

# MUSING@THEHELM

Upon returning from the *Art in Rome* class this June, one of our majors, **Ellen Schroeder**, wrote of her experience in front of Michelangelo's *Pieta* to "Let it matter."

*Let it matter* that we make art, that we lead meaningful lives, that we strive to do good work, that we suck the marrow out of each and every day — let it matter!

With this in mind faculty and students in the department are doing work that matters. **Marsha Karagheusian** and **Kitty Uetz** had a collaborative work accepted to a national juried exhibition in Chicago, and were both featured artists in this summer's *Calligraphic Expressionism* exhibit in our gallery. **Kelly Phelps** shared his work and teaching locally at the Flavor of Arts Studio in Evanston, and nationally at Baltimore Clayworks and the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina. Kelly and brother Kyle were invited artists at the NAACP gathering at the Cincinnati Art Museum where they created a work on-site as well as a work for the NAACP's permanent collection in Baltimore. But what mattered most this year was Kelly's marriage to **Andrea Larrea** — a union destined to be a lifelong journey of love!

**Bruce Erikson** and a number of his painting/drawing students have been helping patients experience art's healing powers at the Drake Rehabilitation Center on Saturdays. Bruce organized open figure sessions all year bringing together faculty and students at the

drawing boards. Bruce had illustrations reproduced in two national publications as well as inclusion in a number of national juried exhibitions including an *Award of Excellence* (Kitty won one as well!) in our *Art at the X National Juried Exhibition*. **Jonathan Gibson** helped organize and designed the poster for the Xavier's 2nd annual *International Photo Contest*, as well as designed numerous beautiful websites including our very own. Jonathan and his wife **Monica** celebrated son **Pratt's** 1st birthday in March. Speaking of sons, **Terri Yontz's** son **Tim**, and Marsha's son **Zach Murphy** are both attending Xavier and that makes us all proud. Finally our wonderful adjuncts: **Margaret Copfer**, **Fred Martens**, **Jenny Shives**, **Dana Tindall**, and **Jan Wiesner** continue to envelop our students in their brilliance.

As for me, I exhibited prints in several national juried exhibitions most notably winning a *Purchase Award* in this year's *Janet Turner Print Museum's 7th Biennial*. But what mattered most was that my husband **Chris Bedel's** mother, **Joan**, died in November. She taught me daily about what really matters and that is love, love, love. So dear readers, love to each of you and thank you for your support during my 'inaugural' year. And to all of you who welcomed babies, animals, plants, friends and mates into your world — well —

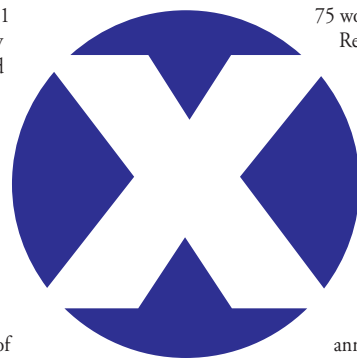
*Peace and joy!*

— Suzanne Michele Chouteau

## Art at the X All Media National Juried Exhibition

The Department of Art sponsored its first all media national juried exhibition — *Art at the X* — in December 2007. Mr. Daniel Brown, an independent local art curator, was invited to judge the art. Mr. Brown reviewed 485 works submitted by 117 artists from 31 states. He selected 88 pieces created by 48 artists. The various media exhibited included cast and enameled glass, collages, drawings, fibers, paintings, photographs, etchings, lithographs, woodcuts, screenprints, and sculptures.

Victoria Goro-Rapoport received the *Art at the X* First Prize Award, a solo exhibition, for her etchings — *Sinking of the Empire and Darwin vs. Leonardo*. Ms. Goro-Rapoport is Assistant Professor of Drawing and Printmaking at the University of Nebraska in Kearney. Professor Goro-Rapoport's solo exhibition is scheduled in the Xavier University Art Gallery January 20 – February 13, 2009.



