

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Elizabeth Reina-Longoria or Deirdre Maher

Blue Medium

T: +1 (212) 675-1800

E: [elizabeth@bluemedium.com](mailto:elizabeth@bluemedium.com) or  
[deirdre@bluemedium.com](mailto:deirdre@bluemedium.com)

Ally Hughes, SCAD

T: +1 (912) 525-5250

E: [ahughes@scad.edu](mailto:ahughes@scad.edu)

**Savannah College of Art and Design presents the fourth edition of  
SCAD deFINE ART: Feb. 19-23, 2013**

**Keynote address and film screening by 2013 deFINE ART Honoree Shirin Neshat**

**Programming to include exhibitions by Jennifer Rubell, Angel Otero, Odili Donald Odita, Jack Whitten, Ingrid Calame, Kiki Smith and Valerie Hammond, Adam Cvijanovic, and SCAD alumni Marcus Kenney and Claire Rosen, among others**

**Museum Directors Panel featuring Michael Govan, Thelma Golden and Defne Ayas  
Moderated by Linda Yablonsky**

**Other public events include artist talks, performances, and gallery hops**

**SAVANNAH, Georgia, February 14, 2013** — The Savannah College of Art and Design announces the programming and exhibitions schedule for **deFINE ART 2013**, the university's fourth annual fine arts showcase, taking place **Feb. 19-23**. Organized by **Laurie Ann Farrell**, executive director of exhibitions at SCAD, with support from chief curator **Isolde Brielmaier**, Ph.D., SCAD deFINE ART 2013 honors renowned Iranian artist and filmmaker **Shirin Neshat** for her work and influence on contemporary art.

For deFINE ART 2013, Neshat will deliver the keynote address at SCAD locations in Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia, and will present a screening of her first feature-length film, ***Women Without Men***, which received the Silver Lion Award in the 66<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival in 2009. Born in 1957 in Qazvin, Iran, and now based in New York City, Neshat explores social, political and psychological dimensions of the female experience in contemporary Islamic societies. Today, she works primarily in film, creating projects that examine the tensions between tradition and modernity for women in Iran.

Each year during deFINE ART SCAD honors one artist for their body of work and influence on contemporary art and the next generation of artists. Previous honorees include Marina Abramović (2011) and Fred Wilson (2012).

As a signature feature of SCAD deFINE ART, the university presents a series of major contemporary art exhibitions at SCAD's global locations, including shows by **Ingrid Calame, Adam Cvijanovic, Gabriel Dawe, Rosemarie Fiore, Odili Donald Odita, Damián Ortega, Angel Otero, Jessica Rankin, Jennifer Rubell, Kiki Smith** and **Valerie Hammond, Jean-Michel Othoniel, and Jack Whitten**. SCAD alumni **Monica Cook,**

**Marcus Kenney, Roberto Carlos Lange, Jason Hackenwerth, Andrew Ondrejcek and Claire Rosen,** and M.F.A. students **Honor Bowman, Sergei Isaenko and Will Penny** will also have work on display.

Additionally, public programming for deFINE ART includes artist talks, performances, panel discussions and receptions. A highlight of this year's programming is a **Museum Directors Panel**, taking place at the SCAD Museum of Art on Feb. 21. Moderated by art and cultural journalist **Linda Yablonsky**, the panel features **Michael Govan**, director and chief executive officer of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; **Thelma Golden**, director and chief curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem; and **Defne Ayas**, director of Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in the Netherlands. Organized by Ann Tenenbaum and Brielmaier with Farrell the Museum Directors Panel is presented by SCAD with support from Ann Tenenbaum.

## **SCAD DEFINE ART 2013: SAVANNAH**

### **Exhibitions at the SCAD Museum of Art**

Highlights at the SCAD Museum of Art include a SCAD-commissioned, large-scale installation by **Odili Donald Odita** titled **Heaven's Gate**. This work, on view in the entrance of the museum through June 2, draws upon the architecture of the SCAD Museum of Art as well as the city of Savannah for inspiration. A series of vivid site-specific wall paintings, **Heaven's Gate**, coordinated by Brielmaier, invites the viewer to contemplate the relationship between a space that is imbued with a sense of history and, at the same time, houses dynamic cultural elements of the present day. For SCAD students, **Heaven's Gate** offers a unique example of ways in which contemporary painters can engage with site-specific spaces.

**Material Discovery**, an exhibition by acclaimed emerging artist **Angel Otero** and curated by Brielmaier, is on view through May 5. **Material Discovery** is Otero's first large-scale solo museum exhibition and features his innovative approach to painting, specifically his practice of creating paintings using "oil skins" made from paint poured into glass and peeled off in dry sheets.

