

Faculty profiles cont'd



**Shawn Serfas** teaches Painting and Drawing.

*My art practice and creative research explores the relationships between environmental sciences,*

*the landscape and issues bordering abstraction and representation.*



**Linda Steer** teaches History of Art and Visual Culture.

*My research addresses the ways in which meaning is constructed in art and visual culture,*

*particularly through the circulation of images. While much of my work addresses French art and visual culture of the 19th and 20th centuries, I also write about contemporary art, architecture and photography.*



**Donna Szoke** teaches Digital Media.

*My practice includes video, animation, writing, installation, sculpture and experimental*

*collaboration. My videos and installations have been exhibited internationally, and my writing has been published in experimental forms, including a billboard.*

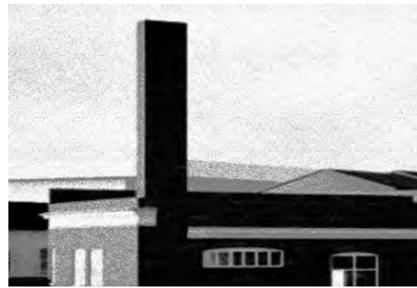
International exchange

Experience the world

Studying overseas as part of your Brock degree is an opportunity not to be missed. You can live in another country and fully experience a different lifestyle, culture and spectacular scenery — all while earning credit towards your degree. Brock University invites you to explore the Brock exchange program.

Visual Arts students participating in this program have travelled to England, France, Australia, the Netherlands, Scotland, South Africa and India. For further information, visit [brocku.ca/international-services](http://brocku.ca/international-services)

forward thinking.  
forward moving.



In 2015, the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts will be relocating 500 students, faculty and staff to brand new facilities in the downtown core of St. Catharines. A \$30.2-million project designed by Diamond + Schmitt Architects of Toronto, a repurposed 19th-century textile mill and component buildings will provide 95,000 square feet of instructional, research and production space for our degree programs in Dramatic Arts, Music, Visual Arts and our Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture.

New facilities mean exceptional opportunities for future students: art, design and digital studios; a learning and computer commons; music practice and rehearsal rooms; lecture and seminar rooms; and a versatile stand-alone 235-seat theatre with production and workshop support including a costume department and carpentry shop. In combination with the new City of St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre, where students will have access to the film theatre and recital hall, our goal is to build on the reputation of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.

Congratulations!

Two recent graduates, Candace Couse and Sarah Beattie, have been shortlisted for the The Kingston Prize, Canada's National Portrait Competition

Partnerships with Rodman Hall

The Department of Visual Arts works closely with Rodman Hall Art Centre, which is located in downtown St. Catharines. Students studying Visual Arts at Brock have many opportunities to engage with contemporary art through the programming at Rodman Hall, and are invited to exhibit openings and artist talks, and to reflect with their classmates and instructors on the exhibited works.

Honours exhibition

The Department of Visual Arts has a long tradition of presenting the work of graduating students mentored in its honours studio program. Students accepted into this course develop a cohesive body of work that will support their entry into graduate MFA programs and professional practice as artists. This exhibition is the capstone of their visual arts education at Brock and an opportunity to publicly present their work.

These free community events are open to public:

**March 22 – April 6, 2014**

Opening reception: Friday, March 21, 7 – 9 p.m.

**April 12 – 27, 2014**

Opening reception: Friday, April 11, 7 – 9 p.m.

Department of VISUAL ARTS

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**The Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts** at Brock University offers students a broad education combining research, practice and creative development.

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Grad profile  
Gustavo Cerquera Benjumea



Photography by Alejandro Santiago

Gustavo Cerquera Benjumea is an artist, animator and teacher. A graduate of the Visual Arts (VISA) program at Brock University, Gustavo feels this program gave him the necessary practical and conceptual foundations to pursue a career in animation and visual arts. He received a Computer Animation postgraduate certificate from Sheridan College and an Interdisciplinary Master's in Art, Media and Design from OCAD University. Gustavo recently returned to Brock University as a sessional instructor.

His animation and artistic work has been featured in Pleasure Dome's New Toronto Works and the Gladstone Hotel's Nuit Blanche exhibits. With director Christopher Mills, Gustavo illustrated and animated Canadian indie rock band **Metric's** 2010 music video "Collect Call," from their album *Fantasies*.