The 2008 *Art at the X* is scheduled for September 26 – November 7. Dr. Eric Lee, Director of the Taft Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio, reviewed 433 works submitted by 141 artists from 42 states and Canada. He selected 75 works for the exhibition. The Artists' Reception and Awards will be Friday, September 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m. On Saturday, September 27, we will participate in a special Smithsonian National Museum Day when galleries and museums across the country will be open to Smithsonian members. Hours for that event will be Noon – 5:00 p.m. A panel discussion will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 1:30-2:30 p.m. with participants to be announced at a later date. Our Academic Day Reception will be Tuesday, October 21, 4:30-6:00 p.m. All events will be held in the Xavier University Art Gallery and are free and open to the public.

## Scholarship Reminder

Alumni, friends and prospective students are reminded that candidates for the **McAuley Scholarship** must apply and be accepted for Early Action. The Early Action deadline is December 1. Call (513) 745-3811 or check out our website at [www.xavier.edu/art](http://www.xavier.edu/art) for scholarship details.

## Art Award

Senior **Katrina Grome** was awarded the University Art Award during the April 12, 2008 All-Honors Day Program. Congratulations Katrina!

## Passages + Personals

**Terry Brueneman**, BFA, 1999: Assistant Store Manager OfficeMax Eastgate. Also does freelance interior design work. Recently finished building his home with Geoff.

**Annette Witte Eberhardt**, BA, 1992: A middle-school art teacher for Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy. She has 4 children.

**Karen Fuell Light**, BFA, 2002: Karen received a Postgraduate Diploma in Cultural Management from City University and is currently entrenched in the process of writing a thesis on the topic of art and activism to convert the Postgraduate Diploma to a Masters Degree. Karen works as a teaching artist for Urban Gateways in Chicago. You can view her website at: [www.karenlight.com](http://www.karenlight.com).

**Brian Haberski**, BA, 2000: Lives in Wisconsin with his wife, Jill. Brian is the Chef/General Manager of Wine Knot Restaurant and Lounge.

**Ashley Kuehner Scribner**, BA, 2002: Ashley received her M.Ed from Xavier in 2007. She currently resides in NY with her husband, Curtis. Last summer Ashley traveled to Vietnam to teach art to children suffering from the effects of Agent Orange sprayed during the Vietnam War. The children's artwork was sold to support awareness and aid for the children of Danang.

**Siobhan T. Millar**, BA, 1993: After fourteen years of working in a variety of Graphic Design related fields (and many moves throughout the US) Siobhan returned to school in Spring 2007 to pursue a Graduate Certification Programme in Museum Studies, at Florida International University (FIU). To further gain invaluable working experience, she applied for a full-time summer position at the Everglades National Park as Museum Technician. Presently, Siobhan is one of eight grad students inventorying and cataloguing the Everglades backlogged collection including four other park locations. In the fall, she will continue assisting the Museum Curator in caring for the Everglades collection, as an intern.

**Kip Noschese**, BA, 1997: Lives in California with his wife, Shannon. He is a background designer for Fox Television Animation.

**Sandra Pearce Case**, BA, 1979: Created 1st senior adult day program for MRDD seniors, 55 yrs and older, in Hamilton County. She'll be retiring after 30 years and will begin wood sculpture and art programs for Alzheimer patients in nursing homes.

**Geoff Raker**, BFA, 1998: Book Designer for North Light Craft Books, a division of F+W Media, Inc.

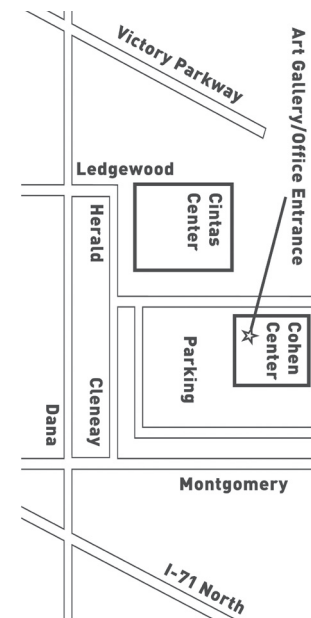
**Kat Smith**, BFA, 2007: Sales Coordinator for a textile manufacturer in downtown Cincinnati.

**Erica Weitzel**, BFA, 2007: Upon graduation from Xavier, Erica volunteered in Uganda with Vision in Action. Erica is the photographer for Uganda's largest newspaper, *The Monitor*.

