

20

10

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN  
AT THE FINE ARTS WORK CENTER IN PROVINCETOWN  
2010 MFA THESIS EXHIBITION

MARTHA BRAUN  
JESSICA CHICKERING  
BILL GUSKY  
MEGAN MCMILLAN  
TIM O'DONNELL  
KATHRYN PAYNE  
HOLLY POPIELARZ  
MARZIA PRENDERGAST  
SHARON SULLIVAN  
JULIE ANGELA THERESA

**MASSART** MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE  
OF ART AND DESIGN

The MFA Class of 2010 proudly presents this thesis catalog containing images of artworks they produced while enrolled in the Masters of Fine Arts program of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, which is hosted by the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts. This handful of images provides a mere glimpse of the hard work, dedication and talent of this energized artistic community.

In its MFA program at the Fine Arts Work Center, MassArt augments an intensive course of study guided by an experienced team of resident faculty with presentations and studio visits by leading artists and

art-world professionals. During the two-year program students undergo four residencies of three and a half weeks duration, as well as a final one-week residency in which a thesis defense and an exhibition are held. During non-residency periods students participate in a variety of courses as well as in intensive studio work under the guidance of approved mentors.

The Class of 2010 would like to thank the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, the historic Fine Arts Work Center and the Provincetown Art Association and Museum for their guidance, support and inspiration.

## 2010 MFA THESIS EXHIBITION

September 17 – October 3, 2010

### RECEPTIONS

Hudson D. Walker Gallery, Fine Art Work Center – Friday, September 17, 6-8pm

Provincetown Art Association and Museum (PAAM) – Friday, September 17, 8-10pm

### EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Provincetown Art Association and Museum (PAAM)  
Hawthorne Gallery  
460 Commercial Street  
Provincetown, MA 02657  
508 487 1750 | paam.org  
Monday – Thursday 11am-8pm  
Friday 11am-10pm (free after 5pm)  
Saturday and Sunday 11am -5pm

Hudson D. Walker Gallery  
Fine Arts Work Center  
24 Pearl Street  
Provincetown, MA 02657  
Monday – Friday 9am-5pm  
Saturday – Sunday TBA  
508 487 9960 | fawc.org/mfa

### 2010 MFA GRADUATES

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Martha Braun         | 4  |
| Jessica Chickering   | 6  |
| Bill Gusky           | 8  |
| Megan McMillan       | 10 |
| Tim O'Donnell        | 12 |
| Kathryn Payne        | 14 |
| Holly Popielarz      | 16 |
| Marzia Prendergast   | 18 |
| Sharon Sullivan      | 20 |
| Julie Angela Theresa | 22 |

### INDEX

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Acknowledgements     | 24 |
| Artists' Information | 25 |

MARTHA BRAUN



*Slip*, distemper on panel, 11" x 17" (diptych), 2010

*Compliment*, distemper on panel, 16" x 26", 2010 (opposite)

A certain wisdom arises when the perceptions of each individual are held in supreme regard. These myriad, mundane images weave together forming a sturdy fabric – a foundation, if you will – on which to base the integrity of humanity.

The legacy of Minimalism is a steady inspiration as I work, teaching me to address the artistic concerns of line, form, color, space in an elemental way. Meaning is contained in the experience of making and in the nature of the materials themselves. The pigments are often dug from the Earth where moisture, pressure, and the passage of time have caused iron in the soil to oxidize and display itself in an array of expressive colors. The resultant “visual tactility” allows viewers to extract their own meanings from the silence.





*Natures Dance*, acrylic, latex and oil on wood panel, 20" x 24", 2010

*Reflections of the Escape*, acrylic and oil on canvas, 24" x 36", 2010 (opposite)

Breathing, tasting, smelling rich fertile environments invades me. Creating lands, lost places, destinations of time. I seek to create the image inside my mind. An experience, a space envisioned from an abstracted memory.

