Graduation with Distinction Projects
2011-2021

2021

Ansley Arnow
Thesis Title: “Transnational Japonisme: Representing Women and the Female Body”
Advisor: Gennifer Weisenfeld

Breanna (Bree) Collins
Thesis Title: “A History of Medicine”
Advisor: Mark Olson

Stephanie Cutler
Thesis Title: “The Art of Worship: Pentecostalism, Artaud, and The Language of Glossolalia”
Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Fella (Sarah) Derris
Thesis Title: “Umrah”
Advisor: Joshua Gibson

Katja Gilman
Thesis Title: “Love Imagined: A Series”
Advisor: Shambhavi Kaul

Hana Hannah Pui Ling Homma Tong
Thesis Title: “Process, Compulsion and Meditation”
Advisor: Shambhavi Kaul

Johnna Tamari Lambert
Thesis Title: “The Liberation of 3-829: An Afrofuturist Dystopian Film”
Advisor: Mark Anthony Neal

Noah Scott Michaud
Thesis Title: “Exotic Encounters Envisioned: Printing Africa in Mid-Cinquecento Venice”
Advisor: Kristin Huffman

Pavel Andreevich Pivarshev
Thesis Title: “Suffering”
Advisor: Stephen Hayes

Gi Jung (Christina) Shin
Thesis Title: “Designed to Cure? The American Asylum, 1813 - 1965”
Advisor: Mark Olson
Sofia Maria Zymnis  
Thesis Title: “Nostros”  
Advisor: Bill Fick

2020

Paulina Asturias (Visual Arts)  
Bridging the Gap Between Latin American Communities  
Faculty Advisor: Raquel Salvatella de Prada

Charles Berman (Visual & Media Studies)  
Smooth, Mindless Materialism: Visual Representations of Wealth in Urban America  
Faculty Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Jessica Chen (Art History)  
"Every Contact Leaves a Trace": Nadia Kaabi-Linke’s Transfer Prints, 2008-2016  
Faculty Advisors: Paul Jaskot & Kristine Stiles

Cyan DeVeaux (Visual & Media Studies)  
SculptAR: Exploring the Potential of Participatory Augmented Reality and Virtual Experiences in the Contemporary Art Museum  
Faculty Advisor: Mark Olson

Nonnie Egbuna (Visual & Media Studies)  
Poppy: Representations of Black Mental Health on Screen  
Faculty Advisor: Joshua Gibson

Sonia Fillipow (Visual & Media Studies)  
"For People Who Also Smoke Weed" - Luxury Marijuana Branding: Late Capitalism at Work  
Faculty Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Kora Kwok (Visual Arts)  
Ocean Room  
Faculty Advisor: Stephen Hayes

Sujal Manohar (Visual Arts)  
Reflect: Mental Health Experiences at Duke  
Faculty Advisor: Pedro Lasch
Paloma Rodney (Visual & Media Studies)
The Architecture of People, Punishment and Labor:
A Spatial Analysis of Raleigh’s Central Prison and Its City
Faculty Advisor: Paul Jaskot

Ashleigh Smith (Art History)
A Self-Defined Sex Being: Self-Portraiture as Black Feminist Fantasy for the Purpose of Liberation
Faculty Advisor: Jasmine Cobb

Peter Sun (Art History)
The Investment Bank: A Spatial Experience
Faculty Advisor: Annabel Wharton

Margaret Wang (Art History)
Ai Weiwei’s Ton of Tea: Deconstructing Western Responses to a Chinese Work
Faculty Advisor: Stanley Abe

2019

Amani Noor Ahmed
Certificate: Information Science + Studies
Advisor: Raquel Salvatella de Prada

Alexandra (Lexi) Lee Bateman
Major: Visual Arts. Minors: Philosophy & Creative Writing
Thesis Project: “Living Invisible”
Advisor: Raquel Salvatella de Prada

Jane (Janie) Louise Booth
Major: Art History with a Concentration in Museum Theory and Practice
Minor: Chemistry
Thesis Project: “The Display and Conservation of Archives as Artworks in Museums”
Advisor: Marshall Price