**Joseph Yoo**, BA, 2002: A coordinator for Graphic Design at Ohio National Financial Services. Joe coordinates events to raise money for charities and non-profits.

## Reminder

Email your life and work updates to  
[yontz@xavier.edu](mailto:yontz@xavier.edu)



## KEEP IN TOUCH

Address comments, suggestions,  
information and inquiries to:  
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[www.xavier.edu/art](http://www.xavier.edu/art)

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Fall 2008

**INSIDE:**

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# Artifacts

Newsletter of the Xavier University Department of Art

## ENTERPRISING ENTREPRENEURS



**Danielle DiBenedetto's Proper Tea Line of Clothing**

This issue we feature three exciting young artists/entrepreneurs who took time out of their very busy schedules to share some of their enterprising ideas with us. Their enthusiasm and energy is inspiring. Read on!

**Danielle DiBenedetto**, BA, 2003, hails from Bay Village, Ohio just outside of Cleveland. At Xavier she says, "the art department was like home, I was always there because I enjoyed the people and the classes so much. I took every course from graphic design and illustration to ceramics and drawing. I especially enjoyed art history, which I reference a lot in my field." Just out of college she opened an art gallery, graphic design and photography studio representing local and national artists' work. But the fashion industry beckoned: "With my love of art, fashion and tea I worked at night for 3 years to create a women's clothing line called *Proper Tea*!" *Proper Tea* began as a contemporary women's tea shirt, intimates and accessory line and now has blossomed into a collection that will introduce dresses, thermals and hoodies for Fall 2008. All of the Teas are packaged in over-sized tea bags and each is labeled with its own tea name such as Lemon Zinger Tea and Chamomile Tea. The intricate designs, printing/layering techniques and packaging of *Proper Teas* has landed the line in over 200 boutiques, Nordstrom Department Store, and Las Vegas Casinos.

enterprising entrepreneurs, continues on the inside



enterprising entrepreneurs, continued from front

Danielle at the Proper Tea booth in Chicago

**Pamela Mattei**, BA, 2004, was born and raised in Louisville, KY. Pamela's concentration was in Fibers: "I can probably safely say that I was the only art student to ever come to Xavier knowing I wanted to concentrate in fibers and to actually take a fibers class all eight semesters." Upon graduating, Mattei participated in local art shows around the holidays and began exhibiting her work at several local art galleries. Since then she's weeded out the "bad shows" and concentrates on being juried into the higher caliber shows such as the 4th Street section of the St. James Court Art Show in Louisville. She continues to work in the theater as a Stage Manager for many productions and special events and with the Wardrobe Union for a variety of Broadway Series productions in Louisville and in Cincinnati.

**Christie Reinshagen-Wallace**, BA, 2000, is a Cincinnati native. She went to Xavier on the McAuley Art Scholarship and was a 4-year member of the Xavier Women's Soccer Team. After graduating she had several art shows around the Cincinnati area. Christie then moved to California with her soon to be husband Logan Wallace, BA, 2003. While in San Francisco she worked in an upscale consignment clothing shop. Christie was so inspired by the idea she decided to move back and open a shop of her own. She moved back in October of 2004 and in November her dream became a reality and she hasn't looked back since. With almost four years of business under her belt, she is looking to possibly open a second store. *The Mustard Seed Boutique* is located in the Clifton's Gaslight District and has been extremely successful. The store has received "Best Non-Chain Clothing Store" by *CityBeat* for three years running and will be featured in the Ohio Treasures Book in 2008.

**What made you start your own business?**

**DD:** Since I was young I always knew I wanted to start my own business. I watched my father build his building/developing company into a very successful business. He would always tell me to dream big and he and my mother would support me in whatever I wanted to do. With my mom (Karen) as my partner – we officially launched *Proper Tea* in August 2007.

**PM:** Immediately upon graduating I knew I wanted to start my own business. Kentucky has an amazing state wide juried arts organization called the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program. I submitted my application to the jury that June and I was also required to obtain a business license from the state. A few weeks later, I was accepted into the program, went to the bank to open a business account and *DyeSigns By Pamela* was born.

