

Freelancing is something all artists and designers do at various times or make a career out of it. [Allegra Lockstadt](#) will discuss how to form a contract and make sure you are protecting yourself and your work when taking on a freelance opportunity.

[Learn more](#) & [register](#)

Visiting Artist Lectures Spring 2021

Fine Arts Lecture

[Elektra KB \(Sponsored by Alice B. Fjelstul Visiting Artist Fund\)](#)

Monday, March 29, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join on [Zoom!](#)

MCAD Visiting Artist Committee Lecture

[Mimi Onuoha \(Sponsored by Grey Fund\)](#)

Thursday, April 8, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Join on [Zoom!](#)

All Faculty Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, noon - 1:00 p.m.

Full Time Faculty are required to attend.

Adjunct Faculty are welcome and will be compensated for attending.

Zoom link forthcoming

[America, I Sing You Back](#) Panel Discussion Part II

Wednesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.

Presenters include: Keyhar Brown-Ransaw '19 and Nico Santino '19 from The People's Library; Bill Jeter '97, MFA; Monica Edwards Larson; Michelle Ott '99; and Carla Alexandra Rodriguez '11. The discussion will be moderated by Gallery Director Kerry Morgan who will invite questions from the audience.

Join on [Zoom!](#)

Walker Curator Conversations

[Walker Visual Arts Curator Victoria Sung in conversation with Kerry Morgan](#)

Friday, April 9, noon - 1:00 p.m.

Join us on [Zoom!](#)

Faculty small group conversations with Robert Ransick, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Wednesday, April 28, noon - 1:00 p.m.

You're invited to attend faculty small group conversations with Robert. Please email Naomi Sack at nsack@mcad.edu to sign up!

Resources

One Weird Trick: Structuring Online Critique with Ellen Mueller

In Online Learning's One Weird Trick series, faculty share a secret weapon, novel approach, or special technique they use in the classroom. In this [episode](#), Ellen Mueller shares three simple strategies for structuring online critique.

Virtual Drop-in Consultation Time for Faculty-Cancelled 3/26

The sessions will resume on Friday, April 2 and continue until the end of the semester. Faculty are welcome to [drop in](#) and ask questions of Timothy Gardner, Director, Learning Center and Disability Services, and Beth Stockinger, Director of the Counseling and Wellness Center, on Fridays from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Assessment Office Hours

Mondays at noon

Have questions about assessment at MCAD? Wondering how to make it work for you? Take advantage of Eleanor's office hours every Monday at noon! She's here to answer

your questions, brainstorm ideas, or even just share musings. Schedule time with her via [Calendly](#)

Faculty Activities

[Piotr Szyhalski / Labor Camp – COVID-19: Labor Camp Report](#)

March 18 - August 14

On March 24, 2020, Minneapolis-based artist Piotr Szyhalski embarked on a daily drawing practice, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic as it unfolded in real time. What began as a way for the artist to share observations of life in lockdown and the pain caused by the pandemic, soon became an exercise in chronicling his thoughts and feelings, reconciling them with the changes being wrought in the world.

COVID-19: Labor Camp Report consists of 225 drawings created over eight months, with new drawings posted daily on Instagram, a witness to the unfolding crisis and a record of time both labored and lost.

Gallery 370 at the MIA

Have something to contribute? [Submit content for Faculty Focus.](#)

MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN