



#### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MELISSA RACHLEFF

Clinical Associate Professor of Arts Administration, Melissa Rachleff-Burtt, has curated an exhibit at the Grey Art Gallery, [Inventing Downtown: Artist-Run Galleries in New York, 1952-1965](#), which is on view through April 1, 2017. The show demonstrates the impact of artist-run galleries in the New York art scene and presents works from fourteen of these crucibles of experimentation, highlighting artists' efforts to create new exhibition venues for innovative works of art—ranging from abstract and figurative painting, assemblage, sculpture, and works on paper to groundbreaking installations and performances. The exhibit has been lauded by critics and attendees alike; in his New York Times review, Holland Cotter writes that the show "looks the way history looks before the various MoMAs get their sanitizing hands on it: funky, diverse, down to earth, with things to teach us now." Congratulations on a job terrifically done, Melissa!

#### VAA ALUMNI EVENTS

About 50 alumni and second-year students turned out for our **annual holiday party** held on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Center for Italian Modern Art.

Program alumna, Ilaria Conti '13, Exhibitions and Programs Director of the organization, was a gracious host for our event. We gathered in CIMA's spacious kitchen to enjoy platters of tasty hors d'oeuvres and wine. Thanks to the generosity of alumni who donated a wide range of books, catalogues and museum gift items, we raised \$350 through the sale of raffle tickets.



*Amy Whitaker and Alumni Council Members.*



On February 8<sup>th</sup> Melissa Rachleff, curator of **“Inventing Downtown: Artist-Run Galleries in New York, 1952-1965”** gave a private tour of the critically acclaimed exhibition at the Grey Gallery for a group of 22 VAA alumni. We found it fascinating to learn about several of the early co-op galleries such as Tanager and Hansa and see a wonderful work by Jean Follett, Melissa’s next research project

*Melissa Rachleff and our AC President Alix Hornyak with VAA alumni.*

## LOOKING AHEAD: SPRING EVENTS

For those of you who weren’t able to attend the February tour of **“Inventing Downtown: Artist-Run Galleries in New York, 1952-1965”** Melissa has kindly agreed to schedule another private tour for VAA alumni, adjunct faculty and students on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Grey Art Gallery. RSVP via the provided [hyperlink](#) is required.

The Alumni Council has scheduled an early morning private tour of the **Louise Bourgeois House and Easton Foundation** for VAA alumni on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>. Group size is limited to 15 people (alumni only) and the cost will be \$25 per person. Pre-payment online is required; the fee will cover a contribution to both the Easton Foundation and to our AC Professional Development grants and Excellence Awards. An invitation for the tour will be sent in April.

## VAA ALUMNI COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDS:



*Stephanie Bokenfohr, '17*

In Fall ‘16 the Alumni Council awarded Professional Development grants to two students: Stephanie Bokenfohr, '17 and Danielle Brock, '17. We ask all recipients to summarize their experience in a short essay. Stephanie writes:

“Attending the conference Avant Museology at the Walker Art Centre from November 20 to 22, 2016 offered incredible insight and a range of experiences from educational, conversational, to critical exhibition analysis, performances, and networking opportunities. The two-part conference was designed by a collaborative effort of E-Flux Magazine Founder Anton Vidokle, and the Walker Art Center, and had a first version chapter at the Brooklyn Museum on November 10-11, 2016. One of the key prompts for the symposium came from the publication of Avant-garde Museology which was published by E-Flux and edited by the first speaker, Arseny Zhilyaev. The book researched ideas of the

future of the museum and institutions, to open the concept of art to unveil its paradoxical tendencies of collecting and also diminishing memories.” She concludes her essay, “Never before have I attended a conference that successfully incorporated a first-hand global experience, including panelists from Russia, the Arab world, the global South, and the North, as well as the western/Eurocentric world. The conference exceeded my expectations, and it was such a pleasure to attend. I had the most incredible weekend, and was able to catch up with colleagues and peers who traveled to the conference from Canada! It was such a surprise to see and meet directors, curators, and artists I never would have met if I had not been there.”

## ALUMNI NEWS

MoMA held a special event on February 26th at 7pm entitled **PoP Rally Presents: Arty Gras** which featured a special viewing of the Picabia retrospective and Picabia –inspired Mardi Gras masks designed by VAA alum Damien Davis, '13. He was commissioned to do a takeover of all the screens on the first floor of the museum and he presented a suite of new video work made exclusively for this event. Bravo Damien!



*Damien Davis, '13. Photo credit Jen Zakrzewski*

### **Congratulations to the following alumni on their recently noted career updates:**

Kate Beach, '15, Associate Director of Development, College of the Humanities, University of California, Riverside

Cila Brosius, '16, Coordinator, Faurshon Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark

Sarah Burger, '08, Sr. Development Officer, Individual Giving & Events, Women's Refugee Commission

Lori Camilleri, '14, Partnerships Manager, Times Square Alliance

Jessica Iannuzzi Garcia, '16, Art Program Analyst, JP Morgan Chase Art Collection

Christena Gunther, '08, Director of Tour Operations & Guest Experience, Frank Lloyd Wright Trust, Chicago

Nancy Harwood, '16, Corporate Partnerships Coordinator, Friends of the Highline

Sarah Higby, '97, Director of Development, Institute of Fine Art, NYU

Stephanie Jauch, '06, Manager, Financial Management & Workforce Administration, ArtsPool

Sarah Kennedy, '09 Assistant Director, Learning Programs and Partnerships, MoMA

Melissa Klein, '06, Executive Assistant, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany

Lynn Koos, '15, Brand Solutions Coordinator, Studio71

Miranda Kozak, '13, Individual Giving Manager, Storm King Art Center

Hansi Liao, '16, Sales Assistant, Pace Gallery, NYC

Lynnette Miranda, '14, 2016-17 Charlotte Street Foundation Curator in Residence, La Esquina Gallery, Kansas City, MO



*After-work Alumni Gathering!*

If you have an idea for an upcoming event or would like to co-host a casual get-together, we welcome your suggestions. One summer we gathered for a relaxing and fun after-work backyard party for alumni!

If you would like more information on becoming an Alumni Council member please contact: [vida.schreibman@nyu.edu](mailto:vida.schreibman@nyu.edu); [alixandrahornyan@gmail.com](mailto:alixandrahornyan@gmail.com)

### **Let's stay connected!**

[www.facebook.com/groups/NYUVAAAlumni/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/NYUVAAAlumni/)

[www.linkedin.com/groups/8491107](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/8491107)

[vaaalumnicouncil@gmail.com](mailto:vaaalumnicouncil@gmail.com)

[steinhardt.nyu.edu/art/admin/alumni](http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/art/admin/alumni)

--- You are currently subscribed to arva-alumni as: [daonnedaonne@gmail.com](mailto:daonnedaonne@gmail.com) To unsubscribe send a blank email to [leave-15230772-25260387.c7d30bf5ccdf13672cc2da67094eaea6@lists.nyu.edu](mailto:leave-15230772-25260387.c7d30bf5ccdf13672cc2da67094eaea6@lists.nyu.edu)