**Jennifer Rubell**, an artist known for her unique hybrid of performance art, happenings and installation, will present a site-specific, participatory installation titled **Free**, based on her experiences during a recent visit to Savannah, as well as a broad range of ideas from communion and the Annunciation, to Le Corbusier's church at Ronchamp, the artists Mark Rothko and Donald Judd, and Hans Namuth's film of Jackson Pollock painting. For this installation, coordinated by Brielmaier and on view Feb. 19-24, viewers will be encouraged to partake in the work, casting aside the traditional boundaries of art institutions and engaging senses usually forbidden in or absent from a museum context. **Free** is supported in part by a generous donation from the Savannah Bee Company.

Also on view is **Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Pit #4, #9, #7**, a site-specific wall drawing by Los Angeles-based artist **Ingrid Calame**, coordinated by Melissa Messina, SCAD senior curator. Known for her painterly interpretation of the often-disregarded markings left by passersby on floors, sidewalks and roadways, Calame has repeatedly found inspiration in the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the site from which this piece is sourced. Commissioned by SCAD on the occasion of deFINE ART 2013, and on view through May 12, this installation offers a contemporary twist on longstanding artistic practices and responds directly to the architecture of the SCAD Museum of Art, bringing Calame's signature style to the walls of the museum.

On view in the museum's Emerging Artist Gallery is **Firework Drawings**, a dynamic selection of large-scale works on paper by **Rosemarie Fiore**, created using live fireworks and their pigments. On view through May 12, this exhibition, curated by Messina, introduces the work of an artist whose unconventional materials and performative processes inspire creative approaches to art making.

**Erasures: Paintings and Works on Paper, 1972-79**, an exhibition by **Jack Whitten**, is on display in the museum's Walter O. Evans Center for African American Studies and features the artist's work from the 1970s. Curated by Brielmaier, this groundbreaking and historical exhibition, on view through March 31,

presents a selection of paintings and works on paper, many on view for the first time. The title, *Erasures*, refers to this particular period of the artist's career and the innovative ways in which Whitten removed himself from the process of painting, relying on objects and inventive tools to create his marks.

The museum's Pamela Elaine Poetter Gallery features an exhibition curated by SCAD curator Erin Dziedzic showcasing Berlin and Mexico City-based artist **Damián Ortega's *Belo Horizonte Project***. This exhibition represents the first time this project has been shown in its entirety. Inspired by the developed cityscapes of the Brazilian city of Belo Horizonte, this installation of highly polished stainless steel cubes references urban architecture's ability to reflect and be reflective of its surrounding environment. This exhibition offers an original use of space, one that reflects both the architecture within the museum and the landscape of the courtyard visible through the gallery's large windows. *Belo Horizonte Project* is on view through March 3.

The museum's signature Jewel Boxes showcase ***OTHONIEL***, an exhibition of recent and newly produced enigmatic, large-scale and colorful steel and glass sculptures by acclaimed French artist **Jean-Michel Othoniel**. Curated by Dziedzic, these works highlight Othoniel's poetic visual language exploring themes surrounding the body, beauty, desire and metamorphosis. Befittingly placed in the museum's Jewel Boxes, Othoniel's undulating forms resemble strands of beads or pearls. On view through May 5, this exhibition will inspire passersby and students alike with its combined reference to the seductive qualities of sculpture and jewelry.

On view through March 31, ***Stretching the Limits: Fibers in Contemporary Painting*** highlights artists who explore fibers-based media within the language of painting. Featured artists include Ghada Amer, Nick Cave, Angelo Filomeno, Sam Gilliam, Vibha Galhotra, Analia Saban and Elaine Reichek, among others. This group exhibition, curated by Messina, broadens the dialogue of contemporary painting practices by showcasing the ways in which formal considerations such as color, texture and composition are created with thread, fabric, clothing and sculptural manipulations of canvas. These explorations also connect artistic processes to the various conceptual underpinnings of each work, including the history of painting and its relationship to the body.

#### **Exhibitions at SCAD Galleries, Savannah**

For deFINE ART 2013, SCAD has commissioned artist **Gabriel Dawe** to create one of his signature, intricate site-specific installations featuring colorful thread—what the artist calls “drawings in space”—for its Gutstein Gallery. Dawe, a Dallas-based artist born in Mexico City, creates work that is imbued with the intense color palette of Mexican folk art and textiles. On view Feb. 18 through April 11, ***Light Paradox***, organized by SCAD assistant curator Alexandra Sachs, offers inspiration for both SCAD and the broader community.

