

Thinkwire

An electronic newsletter of Integrative Teaching International

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2016

www.integrativeteaching.org



ThinkTank is a facilitated forum offered by the Integrative Teaching International organization. It brings together art and design master educators, administrators & emerging educators to address thematic issues of higher education. By linking educational theory to practice, ThinkTank identifies innovative new approaches to higher education.

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Integrative Teaching International evaluates ThinkTank outcomes and creates or modifies theories, policies and curricula for future ThinkTank sessions. ITI is an educational corporation in the State of Illinois applying for non-profit status.

Comments?

ITI welcomes all comments about its activities or content. E-mail us: info@integrativeteaching.org

We believe that change happens by those who envision it—not just from the top down or bottom up—but bi-directionally. If you have not heard of Integrative Teaching International or ThinkTank, lets get acquainted. ITI has been steadily growing; from grass-root beginnings to the implementation of our current model including day and week long conference intensives, ThinkTank and ThinkCatalysts. These events, attended by educators worldwide, combine facilitated discussions relevant to current art and design pedagogy with networking and publishing opportunities. To date, we've had participation from over **300** emerging and established educators and administrators representing **80** colleges and universities from **30** states and **4** countries.

We believe in leading change. Will you join us?

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Board Members

Report from the ITI Board

Lily Kuonen, Vice President of ITI

Through teaching we have a tendency to measure time based on semesters and the academic calendar. We can document events based on when they fell within the fall or spring terms, holiday break, or summer. Oftentimes, summer becomes a chance to devote time to larger projects, to recharge, to plan, and to start something new. This process of measuring time creates cycles and structure. There are other ways to measure time though, through seasons, life-events, birthdays, election years, etc. It is important for us to shift our perspectives every now and then, to reshape our structure, and to invite change. When we think beyond our academic responsibilities, busy schedules, grades, and meetings, we find opportunities to be present, seeking new ways to invest in our immediate communities, and practice openness.

This summer many of you will be joining us for **ThinkTank9** – Citizen/Artist: Education and Agency in Bozeman, MT. It is our goal to provide the setting to explore specific thematic content that spans progress and change, ethics and engagement, creative transformation, and mentorship and advocacy. In addition, there will be workshops, presentations, and professional exchange. We hope that this experience will be an opportunity to adjust our perspectives through collaborative research and engaged discourse.

Following TT9 in Montana, participants will work to produce contributions for the peer-reviewed journal, **FutureForward**, the official journal of Integrative Teaching International. We will keep you up to date on the progress of this publication and its anticipated release.

As an organization we represent a diverse range of instructors, educators, and administrators, and we are

grateful for our various levels of support ranging from the dedication of our founders, past board members, ThinkTankers, and new members. We continue to value this advocacy and the support of **FATE**, Foundations in Art: Theory and Education. Following TT9 we will begin developing our next round of programming. We look forward to hosting our biannual ThinkCatalyst event as an opening and immersive experience to kick off the upcoming FATE 2017 in Kansas City!

The board of ITI hopes you all are experiencing a surge of endurance as we near the close of another academic year. We encourage you to check in with our Facebook page for reminders, updates, and new initiatives. We look forward to seeing you all in Bozeman this June!

--- Warmest Regards from the board of Integrative Teaching International

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ThinkTank9 • Citizen/Artist: Education and Agency

Montana State University / June 8-12, 2016, Bozeman, MT

Integrative Teaching International will be offering its biennial facilitated forum, ThinkTank next June 2016 in Bozeman, Montana. Hosted by Montana State University School of Art, TT9 brings together art and design master and emerging teachers and administrators to address thematic issues of higher education. It employs a mix of facilitated discussions, workshops and presentations, interspersed with informal meals and social interaction.