Welcome to VISA

The Visual Arts (VISA) program is designed to focus on the intellectual and creative development of the individual. Studio courses provide a challenging environment to study design concepts, drawing, painting and interdisciplinary art using installation, video, photography and digital media as a basis for creative practice.

As well, History of Art and Visual Culture courses not only examine the development of artistic styles and the critical and aesthetic issues that these styles bring into play, but also look at the interaction of art with other forms of visual culture. This combination of practical and theoretical studies provides students with creative freedom and a supportive academic environment with small class sizes.

For more information, visit [brocku.ca/webcal/2013/undergrad/visa.html](http://brocku.ca/webcal/2013/undergrad/visa.html)

Degrees and concentrations

The Visual Arts Department offers a range of options for students:

- Honours degree programs focusing on either the History of Art and Visual Culture or Studio Art
- Concurrent BA/BEd program
- Three-year Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- BSc in Visual Arts and Computer Science
- Combined major

Special areas of concentration within the Department of Visual Arts include:

- Concentration in Curatorial Studies
- Concentration in Digital Media and Production

(Continued on page 2)

Your first year in VISA

As a first-year student in the Visual Arts department, you will be introduced to important concepts and ideas that you will continue to build on throughout your time at Brock. Courses such as Introduction to Visual Culture and Foundation Studio are important building blocks for a VISA degree. You will also be taking electives and context courses from other departments during your first year at Brock. Your academic adviser, Alisa Cunnington ([acunnington@brocku.ca](mailto:acunnington@brocku.ca)), is able to advise you on the options that best suit your schedule and your interests.

In your first year, you will also have the opportunity to meet other students and get to know your professors in the Visual Arts program. There are many events and activities going on outside of class times, and students are strongly encouraged to attend artist talks, exhibitions, and participate in field trips. All students in Visual Arts are invited to join the Visual Arts Student Club.

BROCK OPEN HOUSE

Visit: [discover.brocku.ca](http://discover.brocku.ca)

FALL PREVIEW DAY  
Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013

SPRING OPEN HOUSE  
Sunday, March 2, 2014

Marilyn I. Walker  
School of Fine &  
Performing Arts



Sarah Beattie, *Untitled #6* from the *Say Sneeze* series, oil on canvas.

## Alumni profile Sarah Beattie

Sarah Beattie is an emerging artist who graduated in Spring 2012 from the Honours Visual Arts program at Brock.

Beattie was the Ontario provincial winner of BMO's 1st Art! Invitational Student Art Competition in 2012. Her winning submission, *Untitled #6* (2012) from the ongoing series *Say Sneeze*, was exhibited at MOCCA Toronto along with 12 other Canadian visual arts graduates.

These works were also highlighted at The Artist Project Toronto as part of the Untapped Emerging Artists Competition in February 2013 at the Better Living Centre, Exhibition Place.

Beattie lives and works in Hamilton, Ont.

*I graduated with an Honours BA in Visual Arts, with a concentration in Curatorial Studies, and I plan to pursue graduate studies in the near future to expand the knowledge that I've obtained at Brock. My hope is to achieve a Master's degree in Art History, Criticism and Curatorial Studies, or studio-based practice, which I will use towards securing employment in a gallery or arts organization of some kind. Eventually I plan to use my experience in the field to become a professor at the university level so that I can impart what I've learned to future generations of artists. I also plan to continue producing and exhibiting my own work, wherever my career might take me.*

~ Sarah Beattie, Class of 2012

## Degrees and concentrations

(Continued from cover page)

### Concentration in Digital Media and Production

Those who would like to study digital art, media art, special effects, animation, game design or any of the other aspects of digital production will find this concentration of particular interest.

### Concentration in Curatorial Studies

Students interested in the business of the arts can take our Concentration in Curatorial Studies. In this four-year program, courses are taught at Rodman Hall Art Centre by professional curators and will include on-the-job exposure and training.



Installing 4F06 Exhibit 2012

## Concurrent BA/BEEd Program

Concurrent education is another exciting opportunity for VISA students.

Brock is one of few universities in the province to offer a concurrent BA/BEEd program. Studying both in VISA and in Brock's Faculty of Education over five years, students earn two undergraduate degrees, one in Visual Arts and the other in Education, and an Ontario teaching certification.

