

New Faces in Academic Affairs 2019–20

FULL TIME FACULTY AND STAFF

MARYLAND
INSTITUTE
COLLEGE
OF ART

M | I | C | A

Paulina Banas

ART HISTORY



Paulina Banas received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Paris-Sorbonne and Ph.D. from Binghamton University.

Paulina joins the Department of Art History as a postdoctoral teaching fellow and faculty member. Originally from Poland, Paulina is an art historian specializing in cross-cultural exchanges between Europe and the Islamic world from the seventeenth through the nineteenth century. Since her graduation, she was appointed as a Postdoctoral Associate at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and Visiting Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University. Additionally, she taught art history courses at New York University, Westfield State University, and the New Hampshire Institute of Art.

Paulina's current research investigates the process of production of the nineteenth-century French and British illustrated albums featuring Egyptian people and Islamic architecture, with a particular focus on the marketing forces that the publishing industry imposed upon artists and publishers in regard to the preparation of their studies on Egypt. This research has been supported by the Grabar Post-Doctoral Fellowship awarded by the Historians of Islamic Art Association, among other grants. At MICA, Paulina looks forward to teaching illustration history through a critical lens and in its larger global and technological context.

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Abigail Deville

INTERDISCIPLINARY SCULPTURE



© Photo by Melissa Blackall

Abigail DeVille received her B.F.A. from the Fashion Institute of Technology in 2007 and her M.F.A. from Yale University in 2011.

DeVilLe has exhibited a constellation of site-specific installations in the United States and Europe. Her most recent exhibitions include *The American Future* PICA, Portland OR (2018); *Empire State Works in Progress* The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (2017); *No Space Hidden (Shelter)* ICA LA, Los Angeles, CA (2017); *Lift Every Voice & Sing*, ICA Miami, (2017); *20/20: The Studio Museum in Harlem and Carnegie Museum of Art* (2017); *Magnetic Fields: Expanding American Abstraction, 1960s to Today*, Kemper Museum (2017); Harlem: Found Ways. Cooper Gallery at Hutchins Center, Harvard University, (2017); *Urban Planning: Contemporary Art and the City 1967-2017*, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis,(2017); *LANDMARK*, Socrates Sculpture Park,(2016); *Only When Its Dark Enough Can You See The Stars*, The Contemporary, Baltimore, MD (2016); *Revolution in the Making*, Hauser Wirth, Los Angeles, CA (2016); *When You Cut Into the Present the Future Leaks Out*, the Old Bronx Courthouse, Bronx, NY (2015); *Puddle, Pothole, Portal*, Sculpture Center, Queens, NY (2014); *Material Histories*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY (2014); *Future Generation Art Prize* at Venice, The 55th Venice Biennale, Italy (2013).

DeVilLe has designed sets for theatrical productions—at venues such as the Stratford Festival (2014), directed by Peter Sellers, Harlem Stage (2016), La Mama (2015), *JACK* (2014–16), and *Joe's Pub* (2014) directed by Charlotte Brathwaite. She received a 2014–15 fellowship at The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, 2015 Creative Capital grant, and a 2015 OBIE Award for design. DeVilLe was the 2017–18 Chuck Close Henry W and Marion T Mitchell Rome Prize fellow.

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Stephen Ellis

LEROY E. HOFFBERGER SCHOOL OF PAINTING



Stephen Ellis received a B.F.A. from Cornell University followed by postgraduate study at The New York Studio School.

Ellis has shown his paintings in the United States and Europe since the late 1970s. He is associated with a group of American abstract artists who rebelled against self-referential formalism and returned abstraction to a more active engagement with the world. His work is represented in many public and private collections in the United States and Europe, including The Brooklyn Museum, The Ashmolean Museum, and The Fogg Museum. He has been the recipient of awards from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, and the Joan Mitchell Foundation. Two of his paintings are reproduced in Phaidon's survey, *Painting Today* (2009). In 2013 his paintings were included in the Hunter College "Conceptual Abstraction" show curated by Joachim Pissarro and Pepe Karmel.

Ellis's art criticism has appeared in *The New York Review of Books*, *ArtCritical*, *Modern Painters*, *Parkett*, and *Art and America*, where he was an Associate Editor from 1989 to 1992. In Cologne in 1986 and '87, Ellis wrote articles on Gerhard Richter, Martin Kippenberger, and Albert Oehlen that were among the first in the American press to discuss the work of these artists. More recently, he has written about Giorgio Morandi, Dan Walsh, Alan Uglow, Philip Guston, and Willem de Kooning. Ellis has taught art and art history at schools including Cooper Union, SVA, MICA, Hunter College, NYU, Yale, CalArts, Bard College MFA, and Harvard University. He was the Interim Director of the LeRoy E. Hoffberger School of Painting during the 2017–2018 academic year and is very pleased to return to the Hoffberger School this year to work with Director Joan Waltemath.

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Bill Gaskins

PHOTOGRAPHIC & ELECTRONIC MEDIA



© Photo by William R. Staffeld

Bill Gaskins received his B.F.A. from the Tyler School of Art, an M.A. from The Ohio State University, and an M.F.A. from MICA.

Gaskins returns to MICA as Director of the Photographic & Electronic Media M.F.A.. His depth of experience represents a rich tapestry of practice, teaching, and research in photography and media and uniquely situates him to lead and take the PEM program to the next level. He is an informed and inspired professor, acknowledged by his students and peers for his teaching as a winner of the Watts Prize for Faculty Excellence, Cornell University Department of Art in 2016, and the University Distinguished Teaching Award at the New School University in 2011.

Gaskins explores questions about visual and media culture in the twenty-first century through photography and media from an interdisciplinary professional and academic foundation that includes his body of arts and culture writing framed through photography, the history of photography, visual and material culture, and American and African American Studies scholarship. A critical entry point for Gaskins' work is his fascination with the myths of photography, and American life through depictions of race in visual culture.

He is the author of the groundbreaking monograph, *Good & Bad Hair: Photographs by Bill Gaskins*, and has published essays and reviews in numerous journals including, *The Society of Contemporary Craft*, *Artsy*, *Exposure* The Journal of The Society of Photographic Education, and *The New Art Examiner*. His relevance as a contemporary artist has garnered attention through books, catalogs, solo and group exhibitions at major venues including the Crocker Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Detroit Institute of Arts, and The Smithsonian Institution.

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Rebecca Green

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE



Rebecca (Reb) Green received her B.F.A. in General Fine Arts from MICA in 2009.

Raised on Ferlinghetti, foraging, fireflies, and Freire, in the farmlands of Jersey, Reb's dedication to international education and cross-cultural exchange through art-making and traditional healing practices was further explored as a student at MICA. In her teaching and making, there is a focus on events of the unfolding, which cultivates the understanding that a well-attended practice results in true transformation. This focus on humanistic alchemy saturates her work as a multidisciplinary community artist.

Through the privilege of teaching arts-based ESL in Baltimore's refugee communities—with the support of institutions like Baltimore City Community College, The International Rescue Committee, and The Walters Art Museum—she began to experience the raw power of image as a catalyst for social equity and a tool for raising critical consciousness. In the interest of expanding her own communicative competency and respect for individual and culturally linked learning/making styles, Reb pursued a MATESOL at The School of International Training. Reb has served in residence and has facilitated projects with Mildred's Lane, AmeriCorps CAC, Luminous Intervention, ArtScape, The Sanskriti Foundation, World Education, Peace Corps, and The Experiment in International Living.

In her own work, Reb explores the act of working in—not through—the interruptions, traumas, releases, and the healing. Just as in the relationship of language and culture, these are not separate. To meddle at the seams of integration is where the transformation tears out a stain of clarity. Her work is in response to this perpetual churning to find balance and the belief that Artists and Educators are problem posers that inspire change from the collective mind.

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Amber Hawk Swanson

INTERDISCIPLINARY SCULPTURE



© Photo by Christa Holka

Amber Hawk Swanson received her B.F.A. in both Graphic Design and Integrated Studio Arts from Iowa State University and an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Studio Arts, 2006).

Hawk Swanson is a recipient of a 2015 Rema Hort Mann Foundation Artist Community Engagement Grant and 2014 Franklin Furnace Fund Grant. She has recently taught in the Sculpture Departments of Rhode Island School of Design, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Purchase College, SUNY.

Hawk Swanson's work explores care, animacy, and desire in the context of queerness and disability. Recent exhibition and screening venues include Palais de Tokyo (Paris, France); PS2 (solo, Belfast, UK); Denny Gallery (New York, NY); Momenta Art (Brooklyn, NY); and Locust Projects (solo, Miami, FL). Her work is included in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Photography (Chicago, IL).

