

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 6, 2020



MEDIA RELEASE

University Galleries of Illinois State University is pleased to present the *2020 Student Annual* as an online exhibition beginning on May 5.

Since 1974, the *Student Annual* has showcased new artwork produced by students at Illinois State University. This juried exhibition has offered many students the first opportunity to have their work reviewed by professionals outside the University. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and University Galleries' resulting temporary closure, this year's exhibition will be online. Additionally, the exhibition will no longer be juried. Instead, it will be an inclusive open-call exhibition. All current Illinois State University students may submit up to two artworks, and all submitted works will be included. (Details are available on University Galleries' website.) Artists will still be eligible to receive awards, which will be determined by external judges.

On May 5, the awards will be announced and the online exhibition will be viewable both on Flickr and University Galleries' [website](#).

Awards are sponsored by: Wonsook Kim School of Art; Program in Creative Technologies; Normal Editions Workshop; Silica Ceramics Club; University Galleries; Barry Blinderman (in memory of Karolee Johnson); Kelsey and Jonathan DeGreef (in honor of Richard D. Finch); Therese and Bob Franklin (in memory of Jen Franklin); Randy Reid; Irving S. Tick Memorial; and the following areas within the Wonsook Kim School of Art: Glass and Graphic Design. These scholarships range from \$75 to the Best in Show scholarship of \$300.

The Wonsook Kim School of Art is pleased to present the 2020 Marshall Dulaney Pitcher Award to BFA student Arianna Garcia. This award honors outstanding students in the visual arts who demonstrate exceptional artistic talent, dedicated studio practice, and academic excellence. 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of this prestigious award, which was established by the Pitcher family in memory of painting student Marshall Pitcher.

This year's studio judge is [Edra Soto](#), an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and curator. Soto's work has been exhibited at Pérez Art Museum, Miami; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Chicago Cultural Center; Crystal Bridges' The Momentary, Bentonville, Arkansas; and University Galleries of Illinois State University, Normal, among many others. In 2019, she completed a public art commission for Millennium Park in Chicago. Her *Screenhouse* will be on view in the park for two years. Soto was the inaugural winner of the Foundwork Artist Prize, and she has received fellowships from 3Arts Foundation, Illinois Arts Council Agency, and the Efroymson Family Fund. She has also been awarded residencies at the Rauschenberg Foundation, Headlands Center for the Arts, Project Row Houses, Art Omi, and John Michael Kohler Arts Center. Soto's work has been included in three exhibitions supported by the MacArthur Foundation's International Connections Fund—with exchanges between Chicago and: Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Brazil. Soto is the co-director of THE FRANKLIN, an outdoor project space in Chicago, and a lecturer at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

This year's design juror is [Eric Benson](#), who worked professionally as a UI/UX designer at Razorfish and Texas Instruments before receiving his MFA in design from the University of Texas at Austin in 2006. His MFA thesis became the internationally recognized and award-winning sustainable design website www.re-nourish.org. His work with Re-nourish translated into an academic career, and he is currently an Associate Professor of Graphic Design at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research and teaching at Illinois laid the foundation to create the Fresh Press Agri-Fiber Paper Lab. Fresh Press explores the potential of papermaking to be zero waste, environmentally sustainable, and a catalyst for a thriving local economy. Benson has published and lectured internationally on the importance of sustainable design. His work has also garnered numerous design awards and has been on view at Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian National Design Museum, New York; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; and Rhode Island School of Design.

University Galleries is a unit in the [Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts](#). You can find [University Galleries](#) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), and sign up to receive email updates through the [newsletter](#). Please contact gALLERY@IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-5487 if you need to arrange an accommodation to experience this exhibition.