

April 6, 2020



Dear students,

We hope this note finds you healthy, safe, and adjusting well to your remote courses. Although it was postponed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are thrilled to share with you that the [Student Annual](#) exhibition will proceed in an online format.

In light of our current situation, we have decided that it will not be a juried exhibition. Instead, it will be an inclusive, open-call format with all submitted works included. We feel this will be the best way to celebrate and share everyone's ideas and work. Submitted works will still be eligible for awards, which will be determined by our external judges: Edra Soto and Eric Benson. We are grateful to Edra and Eric for serving in this capacity, and to our award sponsors (see below) for their generous support of your work.

The exhibition will be available online beginning May 5. Awards will also be announced on May 5. We will send reminders via email and University Galleries' social media.

#### Application information:

- Students may submit work from April 6 through April 26 at 11:59 p.m.
- THE APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE *STUDENT ANNUAL* EXHIBITION WEBSITE: <https://galleries.illinoisstate.edu/exhibitions/2020/2020-student-annual/>
- All current Illinois State University students are eligible to submit works. Students must be enrolled at ISU during Spring 2020.
- Each student may submit up to two works.
- There is no cost to participate.
- You must use your ISU email address to log-in to the Outlook application. You may enter an alternative email address within the application to receive notifications.
- In the sidebar of the exhibition webpage, you can also find a quick video [tutorial](#) about documenting your artwork from home with limited lighting and a smartphone, as well as a list of accepted [file types](#). Please note that the restrictions on file types are linked to our Flickr Pro account, through which we will share the exhibition.
- If you have questions, please contact [gallery@ilstu.edu](mailto:gallery@ilstu.edu).

#### Exhibition:

- The exhibition will be available online beginning on May 5. It will be shared on University Galleries' website and via University Galleries' Flickr account. We will also share images and information through our social media accounts.
- The exhibition will remain online after May 5.

#### Awards:

- Awards will be announced online on May 5.
- The awards are scholarships that range from \$75 to the Best in Show award of \$300.
- 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.

- **We would also like to acknowledge Arianna Garcia, the winner of the prestigious 2020 Marshall Dulaney Pitcher Award, which is presented by the Wonsook Kim School of Art.**

#### Judges:

- **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 Efroymsen 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 judge 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](http://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.

#### Questions:

- Please contact us at [galleries@ilstu.edu](mailto:galleries@ilstu.edu) or (309) 438-5487.

#### Additional resources:

You can find University Galleries on the following platforms, where we're sharing more resources for artists.

- University Galleries website: <https://galleries.illinoisstate.edu/>
- Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/user46693140>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UniversityGalleries>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/universitygalleriesisu/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UGalleriesISU>
- Constant Contact: <https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=0017wkX2ma9lz6YGXhiHaPkYlJ0Jep>

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**Thank you**

Thank you for participating in the 2020 *Student Annual*. As you know by now, art can provide transformative experiences—for the artists themselves and the people impacted by their work. We know that you're adjusting to a rapidly changing landscape, but we hope that you are finding productive moments of problem-solving, peaceful moments of reflection, and joyful moments of (remote) togetherness. We look very forward to seeing and sharing your work.

With best wishes,  
Kendra

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