California based VAA MA Program Alumni and guests were invited by Dominic Brewer, Gale and Ira Drucker Dean of NYU Steinhardt to join him in Los Angeles for an exclusive reception at the Hammer Museum with Museum Director Ann Philbin, ’82. NYU welcomed 65 alumni parents and friends to the Hammer event.
Over the course of the two hour event attendees mingled with one another and took seats at various tables arranged for conducting one on one informal conversations with our eight Alumni Council members who represented both profit and nonprofit areas of specialization including corporate art collections, art education, finance & operations, galleries, pr & marketing, private collections/art advisories, development, programming & curating. Students asked lots of good questions and learned more about various career paths to gain insight and advice for their professional development and they were pleased to network and strengthen relationships with peers and mentors. All participants received a four-page handout of resources, tips and advice compiled by our Alumni Council co-hosts.

Alix Hornyan, President of the Alumni Council, noted, “the new fair format for our annual Career discussion was very successful and allowed for more personal, productive, and insightful conversations. We look forward to hosting a similar event next year.” And Noelle Martin, a VAA second year student added, “I thought the event was a wonderful way to connect with recent alumni. The smaller and rotating panel style really facilitated more personal conversations with a wide-ranging variety of professionals within the industry. I was able to gain insight into a variety of roles within the arts, which has further helped me narrow down my professional interests. I really hope the VAA Alumni Network will continue to host other events like this.”
LIST OF ALUMNI COUNCIL PARTICIPANTS

**Noreen Ahmad**, '10 Director, Sutton PR

**Anna Burden**, '15 *VP Alumni Council*, Associate Manager, Individual Development, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

**Carli Beseau**, '13, Executive Director of Exhibits and Programs, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation

**Caitlin Farrell**, '16, Workplace Art & Design Associate, Dow Jones

**Georgia Harrell**, '17, Private Collections Manager

**Alix Hornyan**, '10, *President, Alumni Council*, Sales Director, James Goodman Gallery

**Stephanie Jauch**, '06, Manager, Financial Management and Workforce Administrator, ArtsPool

**Nora Webb**, '13, Assistant Director, Institutional Giving, New York Philharmonic

Students in conversation with Noreen Ahmad, '10 an Alumni Council Member co-host.

(L to R) Emily Olsen, '18, Noelle Martin,'19 and Yelena Liepelt, '19.
The VAA MA Program Alumni Council Student Excellence Award of $500 is given annually to a graduating student in the program who has demonstrated excellence in course work, internships, service to the community and leadership in arts administration. We are pleased to announce that this year’s two recipients are Tritia Lee, ‘18 and Ting-yu Lin, ‘18.

The VAA MA Program Alumni Council Thesis Commendation Award of $500 is given annually to a graduating student in the program who has written an exceptionally well researched and critically considered thesis paper on a topic relating to the field. We are pleased to announce this year’s recipient is Sandrine Milet, ’18 for her thesis “Power and Equality on Manhattan’s Newest Cultural Corridor: The Whitney, The Highline and The West Side.”

The graduation celebration for the Class of 2018 will take place in Barney on Monday, May 14th from 5-7:30 PM, Barney 6th Floor. During the party Alix Hornyan, President Alumni Council, will distribute the three awards.
In the Fall ’17 semester Emily applied for and received a Professional Development Grant from the VAA Alumni Council. When asked to summarize the benefits of this award she wrote, “The Professional Development grant enabled me to visit the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA, the first art museum to have a neuroscientist on staff to work with other museum departments to improve visitor experience. My visit proved extraordinarily useful in evaluating the Peabody Essex as a case study to include in my thesis on interdisciplinary approaches to visitor engagement, and would not have been possible without the support of the Visual Arts Administration Alumni Council grant. After graduation, I hope to attend a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute in Art History in the Cold War at UMass Amherst before traveling to Venice for an internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in the fall.”