ThinkTank9 – Citizen/Artist: Education and Agency will explore ways of integrating the ever-changing models, methods, motivations, and practices of contemporary art and design into foundational art courses. Together, we will use our shared experiences to explore the possibilities inherent in visual art and design to communicate values that operate within the broadest cultural equations. TT9 will approach, investigate, and evaluate the opportunities foundations curricula has to advocate for students, to utilize pedagogy to affect change, and to encourage positive experiences that will enable deep learning. Building on ideas generated by ThinkTank8: Big Sky Vision – Grounded Strategy and the ThinkCatalyst at FATE: Breaking Ground: Fresh Discussions, TT9 will continue to consider ways in which foundational coursework provides an opportunity to develop awareness and transformation, for our students to bridge from learner, to artist, to citizen.

The following pages highlight the topics we will be exploring and the facilitators who will be leading the breakout groups. Additionally, there will be exciting short workshops about foundational drawing; movement and form; self and group identity; and using photographic imagery in foundations.

TT9 registration = \$375 (Registration includes conference, programming events and some meals. Participants will be responsible for cost of travel and discounted lodging



ThinkTank9 • Citizen/Artist: Education and Agency

Montana State University / June 8-12, 2016, Bozeman, MT

Natural Selection – Inheriting and Initiating Change will be facilitated by Jason Lee, West Virginia University in Morgantown.

Change affects us from every direction, forcing us to make curricular choices and to determine ways to best balance pedagogy, research, training, and technology. Sometimes we inherit change other times we initiate change. Either way, we attempt to control how strategizing between the denial of and the embracing of change will impact our students and us. The contemporary, customized, blended, and open source studio classrooms enable teachers and students to learn from each other to leverage skills and produce new content. Are substantive and authentic creative practices diminished through the pursuit of new technologies in the learning environment? Does relevance mean technology in the classroom and how do they drive change? We will explore the motivations behind curricular changes including how decisions are made about what to maintain and what to leave behind. We intend to examine the best ways to navigate ethical and fiscal responsibilities to our students and our schools when accommodating popular trends.

Jason Lee is currently an Associate Professor of Sculpture and Foundations Coordinator in the School of Art and Design at West Virginia University in Morgantown. A multi media sculptor and installation artist, Jason Lee incorporates a wide variety of materials and techniques into his oddly humorous constructions and presentations. In some of Lee's most recent work he utilizes custom fabricated architectural steel elements as well as slip cast porcelain and embossed paper to create his vision of the idealized suburban landscape. Lee received the 2008 SECAC Individual Artists Fellowship and recently had work featured at the J&J Smith Gallery in Syracuse, NY and in the 2015 “Conjunction” exhibition at Artist Image Resource in Pittsburgh, PA. Lee was born in 1969 in Goldsboro, NC. He received his BFA from Kent State University in 1993 and his MFA from University of Wisconsin Madison in 1998.



ThinkTank9 • Citizen/Artist: Education and Agency

Montana State University / June 8-12, 2016, Bozeman, MT

Ethics, Evaluation, and Engagement will be facilitated by Erin Hoffman, Muskegon Community College

Dr. John Baldacchino, during ThinkTank 2, asked, “If I teach a person to read and they choose not to, are they literate?” As educators we are confronted daily by complex ethical concerns spanning from the classroom and curriculum to institutional initiatives, such as completion agendas. Many programs are pressured to streamline the student experience, including allowing college credit for high school experiences and pressing for graduation as quickly as possible. How is our teaching impacted when metrics for success include graduation rates and retention? Through an exploration of the language used to address the agenda of higher education success rates, we will explore the potential positive and critical affects this standardization of education may have on higher education art programs, students, and the delivery of foundations skills and pedagogy. What contemporary educational trends are having an effect on the delivery of our curriculum? How do you achieve a balance between ethics and evaluation methods and assessment? Students who engage in their institutional and creative communities beyond class-time and required activities may be more likely to succeed professionally.

Erin Hoffman, is currently a full-time tenured art instructor at Muskegon Community College in Muskegon, Michigan teaching Art Appreciation, Drawing, Painting, Figure Drawing, Contemporary Art History and 2-d design. Erin received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2001 from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa and received her Master of Fine Arts degree in 2005 at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. Both degrees are in printmaking. She has exhibited in over 80 exhibitions nationwide including most recently a solo show called “Reflections From the Cradle of Democracy” at the Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. She also recently had work in a group exhibition called “Southern Graphics International, Juried Traveling Exhibition,” which was exhibited in 8 different galleries in 7 states and ultimately became part of SGCI’s permanent collection.