Pinnacle Gallery features ***Fallen Animals***, a solo exhibition of black-and-white photographs by SCAD alumnus **Marcus Kenney** (M.F.A., photography, 1998) curated by Messina. On view through March 31, *Fallen Animals* includes haunting portraits and landscapes, and repeated motifs such as masks, hands and religious iconography that recall a Southern Gothic style. Acclaimed for his work in collage, painting and sculpture, this exhibition is Kenney's first exhibition to focus solely on his photography since 1998.

In ***Mótus*** at Pei Ling Chan Gallery, SCAD alumnus **Jason Hackenwerth** (M.F.A., painting, 2011) creates billowing caves of ultra-lightweight plastic that resonate with a fog-like glow and illuminate as they cycle through various states of expansion and collapse. As visitors enter this interactive, ethereal form they will experience diverse atmospheres of light and movement, which extend beyond the physical realm and into timeless and eternal spaces. *Mótus* is on view Feb. 19-23.

A thesis exhibition by SCAD M.F.A. painting student and alumnus **Will Penny** (B.F.A., painting, 2008), titled ***LIFELIKE***, will be on view at Alexander Hall Gallery Feb. 18 through March 4. This exhibition explores the tensions between perceived and tangible spaces. Penny examines this effect on painting by investigating

the negotiations between optical illusion, real space and virtual space that are mediated by shifting digital platforms.

In Fahm Gallery, SCAD presents M.F.A. painting student **Honor Bowman**'s thesis exhibition ***Neighborhood Watch***. Through this new series of paintings and sculpture, Bowman explores the orderly façade of the American suburb by transforming the gallery space into a neighborhood of shiny, candy-colored homes. Her installation prompts viewers to look beyond the surface. *Neighborhood Watch* is on view Feb. 18 through March 4.

#### **Events at SCAD Savannah**

##### **Lecture by Jack Whitten:**

*SCAD Museum of Art, Feb. 19, 5 p.m.*

Whitten will discuss the formal issues of his works in the SCAD Museum of Art exhibition, *Erasures*, which explores the artist's intentional elimination of art historical references present in his earlier paintings. Whitten will also explore the psychological and political implications that surface during the act of making a painting, and how his approach is a holistic endeavor that encompasses both plasticity and sensibility as a part of his studio practice. This lecture is presented by SCAD with generous support from the Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation. [www.jacobandgwenlawrence.org](http://www.jacobandgwenlawrence.org).

##### **Gallery hop:**

*SCAD Museum of Art, Pinnacle Gallery, Pei Ling Chan Gallery, Fahm Hall Gallery, Alexander Hall Gallery and Gutstein Gallery, Feb. 19, 6:30-8 p.m.*

Refreshments will be provided in the SCAD Museum of Art and select galleries, and free shuttles will run between all stops. Participants may join the gallery hop at any of the gallery locations.

##### **Artist Professional Practices Panel:**

*SCAD Museum of Art, Feb. 20, 6 p.m.*

This panel features deFINE ART participating artists: Los Angeles-based artist Ingrid Calame, Savannah-based artist and SCAD alumnus Marcus Kenney, and New York-based artist Angel Otero. This discussion, moderated by Steve Bliss, dean of the School of Fine Arts at SCAD, will offer insight into the artistic process and thoughts on how to develop and sustain a successful creative career. Calame, Kenney and Otero will discuss their artistic development; studio practices, including installation, painting, drawing, photography and sculpture; and what they feel it takes to make it in the art world.

##### **Film screenings and artist talk by Monica Cook (B.F.A., painting, 1996):**

*SCAD Museum of Art, Feb. 20, 5 p.m.*

These film screenings of Monica Cook's *Deuce* and *Volley* present two very different tales of love, lust and transformation. A Q-and-A session will follow the screening.

##### **Museum Directors Panel:**

*SCAD Museum of Art, Feb. 21, 6 p.m.*

##### ***Women Without Men*, film screening by Shirin Neshat, SCAD deFINE ART 2013 honoree:**

*Trustees Theater, Feb. 22, 4 p.m.*

##### **Keynote address by Shirin Neshat, SCAD deFINE ART 2013 honoree:**

*Trustees Theater, Feb. 22, 6 p.m.*

##### **Andrew Ondrejcek performance: *VENERATION 2: THE HOUSE NOT MEANT TO STAND***

*SCAD Museum of Art theater, Feb. 23, 5 p.m.*

This performance was developed by SCAD alumnus Andrew Ondrejcek (B.F.A., performing arts, 2002). A contemporary Requiem Mass, a modern liturgy for the dead, this performance features a dramatic 35-

minute recitation of a new, original text set within the historic form of a death mass and performed by eight members of the SCAD community. Thematically, the text focuses on how we humans, despite free will, repeat the cycles of those who have come before.