Hawk Swanson has participated in the New Museum Speculation Seminar; a Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) Workspace Residency; and an LMCC Process Space Residency. She has also completed residencies at Yaddo; MacDowell; Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture; Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts; and the Sharpe-Walentas Space Program. Scholarly writing on her work has been published in *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian & Gay Studies* (2012, 2015), *Theatre Drama Review* (2012), and *Art and Architecture in the Americas* (2016). Hawk Swanson's work has also been featured in several recent books: *Grace Banks' Play with Me: Dolls, Women and Art* (Laurence King Publishing, 2017); *Cris Beam's I Feel You: The Surprising Power of Extreme Empathy* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018); and Amber Jamilla Musser's *Sensual Excess: Queer Femininity and Brown Jouissance* (New York University Press, 2018).

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Andrew Keiper

ANIMATION



Andrew Paul Keiper received his B.F.A. in Painting from Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts in 2002 and his M.F.A. from MICA's Photographic and Electronic Media program in 2016.

Andrew is pleased to join the Animation and Film departments as full time faculty, having taught as an adjunct in these departments, along with Interactive Arts department, since 2017. He is an artist who works primarily in sound and installation, and has a background in painting, photography, performance art, and music. Between his degrees Andrew taught as a Digital Media Specialist at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he specialized in working with thesis students across an array of majors. His artwork considers the legacy of atomic weaponry, the politics of listening, and the frontier between sound art and experimental music.

In 2016 Andrew received a Rubys Artist Project Grant along with his collaborator Kei Ito to produce *Afterimage Requiem*, a monumental scale installation probing their shared heritage—Kei's grandfather was in Hiroshima when the Americans dropped the atomic bomb, and Andrew's grandfather helped to create it. They exhibited *Afterimage Requiem* at the Baltimore War Memorial in 2018, receiving coverage in the *Washington Post Magazine*, *The Baltimore Sun*, and from BBC Culture. Andrew and Kei went on to exhibit their work together at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in 2019, in an exhibition called *Archives Aflame*, and have shown together in numerous group shows, including at Maryland Art Place in Baltimore, Antioch College's Herndon Gallery, and Richmond's Candela Gallery. Andrew was a Sondheim Artscape Semifinalist in 2016 and 2019.

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Mel Lewis

HUMANISTIC STUDIES



Mel Lewis (she/her/they/them) received a B.A. in Women's Studies and Sociology from Goucher College and an M.S. in Women and Gender Studies with a Public Policy concentration from Towson University. Mel received their M.A. and Ph.D. in Women's Studies in the subject area of Bodies, Genders, and Sexualities at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Mel is thrilled to join the Humanistic Studies faculty at MICA. Originally from Bayou La Batre, on the Alabama Gulf Coast, Mel has called Baltimore home for almost twenty years and comes to MICA from nearby Goucher College where their roles included Associate Professor of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and Africana Studies and Director of the Center for Geographies of Justice. Previously, Mel was Associate Professor and Director of Ethnic Studies at Saint Mary's College of California.

Mel's recent publications and research include, "Communicating Variations of Blackness: An Intersectional Trans and Intersex Africana Studies Perspective" (*Communication Teacher* 2018), "Transcending the Acronym, Traversing Gender: A Conversation in the Margins of the Margins" (*Women and Language* 2019), and their forthcoming book project, *Femme Query: Politics, Pleasure, and Queer of Color Pedagogies*, engaging queer social justice educators, activists, cultural workers, and artists who articulate the power and possibility of femme liberatory praxis. Mel serves on the Baltimore Mayor's LGBTQ Commission as member of the Education Committee.

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Elaine Lopez

GRAPHIC DESIGN, AICAD TEACHING FELLOW



Elaine Lopez received a B.F.A. from the University of Florida in 2007 and an M.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2019, both in Graphic Design.

She was born in Miami, Florida to recently-arrived Cuban immigrants. Shortly after earning her B.F.A., Elaine moved to Chicago. There she began her career as an art director at full-service agency Leo Burnett. She then shifted gears towards the human-centered design field, accepting a position as a communications designer at Gravitytank where she helped design new products and services for global clients. Later, as Design Lead at Greater Good Studio, she helped mission-based organizations address challenging social issues like childhood literacy and education reform. In 2017, Elaine collaborated with Thirst Design to revive designer Paul Rand's brand for Columbus, Indiana.

