Bernard Leonard Schmidt
November 8, 1936 – October 25, 2013
by Daniel Schmidt

Bernie was born in Covington, KY just prior to World War II. Earlier stories indicate the war had a strong influence on him as well as his attitude in life. Later brought him the opportunity he needed to find his path. Benedictine Sisters and private tutors saw his abilities in art, guiding him the direction he would follow for his life. He attended Holy Cross High School and Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More College). He had higher aspirations though. He was able to obtain his first of two Master Degrees from Notre Dame under famed sculptor, Ivan Meštrović. Meštrović had agreed to accept him as a student after he had been recommended by one of his teachers. From Notre Dame, he moved to The Ohio State University to obtain his second Master of Fine Arts.

“I am easy to forget that each generation considers history to be the apocalyptic one-war, famine, disease,” Mr. Schmidt once wrote. “It is easy to forget that each generation considers history to be the apocalyptic one-war, famine, disease, pestilence! Really, what we continue is our humanness—theirs to be the apocalyptic one-war, famine, disease, pestilence!”

He married at Saint Joseph Church in North Bend, Ohio. They began their family of three boys the following year. He was able to secure a position at Edgecliff College (now Xavier University) as a Professor of Art. This stability allowed Bernie to prosper as an artist. Private commissions allowed him to create some of his best works. He used numerous mediums throughout his career. Wood and steel became his architectural scaled works. The medal is really portable and liberating. In a Xavier Magazine (1990) he was quoted as saying “The medal is really portable and liberating.” In a Xavier Magazine (1990) he was quoted as saying “The medal is really portable and liberating.”

On June 1, 1967 Bernie met Patricia Brady while playing volleyball at a Catholic Alumni Club function. They dated and then married at Saint Joseph Church in North Bend, Ohio. They continued on the inside...
Erica Fiero

Terminating the globe sparked an insatiable curiosity in Erica Fiero and was one of the greatest sources of inspiration in her work. She has had, worked, played, or ended in over 350 countries on 5 continents. Journey to remote locations of the world allows her to immerse herself and discover remote places within herself.

In 2007, Erica graduated from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a double concentration in painting and photography. While on the four-year full-ride scholarship, she was able to travel and study through Semester at Sea 2010, Xavier University Rome Campus, and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Working as a photographer in Uganda helped in developing a global political perspective and documentary style. Her time spent volunteering with aid agencies in the refugee camps and war torn regions of East Africa played an important role in seeing art not only as a tool for effective communication and change but also as a way to disseminate boundaries and connect on a very personal level.

Fiero’s work in India was the start of an art school and women’s rights in a rural village with the help of a local non-profit. Traveling extensively throughout India and South East Asia fuelled her search for truth and knowledge. Her continued love for the connection of the human spirit is the driving force behind her desire to expose beauty in the obscure.

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Catherine Della Lucia grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan. She received a B.A. in sculpture in 2014, alongside her brother,t welds, and a City Hall replica for a campaign commercial had told me that I needed to see what's in my reach. It's physically and emotionally challenging quite often, but the reward is witnessing such beauty that you never thought you would see. I've been fascinated with women's issues, Confucius, Korean obsession with "clean", and the ridiculous education system here in Korea. I've really been able to see how I would have grown up and what would I be if I had lived here. I really can't believe who we are vs. who we are because of our environment. My aesthetics, culture, and mannerisms have changed.

What have been the most challenging aspects of your international travel and work?

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funds, I was forced to become creative with my bargaining possible. With only my backpack, limited resources and me personally on all levels; physically, emotionally and Christmas in the Himalayas for five days completely to it. I learned to be more punctual and that was a great because I arrived at class 5-10 minutes after class started. 3 letters from my previous school Georgetown University tried but I couldn’t. I realized in the States people live on student lifestyle. People here go to school, work, do
ing the world to counteract the hate that is so often challenging to witness, it was also motivation to put more when day after day people are being oppressed. While challenging to witness, it was also motivation to put more love into the world to counteract the hate that is so often
blindly accepted as truth.

Cathy Della Lucia: I have lived a year without love. Yes, I’ve made good friends here; however, I made the decision to set priorities and goals during my time here, and making friends and relationships were not the most important for me. With busy schedules, and 13-hour time difference, it’s difficult to keep in touch back home with loved ones. I tend to do a lot on my own and take care of myself, which allows me to explore and experience things at a very personal and intimate level. Yet, there is a loneliness that comes with setting out on your own and making this kind of sacrifice to go out and party, or solely hang out with westerners, or choose comfort.