ThinkTank9 • Citizen/Artist: Education and Agency

Montana State University / June 8-12, 2016, Bozeman, MT

Creative Voices – Leading through Learning will be facilitated by Casey McGuire, University of West Georgia.

We teach students to be global citizens, and it is our responsibility to value diversity and honor difference. We respect and encourage an understanding of our students' demographics and varied interests. Through creative coursework and purposeful activities we can bring an awareness of current news, issues, power dynamics, and agendas to help students develop empathy for the other. How do we as instructors work with our students and our institutional leadership to challenge, accept, and affect the dialogue between authority and equality in education to flatten hierarchies? Most students today experience college more as a social experience than an academic one. How do we capitalize on facets of social interaction combined with academic rigor and perseverance to encourage creative voices that provide a platform for others' experiences? In what ways can we foster creative transformation and exploration of identities, in order for our students, and us to bridge from learner, to artist, to citizen?

Casey McGuire, is an Assistant Professor of Foundations and Sculpture at the University of West Georgia. McGuire received her BFA cum laude in Studio Arts from Alfred University and her MFA in Sculpture from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in 2007. McGuire was featured in the October 2009 issue of Sculpture Magazine. Her installations contain video, found objects and constructions of roadside detritus that are conceptualization of the housing crash and the myth of the American Dream.



ThinkTank9 • Citizen/Artist: Education and Agency

Montana State University / June 8-12, 2016, Bozeman, MT

Mentors/Teachers: Practice and Advocacy will be facilitated by Raymond Yeager, University of Charleston in Charleston, West Virginia.

Foundations curricula aim at egalitarian approaches to artistic production, favoring student's individual creative development and critical thinking skills. In this setting we utilize our coursework to engage students to be responsible for technical skills that are partnered with habits of mind. How do we determine the balance between material and digital literacy with critical thinking and technical skills? Creative education has the opportunity to emphasize students' critical, collaborative, and conceptual development over the hardwiring of facts. What are the methods that we use to motivate and empower our students to seek innovation? How do we define innovation? In what ways do we incorporate holistic practices? We are advocates for our students, and we are models for them as creative professionals. With this in mind, what are the appropriate outcomes of foundations and how do we determine success?

Raymond Yeager, has been an art educator for nearly two decades and taught at several institutions in the Midwest and Southeast and currently is an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Charleston in Charleston, West Virginia. He holds a BFA from Valdosta State University and an MFA from the University of Florida. His mixed-media paintings and installations have been exhibited and critically received in museums and galleries throughout the United States. He is a recipient of an Illinois Art Council Finalist Award and visiting artist residencies at Lyon College and Jacksonville University. Recently, he presented his papers, WALK A LINE OUTSIDE THE STUDIO: How Drawing Can Foster Cognitive Thinking In Art and Other Disciplines at SE-CAC 2015 and Buy The Ticket, Take The Ride: How To Take The Fear And Loathing Out Of The Required Art Class at FATE 2015. Yeager's art revolves around the conceptual idea of "the mark." Mark-making, whether a scratch on a surface or a transformed material, is an intimate method of rendering existence. It is a purposeful act of leaving marks that produce indelible, tangible forms that record presence, emotions, experiences, and ideas. He explores his own mark-making impulse by being inspired by and responding to what is around him. He collects and uses as subject matter found ob-

jects, textual fragments, images, and materials that attract him and have a potential to create a graphic image or narrative.