Outside of work, she served as the Diversity and Inclusion Lead for AIGA Chicago to combat inequality in the design field. While completing her M.F.A. at RISD, she explored the intersection of research, design, and cultural diversity and served as leader for the Graduate Student Alliance, facilitating networking and community for students. In 2018 she received scholarships from AIGA Worldstudio and the Hispanic Scholarship Foundation and was recognized as a 2019 Designer To Watch by GD USA.

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Juan Noguera

PRODUCT DESIGN



Juan Carlos Noguera received a Bachelors of Industrial design (B.I.D.) from Universidad Rafael Landivar, in Guatemala City and a Masters of Industrial Design (M.I.D.) from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Born in Guatemala, he was raised in a colorful and vivid culture where he quickly developed an interest in how things were made, tearing everything he owned apart, and putting it back together, often with a few leftover pieces. Proud Fulbright scholar and educator, Juan was named one of *MIT Technology Review* Latin America's 35 Innovators Under 35 for 2017.

His work with Harvard based startup Voxel8 creating the world's first 3D Electronics Printer has been featured by *Fast Company*, *R&D Magazine*, and *Forbes* and won an Edison Award in 2015.

Juan also collaborates designing educational toys and STEM systems for Electroninks, an award-winning company from Austin, Texas, where he has helped create the Circuit Scribe conductive ink pen ecosystem, winner of numerous awards including Toy of the Year and *Creative Child* magazine's Top Toy.

He has previously held the title of Director of Product Design at Universidad Francisco Marroquin (Guatemala City) where he helped create one of the country's newest and most modern product design bachelor's programs.

In his off time, Juan enjoys woodworking and making in general, with a special interest in stringed instrument design and fabrication.

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Yann Seznec

GAME DESIGN



Yann Seznec received his B.F.A. in Music and B.S. in Anthropology from Carnegie Mellon University in 2004 and a M.Sc. in Sound Design at the University of Edinburgh in 2007.

Yann is an artist and musician whose work focuses on sound, music, physical interaction, games, and building new instruments. He has recently moved to Maryland after living in Scotland for 13 years. Recent projects include residencies at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the Floating Cinema in London, Playable City Lagos, and Timespan in the Scottish Highlands. He has performed at The Roundhouse London, Mutek Montreal, Melbourne Recital Hall, Liquid Rooms Tokyo, Köln Philharmonie, Fak'ugesi Johannesburg, and more.

Much of his work involves building custom instruments such as musical pigsties, slinky instruments, candle-based sound installations, and electromechanical mushroom spore reactors. He is founder of the award-winning creative studio Lucky Frame and was most recently a lecturer at Abertay University in Dundee, Scotland. In December 2015 he received the British Composer Award for Sonic Art for his 2014 Edinburgh Art Festival work "Currents."

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Hadieh Shafie

MCMILLAN-STEWART ENDOWED CHAIR IN PAINTING



Hadieh Shafie received her B.A. in painting from the University of Maryland College Park in 1993, an M.F.A. in painting from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in 1999, and an M.F.A. in imaging and digital arts from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2004.

Shafie is a visual artist based in Brooklyn, New York. Her work collapses the space between drawing, painting, and sculpture and is at once process-oriented and overwhelming in its intricacy.

Shafie's work is in the following public collections: The Metropolitan Museum of Art; The Victoria and Albert Museum; The Columbus Museum, Columbus, Georgia; Sheldon Museum of Art, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Nebraska; The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art, Winter Park, FL; Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); The British Museum; and The Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Shafie has been the recipient of a number of grants. Most recently, she was nominated for the Anonymous Was a Woman award in 2017.

Shoshanna Weinberger

MCMILLAN-STEWART ENDOWED CHAIR IN PAINTING



© Photo by Paula Andrea, courtesy Artfare

Shoshanna Weinberger received her B.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1995 and her M.F.A. from Yale School of Art in 2003.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Weinberger has been living and working in Newark, NJ for the past fourteen years. She explores the standards and consequential implications and experiences of racial identity and external perception or imposition of racial categorization. Much of Weinberger's work is rooted in an exploration of her Caribbean-American heritage. It draws strongly on the complexity of heritage and assumed norms. Referencing her own adolescent memory and our current xenophobic zeitgeist, Weinberger renders her female muses along a spectrum of character types.

Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in numerous invitational group and solo exhibitions. Weinberger is a five-time participant of the Jamaica Biennial from 2006 to 2017 held in Kingston, Jamaica; and her work was included in the 2013 Martinique Biennale. A recipient of several awards, residencies, and grants that include: 2019 Dawn Scott Memorial Award, Summer Exhibition, National Gallery of Jamaica; 2017–2018 Project for Empty Space, Art-in-Residence, Newark, NJ; 2016 Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council of the Arts; 2015 Joan Mitchell Center, Art-in-Residence, New Orleans; and 2014 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant.

Public collections include New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ; The Newark Museum, Newark, NJ; The Sagamore Collection, Miami, FL; Girls Club Collection, Fort Lauderdale, FL; The Margulies Collection, Miami, FL.; Davidson College, Davidson, NC

Deborah Willis

STUART COOPER ENDOWED CHAIR IN PHOTOGRAPHY



Deborah Willis received a B.F.A. in photography from Philadelphia College of Art in 1975, an M.F.A. in photography from Pratt Institute in 1979, an M.A. in art history from City College of New York in 1986, and a Ph.D. from the Cultural Studies Program of George Mason University in 2001.

She is University Professor and Chair of the Department of Photography & Imaging at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University where she teaches courses on Photography & Imaging, iconicity, and cultural histories visualizing the black body, women, and gender. Her research examines photography's multifaceted histories, visual culture, the photographic history; contemporary women photographers and migration.

She received the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. Willis is the author of *Posing Beauty: African American Images from the 1890s to the Present*; and co-author of *The Black Female Body: A Photographic History* and *Michelle Obama: The First Lady in Photographs* (both titles are NAACP Image Award Winners).

Professor Willis is an exhibition photographer and her most recent exhibitions include: "The Academic Body" at the American Academy in Rome, "In Pursuit of Beauty" at Express Newark; and curated the exhibition "Reframing Beauty: Intimate Moments" at Indiana University.

Since 2006 she has co-organized thematic conferences exploring imaging the black body in the West such as the conference titled *Black Portraiture[s]* which was held in Johannesburg in 2016. She has appeared and consulted on media projects including documentary films such as *Through A Lens Darkly* and *Question Bridge: Black Males*, a transmedia project, which received the ICP Infinity Award 2015.

Laura Birdsall

ACADEMIC ADVISOR FOR FIRST YEAR EXPERINCE



Laura Birdsall received her B.A. in Anthropology from UCLA and her M.F.A. in Fiction from Vanderbilt University.

At Vanderbilt, Laura taught English and served as an Academic Advisor for several years. She is a co-editor of two volumes of poetry and fiction by incarcerated writers on Tennessee's Death Row. She has also worked for many years with the *Contributor*, Nashville's street paper, sold by homeless and formerly homeless vendors.

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Kiscia Cannon

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, GRADUATE STUDIES



Kiscia Cannon received her B.S. in Business Administration from Strayer University and her M.B.A. in Business Management from UMUC.

Kiscia is excited to join the MICA community as the new Director of Research. Kiscia has over twenty-five years of experience in business operations, budgeting, and human resources and over twenty years of experience in full life-cycle grants/contracts management and financial administration. She has held a number of positions of various size and scope at large academic medical centers like Johns Hopkins University and University of Maryland, Baltimore where she has supported basic science, translational, clinical and industry sponsored research projects, as well as contracts and educational programs. She has been recognized as a leader for strategic and operational implementation.

Kiscia has extensive experience in implementing new systems and processes and has successfully implemented, trained, and mentored both faculty and staff at JHU on the system that is currently in place for financial grants management. She is a leader in Research Administration and stays abreast of current research industry matters via Society of Research Administrators (SRA), National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA), and various other committees. She exemplifies financial compliance, integrity, and continues to bring renewed ideas to the dynamic field of Academic Research Administration.

Kiscia brings with her a passion for research and people and a heightened enthusiasm to increase the research activity at MICA with a goal of MICA being listed amongst the best and brightest in the research arena.

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Cydney Delia

DIRECTOR, LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER



Cydney Delia received her B.A. at St. Mary's College of Maryland, an M.A.T. at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, and a J.D. at the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Cydney joins MICA as the director of the Learning Resource Center, where she provides and coordinates disability support for qualified students, and offers academic coaching for all students. She has taught undergraduate courses in English, English as a Second Language, and Business Law, and is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association.