My delicate obsession is nature's essence. A forbidden light caressed by the nocturnal, a forgotten lore and a new love. My paint is thick, soft, translucent and mysterious. It is an extension of my personality. I invent to set a fire, a deep burning desire that must escape to melt and wither with my touch by scraping, smudging, layering and dripping images onto the canvas.





I found the cartoon prop room from the 1960's and 70's almost by accident. The door swung wide at a touch. Everything inside was just as I remembered it from those long Saturday TV mornings. It just seemed natural to start moving these props into painting, a work site that in a sense has become a cartoon of itself since the 1970's. As I work with these images I become more aware of the effacement and emptying out – the cartooning – that slips into daily existence in so many ways. I keep reminding myself that we're living in Modernism's future. It never fails to crack me up.

*Graduation Day*  
acrylic on canvas  
58" x 40"  
2010

opposite:  
*Headlock: Daphne - Porky - Slaughter Lamb*  
acrylic on canvas  
18" x 24"  
2009





**MEGAN McMILLAN**  
with collaborator Murray McMillan

Megan McMillan is a multi-disciplinary artist who has been collaborating with Murray McMillan since 2002. The McMillans make projects that incorporate video, installation, photography and performance.

The process starts by building a large set in the studio. That set becomes the stage for a short video and photographs with choreographed actors who activate the set in a filmed performance. The resulting video is shown as part of a related installation, which employs the visual and thematic elements from the original set. The photograph is either presented in conjunction with the video installation or independently. Each element of the work — set, filmed performance, photographs, video, installation — contains evolving iterations of the project's concept and is designed to both stand on its own and work in concert with the others.

*What We Loved and Forgot*: Photograph  
digital c-print mounted on aluminum  
40" x 93"  
2/3 editions  
2010



Still from *in the end*, HD video, 5 minutes and 18 seconds, 2009

Everything I create comes from a personal story or experience. I believe in the network of personal accounts told from person to person and the power, mystery and insight these stories can hold. My work takes the form of visual documentary films that portray gritty male characters who depart from the traditional ideals of masculinity.



Still from *Jorge: Surrender*, HD video, ongoing documentary film, 2009



George's Minoloaf Enjoys Some We Time (detail)  
oil on Canvas  
66" x 84"  
2010



A Midsummer Night's Drink (detail)  
oil on Canvas  
84" x 66"  
2010

I am intrigued by the notion of "mortalizing" and normalizing mythological creatures that are historically locked in epic and dramatic allegory and legend. It is my contention that the gods can't be engaging in battle or supernatural activities all the time. So I paint their downtime as anti-climactic accounts of the in-between.



*Titans on Break*  
oil on canvas  
84" x 66"  
2010



*Light and Spaceship*, collage on paper, 8" x 10", 2010

*Damn Space*, collage on paper, 8" x 10", 2010 (opposite)

I am after creating a believable narrative based on our world. This altered version of the way we usually look at things does not really look like our reality. I hide parts of my paintings. The details of materials will trick you. Wittiness, playfulness, creativity, and imagination are so important to me. Time and space in my work is flat yet one could enter into them... somehow. Color to me is a language all its own. There is no better visual tool to control the mood or space in a painting. Black holes might help, or make things worse...? Chimneys, building materials, pipes, and natural landforms linger quietly. "Did someone hear something?" Not always uplifting... vagueness, emptiness, and loneliness consume us in our disconnected world, dissolving the importance of history, human connections, and closeness. I am drawn to moments that are illusive, strange, mysterious, cause wonder, curiosity, magic—all the qualities that make up unexplainable wordless narratives.





*Fantasma di Vita Passata*  
oil on canvas  
58" x 36"  
2010

“Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who’s the scariest of them all?”

The synthesis of my work is distilled through a looking glass and fields of colors. The brush responds to the hand responds to the eye responds to the mind.

