

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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CONTACT:

Kristin Guiter, Vice President of Communications and Marketing,
kguiter@corcoran.org, (202) 639-1867
Rachel Cothran, Director of Public Relations,
rcothran@corcoran.org, (202) 639-1833
Melanie Kimmelman, Public Relations Coordinator
mkimmelman@corcoran.org, (202) 639-1873

**CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART AND COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN
CELEBRATES ITS GRADUATING STUDENTS IN
NEXT AT THE CORCORAN: CLASS OF 2012
April 14–May 20, 2012**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design presents *NEXT at the Corcoran: Class of 2012* (April 14–May 20, 2012), a dynamic, interactive, and innovative presentation of work by the graduating students of the Corcoran College of Art + Design. The exhibition is a unique and special opportunity for Corcoran College of Art + Design students to exhibit their work in the main galleries.

In addition to presenting thesis work of the Bachelor of Fine Arts class, *NEXT 2012* also includes, for the first time, work by and presentations involving students in the Masters of Arts degree programs. In celebration of their achievements, admission to the Corcoran will be FREE during the run of the show. The opening reception on Saturday, April 14 will be open to the public starting at 8 p.m. Visit a dedicated website for the exhibition at www.corcoran.org/next.

The six BFA majors—Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Photography, and Photojournalism—are represented in diverse forms of expression, including paintings, photographs, installations, video, animation, sculpture, and performance, reflecting today’s contemporary art world as well as the possibilities of the each area of practice.

For the first time this year, graduates of the Master of Arts programs join in the month-long celebration that is *NEXT*. Work from emerging professionals in Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Teaching, Art Education, and Art and the Book will be presented.

Alongside the Corcoran’s contemporary program, *NOW at the Corcoran*, the student exhibition confirms the



Corcoran's commitment to showcasing emerging artists. For more than 120 years, the Corcoran has trained the next generation of artists—as well as art and design professionals—while displaying the most important works of the time.

“*NEXT* showcases the Corcoran's promising young artists and provides them with the opportunity to show work in a major museum,” said Catherine Armour, provost and chief academic officer of the Corcoran College of Art + Design. “The exhibition not only celebrates these talented artists at the outset of their careers, but also highlights the quality and uniqueness and breadth of the Corcoran educational experience—where intensely creative education is the focus and immersion in social and cultural issues underlies what we do.”

Design Lab, the Corcoran's innovative undergraduate course that works as an in-house design studio, created the exhibition's visual identity, “Interweaving Connections,” including gallery, web, and collateral design elements (*see Design Lab Press Release*).

Coinciding with *NEXT*, an exhibition of work by Corcoran alumni is also on view. Bringing together the work of

alumni across five decades, *Crossing the Line* is a juried exhibition that seeks to break perceived divisions, whether they are cultural, physical, social, material, or artistic. Barbara O'Brien of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City is the show's special guest curator (*see Crossing the Line Press Release*).

In addition to a morning preview for press, the Corcoran will host a private breakfast in advance of the public opening for gallerists to view



the work and to meet student artists.

Visitors to *NEXT* have the unique opportunity to observe thesis critiques—discussions between the artists and their peers and instructors—to gain insights into the artists' intentions and observe this aspect of the art-school experience firsthand. In addition to thesis critiques, the public is invited to attend a series of lectures, including those offered as part of the *NEXT at the Corcoran* Gallery Talk Series. For a full menu of public programming, including thesis critiques, please see the *NEXT at the Corcoran 2012 Schedule* or visit www.corcoran.org/next.

SELECTED EXHIBITION PROGRAMMING

Meet the Corcoran's *NEXT* Artists
Thursday, May 10, 2012; 6:30 p.m.

Free; Pre-registration encouraged at http://getinvolved.corcoran.org/meet_the_corcorans_next_artists.

Join us for a lively discussion about art as some of the talented young artists featured in *NEXT* introduce themselves. Ten Corcoran graduating seniors, chosen by a panel of alumni, each give five-minute presentations on their work on view in the exhibition. The evening concludes with a reception and a *NEXT* exhibition viewing.

A Graduate Symposium on Creativity

Keynote speaker: Annie Leibovitz

Sunday, April 22, 2012; 1 p.m.

Members \$25; public \$30; Corcoran students and faculty FREE

Registration opens to the public April 1 at http://getinvolved.corcoran.org/graduate_symposium_on_creativity.

In conjunction with *NEXT at the Corcoran*, join us for an afternoon symposium on the topic of creativity. Celebrated photographer Annie Leibovitz kicks off the event with a discussion of her latest book, *Pilgrimage*, and shares some of her own strategies for fostering creativity and sustaining it over time. A panel discussion follows, moderated by Casey Smith, assistant professor of Arts and Humanities at the Corcoran, and featuring local professionals in the fields of art education, interior design, book arts, exhibition design, and photojournalism. The afternoon concludes with a reception in the Corcoran's Atrium.

NEXT AT THE CORCORAN GALLERY TALK SERIES

Free; pre-registration encouraged at http://getinvolved.corcoran.org/next_gallery_talk_series.

Talks take place within the *NEXT* exhibition galleries and will meet in the Corcoran's center Atrium.

Corcoran curators and staff moderate talks with selected students. Hear the students discuss their thesis projects in the fields of design, fine art, and photography, and learn about the process behind the design of *NEXT* from Corcoran Design Lab students.

Design Lab

Friday, April 27, 2012; 11 a.m.

Moderated by Maria Habib, Director of Design

Maria Habib moderates a talk on Design Lab—a course that offers undergraduate graphic design students the opportunity to design *NEXT*'s visual identity and to oversee its expression in print, online, and in the galleries.



Fine Art

Wednesday, May 2, 2012; 1 p.m.

Moderated by Sarah Newman, Curator of Contemporary Art

Photography and photojournalism

Wednesday, May 9, 2012; 1 p.m.

Moderated by Paul Roth, Senior Curator and Director, Photography and Media Arts

Graphic design and digital media design

Wednesday, May 16, 2012; 1 p.m.

Free with Gallery admission; pre-registration encouraged

Moderated by Sally Maier, Designer

PRESS PREVIEW

Media are invited to a press preview for *NEXT at the Corcoran: Class of 2012* on **April 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at the Corcoran, 500 Seventeenth St. N.W., Washington, DC. RSVP to pr@corcoran.org by April 6.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Corcoran's hours of operation are as follows: Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission to *NEXT at the Corcoran: Class of 2012* is FREE to the public. For more information, including programming, please visit www.corcoran.org/next.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869. It was America's first dedicated art museum and today is Washington's largest nonfederal museum of art. It is 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. In addition, a dynamic schedule of special exhibitions is complemented and enhanced by a range of educational programming, which together seek to enrich perspectives, support the local arts community, and encourage interpretation. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year college of art and design, offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



Images:

Photo by Denny Henry/courtesy Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design

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