Both members of our faculty and senior staff enthusiastically agree that Emily is an excellent representative of the department and of Steinhardt in general. We are very pleased to report that she will be receiving The Samuel Eshborn Service Award at the Steinhardt Valedictory Ceremony on Tuesday, May 15th. She is the co-chair of ACE, the arts advocacy student group and led a student delegation to Washington, D.C., for the annual Arts Advocacy Day, which involves a symposium on arts policy and a day of lobbying members of the House and Senate on Capitol Hill. She is also an active member of “other content” - the student curatorial collective and was the sole organizer of an exceptional Art Crime colloquium on February 2, 2018 where she invited Eileen Kinsella, a senior art market reporter at artnet News (formerly at the Wall Street Journal) and one of the most well regarded investigative journalists on the subject of art markets. She also oversees social media for the entire Art and Arts Professions Department. She has helped with ENCATC, the European cultural policy group, for the study week at NYU and also with Carlo Lamagna’s ILPVAM international art executive education week this summer. Emily’s leadership seems to emanate from a desire to be of service, a deep work ethic, genuine curiosity, and follow-through. We wish her much continued success!
PRIVATE TOUR: On December 4th 15 VAA alumni gathered at the David Zwirner Gallery in Chelsea for a private after hours tour of Yayoi Kusama’s Festival of Life exhibition.

Thanks to our VAA alumna co-host, Julia Mechtler,’10, Zwirner Sales Associate who also oversees their online sales platform, our group was delighted to avoid the long lines that formed daily during the entire run of the exhibition! Julia greeted our group and gave an overview of the show and shared some of the complexities in mounting such an extraordinarily popular exhibit.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Everyone had a great time at our annual holiday party held on December 14th when VAA alumni and second year students celebrated together at the spacious two story Aicon Gallery. Alumna Jana Soin, ’13, Senior Sales Associate was our gracious co-host. And thanks to the generosity of our program alumni who donated raffle prizes we raised $330 through the sale of tickets. Many of us who purchased tickets left the event with one or more terrific books, exhibition catalogues or a museum shop product. All proceeds were applied toward our annual VAA Excellence Awards, Professional Development Grants, and Scholarships.
Alyssa Venere Braun, ’11, Software Developer, HighGround, Greater Chicago.

Anna Burden, ’15, Promoted to Associate Manager, Individual Development, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Sarah Burger, ’08, Director, Corporate Partnership Development, UNICEF, USA

Helen Chen, ’06, Founder and Partner of idcollector.com, a company which visually documents, describes and consolidates a collectors vision into a book and electronic archive.

Ilaria Conti,'13, Research Curator, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, focusing on Cosmopolis, a new biennial exhibition and platform devoted to research-based art.

Susan Feldman, ’07, Workplace Manager, Slack. San Francisco, CA

Christena Gunther, '08, recently named Director of Education at the Evanston Art Center, Evanston, Illinois. She also continues to be involved with the organization she founded in 2017, Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium (CCAC) whose mission is to empower Chicago's cultural spaces to become more accessible to visitors with disabilities.

Hazal Kamisli, '16, Assistant to Director at artSümer Gallery, was featured in an article in IstanbulArtNews, a very prominent and well-known Turkish-language publication, in its March 2018 issue. In the piece, she shared her thoughts and experiences on working at galleries, specifically in the Turkish context.

Lexi Kadlec, '10 Founder of Lexartconsulting.com is based in Chicago writes that she is interested in expanding her outreach into other cities.

Miranda Kozak, '13, Promoted to Associate Director, Individual Giving, Storm King Art Center.

Diana Ledesma '16, Assistant for Board Activities, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is also working with the NYU Latinx Alumni Network on their Events Committee. They are currently planning a panel of Latinx Women in Media at HBO (1100 Avenue of the Americas) on June 13. Details TBD.
Kris Lewis, ’07, Director of Development, Fowler Museum, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

Taylor Maatman, ’13, Senior Manager of Public Relations, Brooklyn Museum.

Molly MacFadden, ’13, Grants Manager, Brooklyn Arts Council.


Brooke Mellen, ’06, Assistant Vice President, Claims and Loss Consulting, Berkley Asset Protection, NYC.

Blair Moskowitz, ’12, Project Manager, American Museum of Natural History.

Rachel Lipson, ’13 Press Officer, Contemporary Art, Sotheby's London.

Heather Hueglin Marchese, ’01 has been appointed Chief Advancement Officer, Baltimore Museum of Art.