ThinkTank9 • HOST

Montana State University / June 8-12, 2016, Bozeman, MT

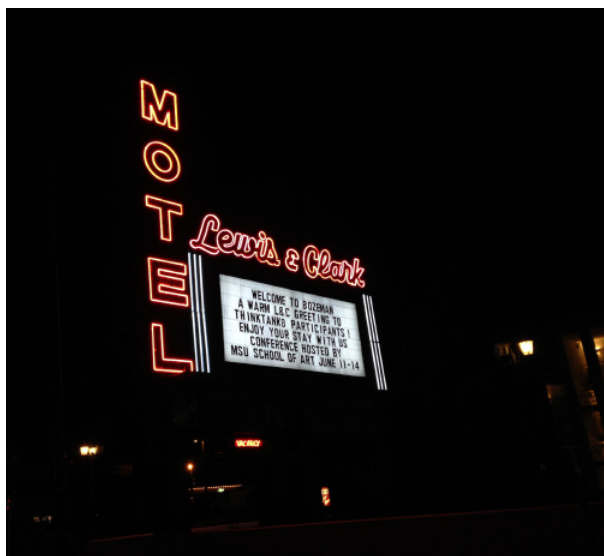
Lodging and Travel Information: Montana State University and ITI has obtained special room rates at 2 hotels in Bozeman for ThinkTank9. Please make your reservations as soon as possible to ensure availability and the discounted rates. Most of TT9 will take place on the MSU campus. Both hotels have indicated they will honor the rates for shoulder days on either side of TT9 should you want to arrive early or stay longer. Both hotels are on main street approximately 1.2 mile apart.

The Lewis and Clark Motel: This motel is located across the street from the Community Food Co-Op, a bagel shop, and a 10 minute walk from campus. Rates for TT9 are \$109/night for single occupancy and \$119/night for double occupancy. Please tell them you are attending ThinkTank9 at MSU School of Art to receive the discount. They are locally owned and in addition to their website may be reached at 800-332-7666 or 406-586-3341.

The LARK: This hotel is located in historic downtown Bozeman. Also locally owned, The LARK was re-modeled by local architects, who employed local designer and artists to decorate the rooms. Rates are \$160.65/night on Wednesday and Thursday and \$177.65/night on Friday and Saturday. Rooms are blocked under Integrative Teaching International. In addition to their website you may phone them at 866-464-1000.

Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport: (formally known as Gallatin Field) The Bozeman airport is served by Alaska, Allegiant, American (beginning 6/2/16), Delta, Frontier, and United Airlines. Bozeman is the busiest airport in Montana but that does not always mean the cheapest. If you are planning on a vacation as part of TT9 and are going to rent a car, you may consider Butte (85 miles), Helena (100 miles), or Billings (150 miles.) For the more adventurous traveler Denver (10 hours) and Salt Lake City (6 hours) are the nearest hub airports and routes through Yellowstone National Park are possible, but with more time than listed above.

Car Rental: You DO NOT need to rent a car to attend TT9. We will make every accomodation possible to get you from the airport to your hotel and to the airport after TT9. There are a few taxi companies in the small town of Bozeman and they require advanced reservations. The major car rental companies have offices at the airport. At TT8 some participants who wanted to fish and see some of the sights were able to rent cars at a local rate from a local company near the airport called **Phasmid**. There are not local tour companies to take people to Yellowstone, so if you want to spend some time seeing the Park, you will need to rent a car.



ThinkTank9 • A Night at the Museum

Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, MT

On Thursday evening TT9 participants will enjoy an early evening at the Museum of the Rockies with appetizers and presentations and discussions about innovative curricula designed to accompany the exhibition: **“Leisure and Luxury in the Age of Nero: The Villas of Oplontis Near Pompeii.”**

While the exhibition will open soon after TT9 and will not, unfortunately, be accessible during TT9, many of the faculty who participated in a symposium, led by Dr. Regina Gee and Dean Adams, on the Bay of Naples, will present and discuss their **curricular projects related to the exhibition**. Fourteen different classes, from studio foundations, agriculture, architecture, earth sciences, philosophy, biology, and freshmen seminar, will use the museum as a rich learning environment and art as a bridge between varied disciplines. Faculty will share ways in which they use art as the vehicle to help students develop a genius loci or sense of place and their identities.