**CR-W:** My creativity, energy and passion for helping people find that perfect outfit is the reason I ultimately opened my

own shop. For a long time, I knew I would have a business of my own. That dream became reality shortly after moving to San Francisco CA. I worked at a consignment shop in Oakland called Maribel...the first day working there I just knew it was meant to be.

**What's the concept behind your business?**

**DD:** The concept behind my business is...art, fashion and of course the unique tea bag packaging! The *Proper Tea* concept was developed while I was working on my computer at my studio, drinking Tazo Green Tea. I was dipping the tea bag in the water and the idea for packaging just hit me. The *Proper Tea* name was developed from the Victorian tradition where proper tea etiquette was part of daily life. I decided to create a graphic tea shirt line because t-shirts seem to be today's "Proper Attire." With the *Proper Tea* label in place, the creative tea shirt names and cheeky play on words created our entire concept and a great way to market our collection.

**PM:** My business currently revolves around two central concepts... hand-dyed silk scarves and mixed media horse pins – a must have for any Derby outfit! I love to dye, fabric that is, so I dye and sell.

**CR-W:** Boutiques have become popular because of the uniqueness of their merchandise. Malls have become tired and boring; you find the same thing in everything store. Women want to be different. I also think people are realizing the importance of shopping and supporting local businesses.

**What is your favorite thing about having your own business?**

**DD:** My favorite thing about having my own business is the creative freedom. I love being able to design however I want and see the reaction of our buyers. It was so amazing to be able to create a concept from scratch, design it, manufacture it and start seeing it in stores the exact way I envisioned.

**PM:** My favorite thing is getting paid to do what I love – I can set my own schedule and be my own boss. I also have the flexibility to pursue my artwork and my work in the theater. They balance each other out and play off one another.

**CR-W:** The best part about it is the creative freedom. I make all the decisions including design of the store window displays, creating mannequin outfits, and the overall store appearance. I am pretty particular so it's probably good that I have my own business!

**And what's your least favorite?**

**DD:** My least favorite thing about having my own business is the stress of the business side. Being that I majored in art I really did not have a full grasp on how to do certain necessities such as bookkeeping, keeping track of inventory and even shipping. It has been a big learning experience and a lot of work. We (my mom and I) are somehow able to do design, answer calls, attend fashion trade-shows, promote and ship to our customers, sometimes I really do not know how we do it all!

**PM:** One of the hardest things to do is to choose between the two. Normally I am accepted into certain art shows months in advance, and then a few days or weeks before the event I may get an offer for a Broadway show. Sometimes the decision is a no brainer. Other times it's agonizing to decide which one to give up and which one to take on. In the end though I haven't regretted a decision yet.

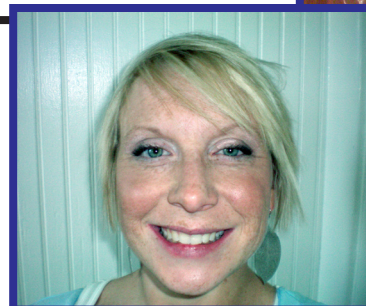
**CR-W:** Stress...for sure. I don't get to leave my work at work...it comes home with me every night. (The store is on my mind, always trying to figure ways I can make the store better, reach more customers, and try to please everyone.)

**CR-W:** Art has been such a huge part of my life and so it continues in to my career. Art is part of my everyday life and tasks involved in running the store. Being creative gives you such a huge advantage.

**What advice would you give other artists/entrepreneurs such as yourself about starting a business?**

**DD:** My advice would be to really believe in what you are doing. It is easy to get discouraged. Many people tried to discourage me from what I was creating but in the end I knew what I was designing would be successful. It is always good to listen to other peoples' advice however it is great to do something different...be unique and confident!

**PM:** Develop goals and review them frequently. Have business cards with you wherever you go. Never stop learning and growing; attend an art related workshop either hands-on or business oriented at least once a year. Life is so



Christie Reinshagen-Wallace's The Mustard Seed Boutique

the Louisiana Derby. As it turns out, Birdbird came in first place and won a million dollars. While in millionaires row, she and her sister were photographed wearing my pins with Toby Keith who also had a horse in the race.