A collection of thoughts and moments, a reaction to an action that took place the very moment I entered the studio or a million years ago when I was dreaming. An introspective collection of paintings, that reflects at times, my Italian heritage. Only oils (I am, after all, a purist) on different surfaces (wood, canvas, paper), satiate me. Skin and abstract spaces, blue and sienna, distortions and penumbra.

*Ich Tu Dir Weh*  
oil on canvas  
36" x 36"  
2010





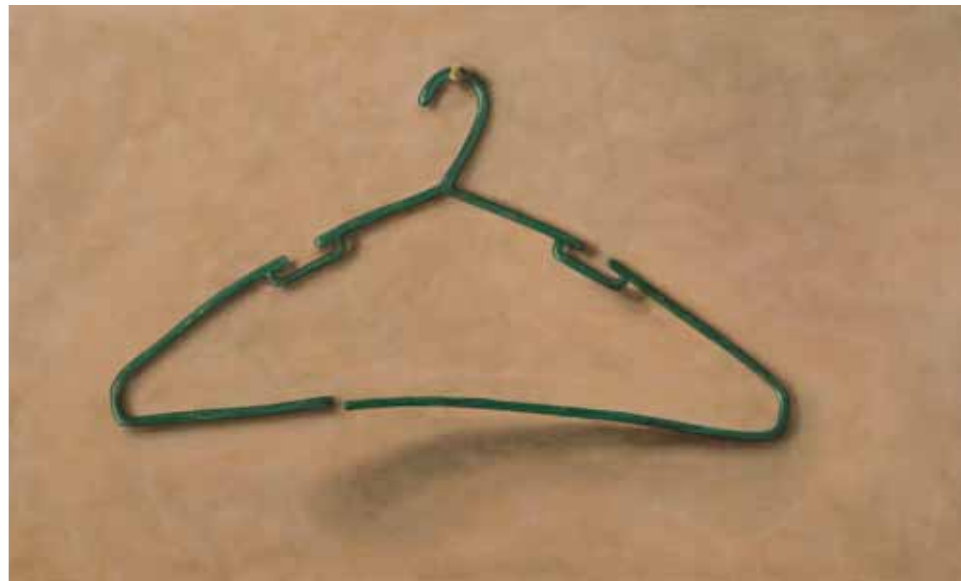
*Ourself Behind Ourself Concealed*, oil on panel, 61" x 48", 2010

Exploring memories and the physical space from where they originate is the catalyst for my work. Experiences are ephemeral and fade into memories over time. Memories like the physical space in which they were created, erode with time. I am intrigued by the connection humans have to space and time and the fragility that exists between them.

Witnessing a stately home, still loaded with remnants and memorabilia from the previous owners, being crushed and gutted before my eyes was an inspiration for this series of work. This was not a neglected home, but simply outdated. Surfaces reflecting layers of the past, much like the layers of wallpaper or paint, and what is buried beneath are what evoke the subject of my investigation. While I explore abandoned and demolished structures as an inspiration for my work, my own memories unfold involuntarily, layer by layer, during the painting process. My interest is not in the literal pictorial translation of the spaces I create, but in the abstracted memory of the space in which the memories were created. The purpose of this series of work, which evokes ambiguity, is to provide an impetus for the viewer to contemplate his or her own memories.

*Ephemeral Place*  
mixed media oil  
42" x 36"  
2010





*Still Hanging Around*  
oil on canvas  
24" x 40"  
2010

My latest paintings feature common objects that are used, rusty, or broken, which are made with the hope that people see beauty in the old and discarded. Objects are often presented alone on a canvas, drawing the viewer's attention to what they might otherwise overlook. My inspiration for these paintings comes from the day-to-day experiences in my life. Something may happen one day and end up in a painting the next.