A Maryland native, she enjoys the challenge of expatriation and repatriation. She has taught English in Japan and Switzerland, and for the last four years, she served as director of academic resources at New York University Shanghai, overseeing tutoring and writing-support services, disability-support services, and academic program-level assessment. Before working for NYU Shanghai, she served as a learning specialist at the University of Baltimore, where she provided academic coaching and established mentoring programs for new students. At MICA, Cydney strives to provide resources and support that empower students to stretch the limits of their intellectual curiosity and creativity.

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Sabrina Dépestre

DIRECTOR, MARKETING & RECRUITMENT FOR OPEN STUDIES



Sabrina Dépestre earned her B.B.A. in Marketing from Florida International University.

She joined MICA in January of this year as the director of marketing and recruitment for Open Studies. She is responsible for creating & executing marketing initiatives and strategies with the goal of obtaining, growing, and retaining students for all OS programs.

Sabrina was a mentor for Lucky Pocket Press, a finalist in MICA's 2019 Up/Start competition. Other volunteer efforts focus on educating & connecting youth, entrepreneurs, and leaders in the education and tech industries. She is a Mentor and Coach for Bridges Baltimore, a non-profit that provides year-round programming for youth ages 9-23 in Baltimore City; a Board Member of Innovation Works, a social impact organization that helps build sustainable neighborhood economies in Baltimore City; the Brand & Marketing Chair for Hack Baltimore, an organization that is using technology to solve real-world problems; and the Baltimore Chapter Ambassador for She Builds, a global initiative & community platform that exists to empower and connect Haitian women around the world.

In between balancing her full-time role at MICA and volunteering, she spends her time with family, practices yoga, and rents out more books than she has time to read.

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Cristina Gonçalves

BUDGET AND CONTRACT MANAGER



Cristina Gonçalves received her B.F.A. in Painting and Printmaking from Virginia Commonwealth University and her M.F.A. in Printmaking from the University of Connecticut.

Cristina joins Academic Affairs as Budget & Contract Manager after five years with Graduate Studies where she rose through the ranks from Administrative Assistant to Manager of Academic Operations. Cristina was honored to receive the Lori L Stuart Memorial Award in 2016 and the Distinguished Service to Graduate Students Award in 2019. A native of the DC metro area, Cristina is an Excel nerd who has opinions about fonts and enjoys finding creative, collaborative solutions to complex problems. She also has an encyclopedic memory for TV and movie quotes. In her free time, Cristina enjoys lithography, knitting, and hanging out with her two elderly dachshunds, Odie and Robot.

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Sarah Hammond

MANAGER OF ACADEMIC OPERATIONS, GRADUATE STUDIES



Sarah Hammond earned her B.A. in Art History & Archaeology from Washington University in Saint Louis and her M.A. in History of Art from Williams College.

Sarah is happy to rejoin the MICA community as Manager of Academic Operations for Graduate Studies. After earning her B.A., she spent two years working as an administrative assistant for Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Ray Allen. She left MICA in 2006 to pursue her M.A. where her primary academic and curatorial interests focused on works on paper, particularly eighteenth-century English graphic satire and nineteenth-century French photography. Following the completion of her graduate work, Sarah held positions in the curatorial and publications departments at the Clark. Her departure from the Berkshires coincided with a professional shift from curatorial work to exhibitions management, first for several years at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, de Young and later at Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, where she worked on the implementation of the 2018 Carnegie International.

A Baltimore native, Sarah attended the Bryn Mawr School for Girls. She lives in Baltimore County with her husband (fellow former MICA staffer Jason Wilcox) and daughter.

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Kate Porter

DIRECTOR, YOUTH & COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOR OPEN STUDIES



Kate Porter earned both her B.F.A in Photography and M.A.T. at MICA. She also earned an Administration 1 Certification, Certificate of Advanced Study in Organizational Change, College of Graduate Studies and Research at Towson University and holds an MSDE Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate Art PreK-12 as well as being MSDE Administrator I and II Certified.

Prior to coming to MICA, Kate worked as the program director for Youth in Focus (a non-profit youth development photography organization in Seattle, WA) and as the assistant principal for the Baltimore Design School.