Margarete McCormick Calmar
First Major: Philosophy. Second Major: Art History
Thesis Project: “Libyan Architecture through the Lens of European Travelers”
Advisor: Sara Galletti
Mathilda Christensson  
Interdepartmental Major: Public Policy and Visual & Media Studies  
Minor: English  
Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Brittany Erin Halberstadt  
Major: Art History with a Concentration in Museum Theory and Practice  
Advisor: Paul Jaskot

William (Will) J. Hardee  
First Major: Visual & Media Studies. Second Major: History  
Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Lauren (Adair) Jones  
Major: Art History/Visual Arts  
Thesis Project: “CYCLIC”  
Advisor: Raquel Salvatella de Prada

Sierra Jensen Lorenzini  
Major: Visual & Media Studies. Minor: Computer Science  
Certificate: Information Science + Studies  
Thesis Project: “Fair Haired: Considering Blonde Women in Film and Advertising”  
Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Samantha (Sammi) Michelle Steele  
Thesis Project: “Hidden History”  
Advisor: Raquel Salvatella de Prada

Anngelyque Makayla Stevenson  
First Major: Computer Science. Second Major: Visual Arts  
Thesis Project: “Serving Drag on a Dime Realness”  
Advisor: Raquel Salvatella de Prada

Jessica Caitlin Williams  
Major: Art History. Minors: Political Science & Psychology  
Thesis Project: “Robert Willis (1800-1875) and the Historiography of Italian Gothic Architecture”  
Advisor: Neil McWilliam
Hannah Elizabeth Wolfe  
Major: Art History with a Concentration in Museum Theory and Practice  
Certificate: Markets and Management  
Thesis Project: “Mapping Stereotomy from Cario to al-Andalus”  
Advisor: Sara Galletti

2018

Vincent Joseph Bivona  
Major: Visual & Media Studies  
Certificate: Innovation & Entrepreneurship  
Thesis Project: “OutOfColor” (Distinction)  
Advisor: Mark Olson

Savannah Chauvet  
Major: Art History with a Concentration in Museum Theory and Practice. Minor: Psychology  
Thesis Project: “Metacritical Body Discourses: A Comparative Analysis of Performances by Chris Burden and Marina Abramović” (Distinction)  
Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Camila Vargas Restrepo  
Majors: Visual & Media Studies and Psychology. Minor: Neuroscience  
Certificate: Information Science + Studies  
Thesis Project: “Visible Energy: Through the Lens of a Smart Home” (Distinction)  
Advisor: Mark Olson

Elizabeth Cobb Speed  
Major: Art History with a Concentration in Architecture. Minor: Political Science  
Thesis Project: “Stuyvesant Town: Evaluating the Beneficiaries and Victims of an Act of Middle Class Urban Renewal” (Distinction)  
Advisor: Annabel Wharton

Christina Susanna Isabella Tribull  
Major: Art History. Minor: Psychology  
Certificate: Markets and Management  
Thesis Project: “The Future of Contemporary Art Sales: Will online art auction sales replace traditional live auctions and will this have any impact on prices and segments of that market?” (Distinction)  
Advisor: Hans van Miegroet
Jennifer Ru Zhou  
Major: Visual & Media Studies. Minor: Computer Science  
Certificate: Documentary Studies  
Thesis Project: “When You Sleep You Dream of Tigers” (Distinction)  
Advisors: Kristine Stiles and Stephen Milligan

2017

Charlotte Ellen McKay  
*Highest Distinction*  
“Socially Engaged Art in the Public Sphere”  
Major: Art History; Minor: French Studies.  
Advisor: Pedro Lasch

Jacqueline Ashwini Samy  
*Highest Distinction*  
“Rauschenberg: Connecting & Collecting”  
Major: Art History.  
Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Zarah Zarir Udwadia  
*Highest Distinction*  
“Understanding Gender—Based Violence in Contemporary Mexico City Through the Artistic Interventions of Lorena Wolffer”  
Advisor: Esther Gabara

Victoria Katherine Bilas  
*High Distinction*  
“Horses, Healing, and Hope”  
Major: Visual Arts; Minors: Visual & Media Studies, Spanish.  
Advisor: Beverly McIver

Shivee Gilja  
*High Distinction*  
“Therapeutic Art Activities and Toolkit: Addressing Limitations in Evidence-Based Research of Therapeutic Art”  
Double Major: Biology, Visual Arts; Minor: Chemistry.  
Advisor: Bill Seaman
Jenna Poczik
*High Distinction*
“Artist and Curator: An Exploration of the Impact of Digital Media in Museums Through Media Art, Surveillance, and Selfies”
Major: Visual & Media Studies; Minor: Art History.
Advisor: Bill Seaman

