Digital Design Students Attend Disney Presentation

A group of Digital Design alumni, faculty, and students from the NJIT SIGGRAPH student chapter attended the NYC ACM SIGGRAPH presentation of “Walt Disney Animation Studios Presents Big Hero 6: The Art of Character Design and Development” on Tuesday evening, February 3. Bill Schwab, Character Design Supervisor, and Carlos Cabral, Character CG Supervisor shared the art, character design process, workflow pipeline, and innovation behind the Marvel comics-inspired “action-packed comedy-adventure about robotics prodigy Hiro Hamada” and the balloon-like robot Baymax.

Selfie or Group Presented at International Conference

Director of the School of Art + Design, Prof. Glenn Goldman, presented “Selfie or Group: Working Alone (or) Together” on January 11, 2015 at the 13th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu. The paper dealt with cross-disciplinary collaboration in project-oriented design settings. Goldman proposed a structured scenario for facilitating cooperative efforts among design students and designers set against a context that is becoming more visibly focused on individuals and individual accomplishments. Papers presented at the conference focused on inter- and cross-disciplinary projects ranging from art, photography, interior design, and product design to music performance, literature, and journalism.

Aldrich and Ngo are Winners in Art Competition

Freshman Digital Design student Everett Aldrich of Burlington Township, NJ, and third year Industrial Design student Audrey Ngo of Kearny, NJ, each received a $3,000 scholarship for their winning entries in the Ferring Pharmaceuticals Art Competition. Using the venue of an invited competition open to students from seven New Jersey colleges, Ferring Pharmaceuticals sought works for display in their new facilities in Parsippany, NJ, that embodied the “bring to life” philosophy of the company.

Ngo’s entry “Zen Mode” used sand, glue, plaster, water, and polystyrene to create a 2’ x 2’ submission designed to promote inner peace and harmony. Aldrich, also a previous winner in the Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield Art Competition in 2014, created a drawing showing happy interaction between a couple and their doctor celebrating the success of treatment with Ferring’s products. The competition was coordinated for Ferring Pharmaceuticals by Karen DiSanto, Associate Vice President, Human Resources; and Brigitte Panaccione, Specialist, Human Resources.
Brooklyn-based designer Evan Clabots is an adjunct instructor teaching in the Industrial Design program. Prior to coming to NJIT, he was Senior Vice President of Design for Fab.com, creating its structure and hiring its designers. Clabots and his team have brought to market hundreds of products including furniture, lighting, and seasonal soft home collections consisting of bedding, pillows, throws, rugs, shower curtains, and bath mats. Prior to his time at Fab.com he was the Founder and Designer for Nonlinear Studio which designed products for industry leaders such as All-Clad and self-produced products like the Slip Watch that was sold in the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) store. From 2004 through 2010 he was Lead Designer for Studio Dror developing products for companies that included Alessi, Cappellini, Target, and Tumi. Clabots is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design.

Designer and fabricator Paul Choate is principal and founder of Maker Anonymous in New York City where he focuses on creating custom-built tools and exploiting the increasing availability of technology to individuals and small businesses. Using in-house designed and custom-built CNC routers, the studio has “more control over the development and production process... [and] blends customized CNC technology with traditional techniques for product development, prototyping, and limited edition runs.” Originally from Port Neches, Texas, Choate is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and worked for Style Factory prior to the founding of his current studio. Choate is teaching Mechanics and Electronics to students in the Industrial Design program.

Scott Corey has joined the school of Art + Design as an adjunct instructor teaching Communication in Art and Design: Digital Media as part of the Foundation Year sequence. Corey is a graduate of NJIT receiving the Architecture Medal in 2007, the highest honor presented to a graduate of the School of Architecture in the College of Architecture and Design. He is currently also a graphic designer and fabrication lab manager for COOKFOX Architects in New York City where he creates marketing packages, architectural visualizations, and presentation materials. Prior to his current position, Corey worked for GRO Architects and also for JDS Architects as a designer in Brussels, Belgium, working on both office and residential projects. As an independent designer, his clients have included James McCullar Architecture and Visual.ly.

Wilfredo Rodriguez, is an architect working for BKSK Architects in New York involved in design, documentation, and construction on several projects. He is also a partner at WRRH, a design laboratory offering services in architecture and interior design, furniture and product design, and web design. Rodriguez earned a Bachelor of Environmental Design from the University of Puerto Rico, and a Master in Architecture (Structures Option) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He won the first “Hatch Live” competition, for design and modeling in Robert McNeel & Associates’ Rhino, and is now an adjunct instructor teaching Communication in Art and Design: Digital Media in the Foundation Year sequence at NJIT.
Matt Gosser Curates New Exhibit at CoAD Gallery: Four Printmakers...Four Decades

The College of Architecture and Design Gallery is showing "Four Printmakers...Four Decades," an exhibition curated by Art + Design instructor Matt Gosser featuring the work of four printmakers with selections spanning four decades.

On display is the work of Anne McKeown, graduate of the Yale School of Art and master papermaker at Rutgers University’s Brodsky Center; Lisa Conrad, art teacher and founder of the Newark Print Shop; Eileen Foti, Arts Guild New Jersey trustee member and assistant professor at Montclair University; and Stephen McKenzie, founding member of the Newark Print shop and manager of the Newark Museum’s arts workshop.