*Don't Kick the Bucket,*  
oil on canvas  
36" x 36"  
2009



## ARTISTS' INFORMATION

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Martha Braun         | marbu43@hotmail.com   |
| Jessica Chickering   | jessicachickering.com<br>jessica@jessicachickering.com        |
| Bill Gusky           | billgusky.com<br>bill@billgusky.com                           |
| Megan McMillan       | meganandmurraymcmillan.com<br>info@meganandmurraymcmillan.com |
| Tim O'Donnell        | pixelapictura.com<br>tim@pixelapictura.com                    |
| Kathryn Payne        | kathryniscool.com<br>kathryniscool@gmail.com                  |
| Holly Popielarz      | hollypopielarz.com<br>hollypopielarz@gmail.com                |
| Marzia Prendergast   | marziaprendergast.com<br>missm_klimt@yahoo.com                |
| Sharon Sullivan      | sharonsullivanart.com<br>sasullivan@bellsouth.net             |
| Julie Angela Theresa | JulieAT.com<br>JulieAT@Verizon.net                            |

## THE CLASS OF 2010 WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

### FACULTY

Mary Anderson  
George Creamer, Dean of Graduate Programs  
Nance Davies  
Rebecca Morgan Frank  
Joel Janowitz  
Karen Kurczynski  
Jennifer Liese  
Jim Peters  
Esther Thyssen  
Vicky Tomayko  
Helen Miranda Wilson  
Catherine Wilcox-Titus  
Bert Yarbrough

### VISITING ARTISTS

Gregory Amenoff  
Polly Apfelbaum  
Deborah Dancy  
Angela Dufresne  
Louise Fishman  
Michelle Handelman  
Vera Iliatova  
Sarah McEaney  
Thomas Nozkowski  
Evelyn Rydz  
Craig Taylor

### MENTORS

Bill Anderson  
Lasse Antonsen  
Linda Bond  
James Cambronne  
Shaun Cassidy  
Nance Davies  
Linda A. Day  
John Ford  
Logan Grider  
Scott Hadfield  
Michelle Handelman  
Ellen Harvey  
Dennis Hlynsky  
Vera Iliatova  
Jon Imber  
Jim Jipson  
Jayne Johnson  
Clint Jukkala  
Catherine Kehoe  
John Markowitz  
Mark Milloff  
Kelly Monico  
Dean Nimmer  
Carol Padberg  
Jill Slosberg-Ackerman  
Phil Solomon  
Laurel Sparks

Vicky Tomayko  
Lyda Toy  
Candace Walters  
Debra Weisburg  
Pawel Wojtasik

### HOSTING ARTISTS

Pat de Groot  
Rob DuToit  
John Friedman  
Vicki Tomayko

### FAWC & MFAWC STAFF

Barbara Baker  
Nancy Milliken  
Margaret Murphy  
Ted Ollier  
Stephen Reed  
Nadia Savage

Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
621 Huntington Ave  
Boston, MA 02115  
617 879 7000 | [MassArt.edu](http://MassArt.edu)

©2010 Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
All rights reserved; no part of this catalog may be  
reproduced without permission from the publisher.

Photography & Production: Clint Baclawski  
Editors: Barbara Baker and Jenny Gibbs

**MASSART** MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE  
OF ART AND DESIGN

Provincetown has inspired artists for hundreds of years; the Fine Arts Work Center at Provincetown has provided a sanctuary for artists since 1968. In 2005 the Massachusetts College of Art and Design launched a low-residency 2D/MFA Program at the Fine Arts Work Center to share this experience with artists who want to pursue an MFA without suspending their personal and professional commitments. MassArt's 2D/MFA in Provincetown is a unique opportunity for self-directed artists to develop their work in a low-residency program that encourages both traditional and non-traditional two-dimensional practice.

For more information about this and other graduate programs at MassArt visit [MassArt.edu](http://MassArt.edu).

MARTHA BRAUN  
JESSICA CHICKERING  
BILL GUSKY  
MEGAN MCMILLAN  
TIM O'DONNELL  
KATHRYN PAYNE  
HOLLY POPIELARZ  
MARZIA PRENDERGAST  
SHARON SULLIVAN  
JULIE ANGELA THERESA