Angelica Semmelbauer, ’06, Independent Art Advisor, is organizing an exhibition of abstract paintings by a renowned Italian artist, Ercole Monti, to be held at the Italian Consulate, NYC in October 2018.

Tracy Penn Sweet, ’10. In February, three of her artworks were featured in Brooklyn’s Ground Floor Gallery show, Sugar is Sweet: A pop Up for the Caribbean and her work is part of a select group of art to be featured in ArtWorks, a benefit exhibition for Arts Gowanus.

Alexin Telefrancia, ’17 has recently been accepted to curate and moderate a panel at Disco! An Interdisciplinary Conference at the University of Sussex in June 2018. Her thesis, Nightlife as Art Form, explores contemporary underground nightlife culture and identifies ways in which nightlife can be understood as art, social practice and activism – and how nightlife operates as a foil to mainstream cultural institutions. Her panel aims to identify nightlife as a catalyst for transformation within the self, community and society.

Burcu Yuksel, ’08, has been named director of Gaia Art Foundation, www.gaiaartfoundation.org), an independent non-profit organization dedicated to supporting diverse cultural initiatives and building a global platform to encourage multicultural discourse through public art, publishing, as well as curatorial projects in London and abroad.
Sandra Lang, Clinical Associate Professor of Visual Arts Administration & Director of the Visual Arts Administration M.A. Program

Sandra Lang helped organize the ENCATC Study Tour, February 12-14, and the ENCATC Academy, February 15 & 16.

Established in 1992, ENCATC is a network of more than 100 member institutions and professionals in over 40 countries active in education, training and research within the broad field of cultural management and policy. ENCATC members have an impact on the education of thousands of cultural managers worldwide.

NYU’s Visual Arts Administration MA Program has recently become a member of ENCATC along with the Performing Arts Administration MA Program.

33 educators, researchers, creators, cultural professionals, cultural entrepreneurs, and decision makers from 7 countries gathered in New York City from 12-14 February for the 7th ENCATC International Study Tour, organized in partnership with ENCATC member, NYU Steinhardt and the Association of Arts Administration Educators (AAAE).

The three-day intensive program in New York City fostered an international exchange of ideas, projects and best practice through study visits, lectures, cultural tours, and debates. Many of the visits included behind-the-scenes access revealing new perspectives and insight into the day-to-day management of world-renowned arts and cultural institutions. The program also set the context for the 7th ENCATC Academy on Cultural Relations and Diplomacy: "The Rising Role of Cities" (15-16 February) which hosted key arts and cultural professionals who are playing important roles in the city's cultural institutions.

Melissa Rachleff Burtt, Clinical Associate Professor of Visual Arts Administration

The Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Award Jury of the College Art Association selected Melissa Rachleff’s catalogue Inventing Downtown: Artist–Run Galleries in New York City, 1952-1965 as the 2018 recipient for publications produced by smaller museums, libraries, or collections. The award was presented to Melissa at the CAA 106th Annual Conference held in February in Los Angeles, CA.

The 2018 Brendan Gill Prize was presented to Melissa Rachleff (Inventing Downtown: Artist–Run Galleries in New York City, 1952-1965) and Julia Wertz (Tenements, Towers, & Trash: An Unconventional Illustrated History of New York) on April 11 at the Municipal Art Society of New York’s annual awards ceremony.

Amy Whitaker, Assistant Professor of Visual Arts Administration

Amy Whitaker published (with Roman Kraussl, University of Luxembourg), the white paper "Democratizing Art Markets" on fractional equity models for artists. Noted in Artforum, February ’18, the study suggests that artists could be even better off financially than a buyer in the stock market if they keep an investment stake in their own work, reported Sarah P. Hanson of the Art Newspaper. According to Whitaker, artist-retained fractional equity addresses a “structural misalignment” in the art market. “Our analysis shows that the people most rewarded by a system like this one are those who are the earliest to take a bet on the art,” she says. “What’s exciting is that this is an idea which arises from within the arts, as opposed to being imposed on the arts by financial actors.”
Let’s stay connected!

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Contributions to the Visual Arts Administration M.A. Program Alumni Council Awards, Grants and Scholarships are welcome:
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