After completing a year and a half of success in the role as MICA's director of youth programs, community based adult/lifelong learning programming has been added to Kate's portfolio. The director of youth and community education provides strategic and logistical leadership and direction for all programs serving young students (grades K-12) and community education for life-long learners through MICA's Open Studies academic unit. These programs currently include: Young People's Studios; the Pre-College Art and Design Residency Program; the Art and Design College Accelerator Program; Community Education; and Professional Practice. The director will also manage and implement any new or special initiatives related to the K-12 or community audiences.

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Michael Rini

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, EDUCATION ABROAD & EXCHANGE SERVICES



Mike Rini received his B.A. in International Relations from Kent State University in 2004 and his M.A. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Akron in 2006.

Mike joins the Office of International Programs as an Assistant Director of Education Abroad and Exchange Services. With eight years of experience in the field of study abroad, Mike helped expand international education, underscoring the importance of campus internationalization, and program management at a variety of institutional-types. He enjoys advising students on selecting programs best-suited for their undergraduate pursuits, along with serving as a conduit between their home institution and foreign universities, and as a support agent for a wide-range of issues they may experience during their time abroad. His areas of specialization include: study abroad & academic advising, undergraduate international research, international internships, and cross-cultural communications.

Mike studied abroad at la Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina, and remembers the profound changes he experienced as an individual and the types of challenges that one faces while abroad. He understands that culture shock is not a cliché. In adjusting to the foreign classroom, and adapting to a new day-to-day reality in another country, study abroad is a profound, life-changing experience that adds depth to the undergraduate experience.

A current resident of Pennsylvania, Mike splits his time between living in Baltimore and Glen Mills, PA. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with his wife and daughter, exploring local, cultural venues, and staring at his eighteen foot ocean kayak in wonderment—that someday—he will set afloat once again!

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Crystal Shamblee

ASSOCIATE DEAN, OPEN STUDIES



Crystal Shamblee earned her B.S. in Textile and Apparel Management from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina and her M.F.A. in Fashion Design from Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA.

Crystal joined MICA in June of 2015 as the graduate program director for MICA's Design Leadership and User Experience Design programs. In her short time in that role, Crystal oversaw major changes to both programs including the piloting of a partnership with a third party (Elsmere Education Incorporated) which, in its initial year produced an over 300% increase in enrollment, saw growth in geographic the diversification of enrollment, and increase in qualified applications and higher rates of retention.

Crystal has been acting as the interim associate dean since Peter Dubeau resigned in early 2019 and has now been promoted into a newly redefined associate dean position. The new role focuses less on the positions prior work on OS operations and more on academic policy, regulation, compliance, risk management, accreditation, assessment, program review, and academic services and resources for Open Studies students.

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Dan Sipzner

GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, DESIGN LEADERSHIP AND
USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN FOR OPEN STUDIES



Dan Sipzner earned his B.F.A, in Metals/Jewelry/CAD at Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia Pennsylvania and his M.I.P.D. (Master of Integrated Product Design) from The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

Prior to coming to MICA Daniel Sipzner was a design team manager at CenterMed, Inc. outside San Francisco.

Dan joined MICA in April of this year as the new graduate program director for our Design Leadership program (MA/MBA dual degree in partnership with Johns Hopkins University's Carey Business School) and the MPS in User Experience. His work is primarily focused on managing the programs faculty, curriculum, budget, academic assets, and student recruitment, advising, retention, and success.

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Lisa Twiss

DIRECTOR, CURRICULUM DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT FOR
OPEN STUDIES



Lisa Twiss earned her B.A. in Secondary Education from Oswega State University, Oswega, New York, her M.S. in Education Technology from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, and her Ed.D in Instructional Technology from Towson University, Towson, Maryland.

Prior to coming to MICA, Lisa was on the faculty of Towson University's Department of Education Technology and Literacy.

Lisa joined MICA as our part-time, interim instructional technologist in January 2019. With a growing demand on digitally mediated curriculum and ambitions for further curricular innovation, a new director level position addressing curriculum design and development was created to bring greater strategic leadership to this work. Lisa, will begin full-time in this role in August. This new position provides vision and leadership aimed at developing novel and scalable ways to provide greater access to high quality learning experiences to diverse audiences. The director supports and guides academic program leadership, instructors, and students in the use and implementation of best-in-class educational models, instructional materials, and technology. The position also includes the supervision of help desk staff employed in support of MICA's online learning community.

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