The exhibit, which Gosser says “showcases a wide range of printmaking techniques and how they can be combined with other traditional media” is free and open to the public from February 5 through March 6.

Fine Arts Meets Martial Arts

In conjunction with the opening of the Four Printmakers show, NJIT Budokai welcomed Brent Carey from the Takamura-ha Shindo Yoshin Ryu (TSYR) headquarters in Evergreen, Colorado, for the first winter training session. Recently upgraded from Study Group to Branch Dojo, NJIT Budokai officers Fred Little (Lead Academic Advisor for CoAD) and Sasha Corchado (Academic Advisor, A+D) welcomed TSYR practitioners from Philadelphia, Western Massachusetts, Western Ohio, and Toronto, Canada for two days of intensive practice beneath the gaze of the installation in the main College of Architecture and Design Gallery.

Architectural Photographs Selected for Calendar and as Winners in AIA West Jersey Annual Competition

For the fourth consecutive year, photographs taken by Founding Director of the School of Art + Design Glenn Goldman are among the winners in the annual architectural photography contest sponsored by the West Jersey section of the American Institute of Architects (AIA West Jersey). This year, his photograph “Mies and Calder in Chicago” was selected as the Best Color Image for 2014 and was published as the February image for the 2015 AIA West Jersey calendar. Also selected as a winner, and published as the image for October was “In the Crown,” a photograph taken from the crown of the Tribune Building in Chicago. Two additional photographs, “Architecture Enabled Selfies,” a photo of tourists photographing themselves in Anish Kapoor’s Cloud Gate at Millennium Park in Chicago and “Baroque Edges,” a photo of an exterior detail from the Asam Church (Asamkirche) in Munich, Germany were selected as merit selections and also published.

Newark Maker Faire Scheduled for April 11

The Industrial and Digital Design programs will again be participating in the Greater Newark Mini Maker Faire at the Newark Museum. Assistant Professor Taro Narahara is coordinating NJIT’s participation in this year’s Saturday, April 11 event that runs from 11 AM through 4 PM. In addition to a community of makers, the event draws children and their parents along with K12 teachers. More information may be found online at: http://makerfairenewark.com/
For the fifth consecutive year, NJIT served as a host for the Global Game Jam. The School of Art + Design was one of 518 international sites spread out over 78 countries for the 2015 event. The popularity of the event grows annually with a record number of sites and 28,837 registered jammers, a global increase of about 20%, who collectively produced more than 5,400 games in a 48-hour period. NJIT was the fifteenth largest site in the United States, and sixth largest site hosted by a public university. Coordinated by Prof. Andrzej Zarzycki, NJIT’s attendance topped 100 for the first time, as 105 registered jammers along with a cluster of un-registered visiting alumni produced 14 games.

The annual event represents a successful multi-disciplinary collaboration between the Digital Design program in the School of Art + Design, and the Information Technology program in the College of Computing Sciences as students from NJIT and other schools, as well as visiting professionals come together to form teams and build games during the last weekend in January.

The program starts on Friday evening with a video keynote address broadcast to all sites. This year the event included a series of short talks that began with one from Mitu Khandaker-Kokoris, the head of UK-based Tiniest Shark Ltd.. She was followed by Brazilian character designers Amora Bettany and Pedro Medeiros of MiniBoss game studio. The introduction concluded with board game designer Dr. Reiner Knizia of Knizia games who discussed digital/physical hybrid game development.

Every year the jammers are given a theme around which to work. Sometimes it’s been an image, a sound, a condition, or a phrase. This year games were designed around the age-old question: “What do we do now?” The theme was introduced by Prof. Taro Narahara whose task was to expand the scope of potential solutions for the jammers to discuss as they developed ideas.

Narrative and platformer games were popular this year along with a sense of whimsy relating to the theme question as shown in “Pogo Avenger,” a game in which the player must use a pogo stick to retrieve his stolen legs. Other games developed included “I Am,” “Disaster,” and “Mission Control,” a two-player collaborative game requiring the use of the Oculus Rift that was developed by an 11-person multi-disciplinary group.

The Game Jam, which has been gaining support and visibility each year. Started at 5 PM on Friday evening January 23, the participants were welcomed by a trio of administrators representing the university: Provost and Senior Executive Vice President Fadi Deek, one of the founders of the Information Technology program at NJIT, started the event, who was then followed by CIO and Associate Provost David Ullman and Director of the School of Art + Design Glenn Goldman. The Dean of the College of Computing Sciences Marek Rusinkiewicz, welcomed the group at the end of the introductory session. University Lecturer Marc Sequeira of the Information Technology program gave a visual history of past games created at NJIT for the Global Game Jam.

The Global Game Jam provides an intense and inventive environment that attracts a wide array of creative individuals with different interests and expertise. In addition to NJIT, popular university-hosted sites in the U.S. this year included NYU, Savannah College of Art and Design, MIT, North Carolina State University, Northeastern University, University of Southern California, Michigan State University, University of Texas, University of Virginia, and more.