

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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**CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART AND COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN
CELEBRATES GRADUATES FEATURED IN
ACADEMY 2013: Annual MFA/BFA Invitational
July 13 – August 24, 2013**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Corcoran College of Art + Design is proud to announce that a record number of Corcoran graduates were selected for *Academy 2013*, CONNERSMITH's 13th annual exhibition of emerging talent in the DC Metro area.

Graduates included are **Annie Hanson** (BFA Fine Arts '13), **Armando Lopez-Bircann** (BFA Fine Arts '13), **Jason Edward Tucker** (BFA Photography '13), **Jeremiah Holland** (BFA Fine Arts '13), **Joan Oh** (BFA Photography '13), **Rachel Hrbek** (BFA Fine Arts '13) and **Rahshia Sawyer** (BFA Photography '04). All 2013 graduates will exhibit pieces from their BFA thesis exhibition, *NEXT at the Corcoran 2013*, an annual spring exhibition of Corcoran College of Art + Design work showcased in the museum's exhibition galleries.

Academy 2013 is a survey of outstanding work by MFA and BFA students in the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore area. The exhibition founder and curator, Dr. Jamie Smith, personally invited each artist to participate.

"The number of Corcoran seniors selected this year for CONNERSMITH's prestigious *Academy* show is evidence not only of the incredible talent of our BFA seniors but also of the increasing strength and currency of our undergraduate program," said Andy Grundberg, Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies. "The curriculum and the capstone *NEXT* exhibition put our graduates on a path to success in the worlds of contemporary art and design."

Academy 2013: Annual MFA/BFA Invitational will be on view July 13 – August 24, 2013, with a public opening reception Saturday, July 13 from 6 to 9 p.m.



Annie Hanson, *Proofing Ambivalence at Room Temperature*, 2013

Annie Hanson's performance piece *Proofing Ambivalence at Room Temperature* is inspired by firsthand observations of the relationship between cooks and consumers. Comparing and contrasting the two worlds of restaurant and home, consumers' unawareness of who prepares their food and the act of sharing between family and friends are some of the reoccurring themes in Hanson's performance and installation. Hanson's intentions are to make the viewer rethink their perception of food and the role that it plays in everyday life. www.annierosehanson.com

Armando Lopez-Bircann *Refraction 2*, 2013

Armando Lopez-Bircann's *Refraction 2* is a performance piece that resonates with natural male codes of flamboyancy for the sake of courting and transcendence. This specific piece was inspired by the male bird of paradise and is constructed with functional geometric principles that replicate a mirrorlike quality. www.arlobi.info/Armando-Lopez-Bircann-arlobi

Jason Edward Tucker, *Wither I* 2013 and *F_a_g_g_o_t_*, 2013

Jason Edward Tucker's body of work attempts to make a flourishing gesture out of decay through the exhibition and preservation of romanticized objects and photographs. In assimilating influences from gay male history, he celebrates the ephemeral qualities of youth while exalting those who have gone before us. The objects themselves stand as metaphorical portraits, studies of self and sculptural forms based in etymological and historical research. The work is rooted in the opulent to mask the innate and implicit marks of its decay. www.jasonedwardtucker.com

Jeremiah Holland, *Wall Table #2*, 2013

Jeremiah Holland's *Wall Table #2* explores the topographical and architectural forms through sculpture in wood. He approaches his work not only as sculpture but also as furniture, borrowing from natural and architectonic forms that are commonplace in our everyday lives. www.behance.net/Jeremiahholland

Joan Oh, *Through Their Eyes: The Pyramids of Giza*, 2013

Joan Oh's *Through Their Eyes: The Pyramids of Giza* explores the paradoxes of photography as a physical manifestation of a virtual community. Collected are photographs captured at the world's most visited landmarks. These are only a fraction of the hundreds of thousands of nearly identical images of these tourist locations that exist online. Looking through their eyes, the pattern and redundancy of the human travel experience becomes apparent. The inherent driving force behind capturing and experience is to validate it; sharing with a community and showing them what you have seen. www.joanoh.com

Rahshia Sawyer, *We Are not Made of Wood II 223*, 2012

Rahshia Sawyer's *We Are not Made of Wood II 223* explores the indefinable emotions connected with passage from the known to the unknown. Each environment is void of place signifiers, barely leaving the ability to distinguish the space. Pushing the viewer to take on, one of two roles in the paradox – being in-control, or control-less. The viewer is necessary to complete the paradox: the control-less grappling with their fate, and the in-control with the impotence to alter it – knowing that they could easily become control-less. www.rahshia.com

Rachel Hrbek, *Easy Consumption*, 2013

Rachel Hrbek's *Easy Consumption* comprises of video documentation of five performances where she explores spatial and social dynamics of the Corcoran Gallery of Art through the use of the body and minimal props. This is executed through her analysis and critique of New Age Culture in its promotion of finding one's self through spiritual enlightenment, sexual awakening, and consumerism. She allows the viewer to take on a voyeuristic role, placing her subjects in an intimate, yet anonymous space, and focusing on the relationship, or lack of relationship, between the performer and viewer. www.rachelhrbek.com

ABOUT CONNERSMITH.

CONNERSMITH – founded in 1999 – mobilizes the careers of artists who excel at communicating powerful concepts in diverse media. The gallery maintains long-term representation of internationally influential artists, including Leo Villareal, Patricia Piccinini, and Maria Friberg, and launches pioneering exhibitions, such as the US gallery solo debuts of Koen Vanmechelen and Kenny Hunter. CONNERSMITH presents emerging artists in meaningful dialogue with established international artists. The gallery promotes art that contributes to important movements, with particular focuses on abstraction, realism, and socially relevant conceptual art. The gallery encourages vital new experimentation in abstract imaging, presenting seminal work by internationally renowned digital light artist Leo Villareal and by supporting his 200-foot installation at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (2008), and the 300-foot installation on the exterior of the Tampa Museum of Art (2010). Digital innovations find context within the gallery’s historical exhibitions of color field picturing with curated exhibitions featuring works by Morris Louis, Gene Davis, Howard Mehring and Thomas Downing and newly published source material. Complementary to its abstract programming, the gallery advances exceptional figural art, presenting oil paintings by Erik Thor Sandberg, drawings by Zoë Charlton, performative video by Janet Biggs, and durational performances by Mary Coble and Wilmer Wilson IV. For more information about CONNERSMITH, visit www.connersmith.us.com

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

Established in 1869, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** was one of America’s first museums of art—dedicated, in the words of founder William Wilson Corcoran, to “encouraging American genius.” Today it is Washington, D.C.’s largest nonfederal art museum, known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. A dynamic schedule of special exhibitions complements a range of educational programming, which together enrich the perspectives of the visiting public, support the local arts community, and encourage thoughtful interpretation of today’s most compelling social issues. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington’s only four-year accredited college of art and design. The College is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



Image: Armando Lopez-Bircann, *Refraction 2*. Courtesy Corcoran College of Art + Design.