**Best gig**

**PM:** My art background has served me well in my theatrical endeavors. I've had the opportunity to work on a number of Broadway Series productions. Sometimes I get called in to do specialized day work (in addition to working as a dresser during the show). Last year with *The Lion King* I was called in to mix shoe paint. Imagine a shade of brown. Now imagine another similar shade of brown. My task was to mix seven shades of brown in between those two shades of brown. That was interesting! Another day I walked into the wardrobe room and the traveling wardrobe supervisor had the cutest little portable air compressor in her hands and said, "You know how to airbrush, right?" My eyes lit up like a kid on Christmas morning. "Of course," I replied. My main task for the day was to airbrush black stripes onto white pristine zebra leotards fresh from the New York costume mills. I was in heaven! Those were some mighty fine looking zebra stripes if I do say so myself.

**CR-W:** I think the most exciting moments were winning "Best Non-Chain Clothing Store" three years in a row from *City Beat* Magazine. It feels good to get recognition after all the hard work that goes in to the business.

**Where can we find out more about your business, or how can we become a customer?!**

**DD:** You can find out more about *Proper Tea* on our website — [www.properteawear.com](http://www.properteawear.com) You can order *Proper Tea* merchandise on our online store or you can check out our store locations link and find a boutique near you.

**PM:** To find out more about my business you can visit my website [www.DyeSignsByPamela.com](http://www.DyeSignsByPamela.com). It has a listing of the galleries where you can purchase my work as well as upcoming shows and exhibits.

**CR-W:** *The Mustard Seed Boutique* is located in the heart of Clifton's Gaslight District at 311 Ludlow Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio 45220; 513-221-4022. Or you can check out our website at [www.mustardseedboutique.com](http://www.mustardseedboutique.com). Our hours are Mon-Sat 11-9 and Sun 12-5.



Pamela Mattei's booth at the Kentucky Crafted: The Market

**How does your art training figure into your business practices?**

**DD:** Art plays a huge role

in everything I do with my business. My art background especially graphic design provided me with the creative knowledge and skills necessary to develop my clothing line. Everything starts on my drawing pad, then is put into my computer and then manipulated. I even take all my own photography and designed my website. Each of my designs is very well thought out, my art training really helped me think outside the box. Our *Proper Tea* shirts have unique printing and layering techniques and placement is key. Being an artist I really felt like I could do something different and be successful at it. I really looked up to other great artists that we studied in school to help guide me in my creative journey.

**PM:** While going to Xavier I intentionally diversified my education and helped prepare myself for opening my own business by obtaining a business minor and taking graphic design classes. The graphic design experience helps me tremendously in designing all of my own marketing, promotional and packaging material. The website design class has allowed me to create and maintain a website for my business.

much simpler when things are organized: from your studio to your office space, keep it organized. Don't wait until the last minute to apply for an art show: if there is a tie in the jury score between multiple artists, the tiebreaker is often the postmark date. Stay connected to a community of artists to support and inspire you.

**CR-W:** Any advice...if you are looking for more flexibility, less stress and time off...you are not in the right business. Some people have this idea that owning a boutique is glamorous and easy. On the contrary, it has been a huge roller coaster ride and I have learned so much about myself since opening the shop. My store's moniker was inspired by the mustard seed charm on a necklace that my grandmother wore. My great grandmother is a huge inspiration to me. She was courageous, resourceful and strong. She endured many difficult times throughout her life but always exemplified great faith and so the mustard seed charm will always remind me of that.

**Describe some exciting moments you have had running your business (best gig; best deal; best garment; best trade show; best customer, etc.)**

**DD:** Well, I've just been asked to go to the Emmy's in

**HELP ARTifacts GO GREEN!**

In our efforts to be more GREEN, We want to keep in touch with you via email and phase out printed material. To do this we need you to send us your email addresses! We are happy to keep sending you printed material if you prefer — but if possible we'd like to convert as many of our alums to email as possible! This way you can send us your life and work updates and we can send you exhibit notices, etc. in a timely and eco-friendly fashion!

Please send ASAP to [yontz@xavier.edu](mailto:yontz@xavier.edu). **THANK YOU!**