Participants will also be able to explore other aspects of the museum, including the signature Siebel Dinosaur Complex and the Native American and Montana History exhibits permanently on display.

A little more about the Villas of Oplontis exhibition. According to Dr. Regina Gee, wealthy ancient Romans lived a very luxurious life, much unlike the common conception of a bloody, hungry daily fight for survival. “It’s like the Hamptons in New York. They just floated around dinner parties, mingling. The villas were not even for living. They were just places for entertainment.”

The villa was around 140 years old when it died in the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. When the Bourbons were stealing art from the villas buried by the eruption, they tunneled into this villa but only hit the slave quarters so all of the art was present when the excavation began in the 1960’s. The exhibition includes fresco fragments, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, coins, and other objects never seen before. They are only being exhibited in three venues in the U.S. and then, under Italian law, are not permitted to leave Italy again.

Because residents near Yellowstone National Park, including Bozeman, are living near the potential hazard of a super volcano, the exhibition at the Museum of the Rockies, will also include a unique section related to living in the shadow of a volcano connecting the ancient Romans to our contemporary communities and peoples.



ThinkJolt

Erin Hoffman, Instructor of Art, Muskegon Community College

Sustainable Studio Practices: Physical Fitness and Wellness

As I was alternating minutes between sprinting and climbing on the elliptical today, I started to think about the fact that most artists I know regularly include or at least aspire to include some kind physical activity into their weekly routine. It also occurred to me that I very rarely, if ever talk about it with my students or with fellow art colleagues.

In fact, I find myself a little ashamed for some reason. After all, aren't art kids and jocks at odds with one another? Haven't I been bloodied in dodge ball battles? Fearing that my students had similar gym class experiences, I find myself not wanting to associate with 'the enemy' especially when we first meet.

So why am I even bothering with this rant now you say?

Because the PE gen ed requirement (if your institution has one) is ranked second only to Math in the courses that art students whine about the most.

Because our students eat nothing but crap.

Because the world has reached it's maximum capacity of poorly crafted collages exploring issues of body image and the obesity epidemic.

Because endurance athletes are seeking the same kind of right brained smack that we get from sewing 12,000 sequins to a sheet of aluminum foil.

Because art making requires physical endurance

So what am I proposing? We put down the brushes and pick up the bar bells...

Nope

We talk about our exercise practices with our students.

We integrate physical activity as part of the ideation process in our projects (clearly I get my best ideas at the gym.)

We support our colleagues in the Health and Wellness programs and fight tooth and nail against being placed in the items to be deleted folder of our general education requirements. After all, there must be some reason that we find ourselves next to one another in the unessential academic check out line?

FutureForward (the biannual journal of Integrative Teaching International) is seeking assistant editors for its upcoming and future issues. Assistant editors will work closely with the Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief, and teams of writers or single authors in the production of scholarly articles. Essays or reports are usually submitted to FutureForward in draft format and must then be revised/edited to meet the journal's stylistic standards, as well as its critical/scholarly objectives. All assistant editors must have previously attended ThinkTank so that they are aware of Integrative Teaching International's mission and goals. A full description of the position can be found on the [ITI website](#).

Applicants should contact Lucy Curzon, Editor-in-Chief, with a CV and a brief written description of your experience in the area of scholarly publication and/or writing (e.g. past projects, articles, catalogue essays, editorial experience, etc.). Please send this information to lcuzon@ua.edu.

FutureFocus **ThinkCatalyst@FATE 2017 // Kansas City Art Institute**

In partnership with **FATE** (Foundations in Art: Theory and Education), **ITI** will offer a ThinkCatalyst intensive just prior to the 2017 Biennial FATE conference. This one-day intensive will take place on April 5, 2015 in Kansas City. It will address thematic issues of higher art education through facilitated breakout discussion groups, presentations, immersive discussions, and social interaction with lunch provided. ThinkCatalyst will help prime the pump for the FATE conference by engaging in discourse of thematic content that builds upon ideas prompted in the 2016 summer intensive ThinkTank9 – Citizen/Artist: Education and Agency.



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