Looking Korean but not speaking Korean nor understanding cultural mannerisms has been extremely challenging. I do not get to play the “foreigner card,” and my mistakes and poor Korean skills are not waved away or thought of “at least she’s trying.” I appear rude, unintelligent, ignorant, and a “bad Korean.” It’s very important here to fit into social and gender standards... many of which I do not. My weight and physical appearance is judged quite harshly, because I should compare to Korean standards. I learned quickly that being an athletic girl is not attractive and having tanned skin is ugly. I walk home from Taekwondo receiving incredulous stares...you should see the looks I get when whipping around the city on my scooter. The judgments stem from Confucian beliefs that are deeply rooted in Korean culture and from a society that went from a starving third world country to a booming economic power in one generation. I can blend in with the crowd, until I open my mouth...then I have to explain my life story...every single day.

Cathy Della Lucia: Korea shows me a new kind of beauty everyday. There are moments where I see something and feel as if someone has literally grabbed my heart and stopped its beating for a moment. How is it that I can look at ancient calligraphic paintings or listen to traditional music and be moved by something that I cannot understand? Experiencing things alone stimulates my mental dialogue, I constantly walk circles of questions around in my head...analyzing, brainstorming new ideas and directions to take my art with. I’ve started thinking about concepts behind my art first rather than the product.

I’ve learned that my birth father was once a portrait painter for American soldiers, giving it up because he knew he couldn’t support the family. Meanwhile my birth brother had a passion for painting; however, society and culture says it’s his duty as the son to get a “real job” and support his family. On the other hand my mom was an artist, musician, and a writer who encouraged me and exposed me to art my whole life. Who knows where my love of art came from? I can see now that I’ve been given the tools to do something with it...something that not everyone has the opportunity to do. This has really sparked my interest in the effects of cultural environment. I’d like to find a female writer here to work with...someone who holds the same things

Hind Arrajehi: This experience has been very insightful. People do not judge (compared to where I come from) — expect anything and be open to anything! Even if you don’t agree, you have to be receptive of it, and approach it with an open mind. That I think gave me a new perspective on approaching anything. I grew so much when applying that, me being an artist I think was a result of that realization. I came with a very limited exposure and preconceived judgment on art but now I’ve become very much immersed into it. Trying to understand what is in front of you and giving it multiple explanations rather than judging it and dismissing it I think informs you more than you think. This international experience led me to apply that thought and is helping me to grow everyday.

Cathy Della Lucia: Korea has been given the tools to do something with it...something that not everyone has the opportunity to do. This has really sparked my interest in the effects of cultural environment. I’d like to find a female writer here to work with...someone who holds the same things in common with me that Koreans find very important: birth year, blood type, family clan name, or social status, and develop work on a similar topic and compare the similarities and differences. I’m also recently doing a lot of research on Korean landscape scroll painting.

I am a different person now inside and out. I have found a part of me that I never knew was missing. My experience here has brought excitement, confidence, color, and most importantly gratitude into my life. Sometimes people find it sad that I never discovered my heritage sooner. Yet, how lucky I am to have had a family and life so wonderful and full of love that I never yearned for something more?

My dream now is to become a university sculpture professor and work internationally, especially in Korea. I want to enhance international dialogue through art and be involved in the female rights movement in Korea. There’s so much for us to learn from each other. We owe it to ourselves to go out and find it.

What advice would you give undergraduates considering foreign study, travel or work?

Erica Fiero: Go! Don’t let anything stand in your way. Quit your job. Sell your things. Break your lease. Before you know it you will be sitting around a dinner table with strangers laughing in different languages and all those things you thought mattered will be a flicker of the past. Go have a near life experience. You deserve it.

Hind Arrajehi: I would say try your best and make this experience happen. You will gain so much out of an international experience. Try something new! Try a more experienced you! You would find in this foreign study challenges but great rewards. It’s an experience that you have to go through to know it.

Natalie Clark: Dream as big as you can possibly dream. Never put a ceiling on what you are capable of, and never stick yourself in a box. After you are able to define your dream, write it down and create a plan for how you will achieve it. Then...do it one step at a time!