Frances Gambee Sensenbrenner
*High Distinction*
“The Last Column: Impacts on and Significance to the Visual Narrative of 9/11”
Major: Art History; Minors: Environmental Science & Policy, History.
Advisor: Pedro Lasch

Leeshy Annie Lichtman
*Distinction*
“The Gorilla in the Room”
Major: Visual & Media Studies; Minor: Psychology; Certificate: Markets and Management.
Advisor: Mark Olson

2016

Hanna Wiegers
*Highest Distinction*
Major: Art History. Advisor: Caroline Bruzelius

Stephanie X. Wu
*Highest Distinction*
Project: “Perpetrator Radio”
Major: Visual Arts. Advisors: Kristine Stiles and William Noland

Sophia Sennett
*High Distinction*
Project: “Movement and Sensing Through Immersive Cinema: Generating Landscape Architecture”
Major: Visual & Media Studies. Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Justin Sandulli
*Distinction*
Project: “Troubled Paradise: Madge Tennent at a Hawaiian Crossroads”
Major: Art History. Advisors Richard Powell and Sheila Dillon
Lauren Rose Henschel
Highest Distinction
“Indelible”
Visual & Media Studies major, distinction advisor William Noland

Alexander Martin Lark
Highest Distinction
“Dancing with an Invisible Camera”
Visual Arts major, distinction advisor Bill Seaman

Tara Moran Trahey
Highest Distinction
“Visualizing an Iconographic Network Between Athens and Vulci in the 6th Century B.C.E.”
Art History and Visual Arts major, distinction advisor Sheila Dillon

Megan Camille Friedman
High Distinction
“Learning from the Past: Connecting Ideals of Architectural Proportion Between Antiquity, the Renaissance, and Modernity”
Art History major, distinction advisor Sara Galletti

Sujata Vijay Mahtaney
High Distinction
"Trauma & Sex Trafficking in India"
Visual & Media Studies Major, distinction advisor Kristine Stiles

Nicole Clair Rudden
High Distinction
“Blood and Money: French Anti-Semitic Imagery in the Golden Age of Caricature”
Visual & Media Studies major, distinction advisor Mark Antliff

Wenshun Liu
Distinction
“Musicians at an Exhibition”
Visual Arts major, principal distinction advisors Bill Seaman and Victoria Szabo
Lauren Rose Acampora
Highest Distinction
“Rauschenberg: Collecting and Connecting”
Major: Art History. Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Pavlo Chubinskiy
Distinction
Advanced Painting Project
Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: Pedro Lasch

Katherine Ann Hardiman
Highest Distinction
“Rauschenberg: Collecting and Connecting”
Major: Art History. Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Emma Rorschach Hart
Distinction
“Rauschenberg: Collecting and Connecting”
Major: Art History. Advisor: Kristine Stiles

Beatrix Esther Hutton
High Distinction
“Building a Modern Religion: Religious Architecture in Hakodate”
Major: Art History & Visual Arts. Advisor: Annabel J. Wharton

Joi Faith McLaughlin
Distinction
“Mending Marks: Understanding Patient Rehabilitation through Drawing”
Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: Bill Fick

Faith Alisa Moore
Distinction
“Experimental Photography: Emphasizing the Beauty of the Disproportionate Human Body”
Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: William Noland

Jordan Marie Noyes
High Distinction
“Street Art on Border Walls: The Context of Space”
Major: Art History. Advisor: Raquel Salvatella de Prada
Chelsea Ann Saunders  
*Distinction*  
“The Bahamas – Perception versus Reality”  
Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: William Noland

Sarah Joan Soltis  
*Highest Distinction*  
“Noble Conceit: The Painted Portraits of Mistresses and Courtesans”  
Major: Art History & History. Advisor: Kristin Lanzoni

Nicole Yoon Ha Whang  
*Distinction*  
"The Intersectionality and the Formation of a Collective Identity"  
Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: Merrill Shatzman

Taylor Brett Zakarin  
*High Distinction*  
“Rauschenberg: Collecting and Connecting”  
Major: Art History. Advisor: Kristine Stiles