For Brock Concurrent Education information, visit [brocku.ca/education/futurestudents/concurrentteachered](http://brocku.ca/education/futurestudents/concurrentteachered)

## After VISA



Sonya DeLazzer

*I graduated from Brock University in 2009 with an Honours BA. The faculty in the Department of Visual Arts instilled communication skills through various seminars and increased my art historical sensibilities through guided research papers. The skills developed at Brock have undoubtedly contributed to my achievements, educationally and professionally. In the spring of 2013, I completed a Master's in Art History from the University at Buffalo (SUNY) and I am currently engaged in a curatorial assistantship at RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston, Ont. My interest in the aesthetic developments of a culture's daily life and the impact on its identity was nurtured in the Visual Arts department. I am so excited to be returning to Brock this fall to further my research in the PhD program in Interdisciplinary Humanities.*

~ Sonya DeLazzer, Class of 2009

## Field trips and annual events

Each year the Department of Visual Arts organizes field trips that give students in the program the opportunity to travel to see exhibitions in major galleries and museums.

Previous field trips have included New York, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

## Walker Cultural Leader Series



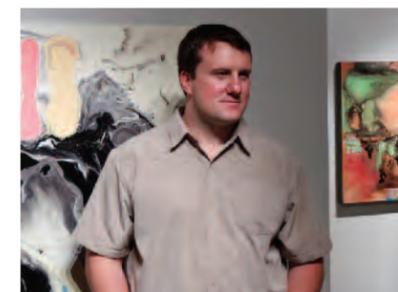
The Walker Cultural Leader Series is another way in which students in the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts come face-to-face with leading arts professionals and educators.



Althea Thauberger

Althea Thauberger is a leading Canadian artist based in Vancouver, B.C. She will visit VISA in 2013 and Visual Arts students will have the opportunity to collaborate with her to produce an experimental documentary video on the future move of the Walker School to downtown St. Catharines, ending with a public screening and discussion on Nov. 8, 2013, 7 to 10 p.m., Room AS 215, Brock University.

Visit [brocku.ca/walker-cultural-leader-series](http://brocku.ca/walker-cultural-leader-series)



Shawn Serfas 2009

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT Shawn Serfas

Although initially drawn to an academic career in the environmental sciences, Shawn Serfas pursued a Fine Arts and Art History degree in Saskatchewan as well as a Master of Fine Arts degree in Alberta. He taught at the University of British Columbia prior to coming to Brock. The foundation of his art practice and creative research explores the relationships between environmental sciences, the landscape and issues bordering abstraction and representation. Within that framework he poses questions concerning identity, place, ancestral origin, religion and relational abstraction.

*I view teaching as a process through which the ultimate goals are empowering students to become lifelong learners, creative problem solvers and independent researchers. A climate of openness, acceptance and positive learning is essential to successfully working with students. A curriculum based on this core belief encourages the development of visual literacy and personal expression in students.*



Shawn Serfas *Borderland - Eclipse, Revolution Series*, 2008, Acrylic, Mixed Media on Canvas.

## Faculty profiles



Jean Bridge teaches Digital Media.

*My practice engages both print and interactive digital media. I am a collaborator in a research project that investigates new conventions and methods for the documentation of time-based and ephemeral art.*



Keri Cronin teaches History of Art and Visual Culture.

*I am a historian of visual culture and my research focuses on the ways in which visual representations of the nonhuman world have historically shaped, challenged and, at times, subverted dominant human attitudes towards the species with which they share the planet.*



Derek Knight teaches History of Art and Visual Culture.

*My research focuses on the interstices between public space and the emerging ecologies of post-studio art. My studio work has evolved from large format photography to installation and public or site-specific projects.*



Murray Kropf teaches Painting.

*I work to hone the thematic of still life towards a singular element, each painted in dramatic tones and commanding scale. The works either confront or elevate the banal to a visual and sensory level that would seem to be uniquely determined by the painter's visual memory.*



Duncan MacDonald teaches Digital Media and Drawing.

*I'm an interdisciplinary artist, working with audio, performance, video, photography, drawing and diverse media to explore the uncanny and the commodification of the corporeal sensorium.*