2013

Maria Isabel Arroyo  
“Pachamama” (Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: M. Shatzman)

Charlotte Abney Bassett  

Conrad Nathaniel Haynes  
“Foxy Love: An Interactive Storytelling Application and Short Film” (Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: R. Salvatella de Prada)

Amanda Grey Jordan  

Alice S. Kim  
Rebecca Ann Kuzemchak  
“8 Pictures” (Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: P. Lasch)

Elysia Pan  

Kathryn Alexandra Sommers  
Graduation with Distinction outside the Major: “Applications of Analytical Techniques in Fine Arts Examination and Conservation” (Major: Art History. Advisor: W.S. Warren, Department of Chemistry)

Mary Rose Medearis Superfine  
“NYC/LA Latinas Paint: A Feminist Analysis Following Art from the Street to the Gallery” (Major: Art History. Advisor: E. Gabara)

Ross Evan Tucker  

Amanda Jean Ukleja  
"Memory, Identity, and Objects: Living with and around Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia" (Major: Visual & Media Studies. Advisor: M. Olson)

Stephanie Lauren Vara  
"Reconstructing Cuba" (Major: Art History & Visual Arts. Advisor: M. Shatzman)

2012

Morgan Beard  
“Garbage Bombs”  
Major: Visual & Media Studies  
Advisors: Raquel Salvatella de Prada, Mark Olson

Min Cui  
“Illegal Chinese Immigration: A Graphic Novel”  
Major: Visual Arts  
Advisors: Bill Fick, William Noland

Aubrey Frazzitta  
“Visualizing Biological Interfaces”  
Major: Visual & Media Studies; Biology  
Advisors: William Seaman, Mark Olson
Carmen Hernandez
“España en Guerra”
Major: Visual Arts
Advisors: Raquel Salvatella de Prada, William Noland

Andrew Huff
“Weeks in Venice”
First Major: Visual & Media Studies
Advisor: Mark Olson

Jessica Newman
“The Rise of the Commercial Art Gallery”
Major: Art History
Advisor: Hans Van Miegroet

Linda Yi
“Strange/Common”
Major: Visual Arts
Advisors: Victoria Szabo, William Noland & Pedro Lasch

2011

Marissa Bergmann
“Inverse Uni•verse: An Exploration of Infinity”
Major: Visual and Media Studies. Advisor: Pinar Yoldas

Jennifer Sydney Burka
“Topographies of Eating: The Urban Order of Restaurants in Durham, NC”
Major: Art History. Advisor: Annabel Wharton

Catherine Victoria Cordeiro
“The Foundation of the Print Industry in Antwerp: The Plantin Press, 1563-1567”
Major: Art History. Advisor: Hans Van Miegroet

Sadel Serra Dilmener
"The Positive Advertisement: Analysis and Production of Gender-Based Constructive Advertising"
Major: Visual and Media Studies. Advisor: Bill Seaman

Christine Rose DiNicola
"Light Art and the Sublime"
Major: Visual and Media Studies. Advisor: Bill Seaman
Yuan Fang
“The Iranian Art Market in Dubai”
Major: Art History. Advisor: Hans van Miegroet

Lisa Gao
“Children, Illness, and Their Stories”
Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: Merrill Shatzman

Sarah Victoria Goetz
“Memory through Media”
Major: Visual and Media Studies. Advisors: William Noland and Bill Seaman

Hilary Huskey
“The Land of Nod”
Major: Visual Arts. Advisors: Bill Fick and Merrill Shatzman

Brooke S. Kingsland
“Like!: #videoads in the Age of Social Media”
Major: Visual and Media Studies. Advisor: Mark Olson

Kimberly Langston Nettles
“Victimization and the Ethics of Photography”
Major: Visual and Media Studies. Advisors: Kristine Stiles and Thomas Rankin

Anna Haldeman Ruddle
“The Relationship Between the Art Market and the Financial Services Industry: Can a Predictive Measure be Established?”
Major: Art History. Advisor: Hans van Miegroet

Hoai-Huong Dang (Bibi) Tran
“Other Worlds: Recreating What Is: The Chaos Within”
Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: Bill Seaman

Nina Wu
“Ubiquity”
Major: Visual Arts. Advisor: Merrill Shatzman