**Roberto Carlos Lange performance: *Brain Finger Composition***

*SCAD Museum of Art, Feb. 23, 6 p.m.*

This innovative commissioned performance was developed by composer, sound artist and SCAD alumnus Roberto Carlos Lange (B.F.A., computer art, 2003), who is known for his energetic performances that combine varied musical influences with computer synthesis. Titled "Brain Finger Composition," this work is a collaborative project designed to engage SCAD students and bring together art, technology and the community.

**Art Stroll + Student Showcase:**

*SCAD galleries and studios in SCAD's Alexander Hall, Feb. 23, 6-8 p.m.*

Featured exhibitions include SCAD M.F.A. thesis exhibitions *Neighborhood Watch* by Honor Bowman and *LIFELIKE* by Will Penny. Other student artwork will also be on view.

These events are free and open to the public.

**SCAD DEFINE ART 2013: ATLANTA**

**Exhibitions at SCAD Atlanta**

On view at Gallery 1600 through March 29, ***Streaming Spirits: New Prints by Valerie Hammond and Kiki Smith*** features 12 prints created using a variety of printmaking processes including lithography, letterpress, and multiplate photogravure, in collaboration with SCAD printmaking students at the university's Atlanta location. Guest curated by scholar Crista Cloutier, this exhibition draws inspiration from the 19th-century genre of spirit photography and premiered at La Galerie Pfriend at SCAD's Lacoste, France, location in Summer 2012, and will travel to the SCAD Museum of Art in Savannah in late Spring 2013.

In an exhibition titled ***Passages***, artist **Jessica Rankin** presents embroidered paintings of sheer, diaphanous panels of organdy, upon which she has stitched abstracted, poetic text and references to maps, landscapes and diagrams. Rankin's compositions are influenced by personal experience and reference travel, conversations, as well as interpretations of cosmological or genetic schemas. Curated by Messina, this exhibition is on view Feb. 18 through May 31.

At Gallery See, SCAD presents an exhibition titled ***Reverie*** by emerging artist and SCAD alumna **Claire Rosen** (B.F.A., photography, 2006), curated by Sachs. This exhibition, on view through March 22, is Rosen's first solo show at SCAD and includes a selection of recent photographs influenced by her interest in fairy tales and fables, romanticism as well as her travel through the Middle East and Southeast Asia. As part of deFINE ART, Rosen will engage with students during classroom visits and portfolio reviews.

***Echoes of the Collapse***, on view at the Dewberry Gallery of SCAD through Feb. 22, is a thesis exhibition by M.F.A. photography student **Sergei Isaenko** that reflects an ongoing collaboration between the artist and his family and was created as a way to come to terms with and commemorate the reasons for their immigration to the United States. Through the use of visual metaphors, this series demonstrates the reality of their displacement and offers evidence of the internal psychological reckoning the artist relates to tragic characters of classic Russian literature.

**Events at SCAD Atlanta**

***Streaming Spirits* panel discussion:**

*Events space, fourth floor, building C, Feb. 19, 6 p.m.*

Panel discussion with artists Kiki Smith, Valerie Hammond and guest curator Crista Cloutier.

**Gallery hop:**

*Gallery See, Trois Gallery, Gallery 1600 and Dewberry Gallery of SCAD, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.*

**Keynote address by Shirin Neshat, SCAD deFINE ART 2013 honoree:**

*Events Space, fourth floor, building C, Feb. 21, 6 p.m.*

These events are free and open to the public.

**SCAD DEFINE ART 2013: HONG KONG****Exhibitions at SCAD Hong Kong**

For the second annual deFINE ART exhibition at its Hong Kong location, SCAD presents a solo exhibition titled ***Rolling Panorama Number 1*** by Brooklyn-based artist **Adam Cvijanovic** at Moot Gallery, organized by Dziedzic. For this exhibition, Cvijanovic has created a mechanized scroll painting that depicts a series of panoramic landscape views from around the world. Resonating with the form and historical reverence of Chinese scroll paintings, Cvijanovic's linear landscape unfurls through a sequence of meticulously rendered mountain terrains and vast icy oceans, to lush tropical forests and dry grassy plains, which the artist has left unpopulated by humans. This exhibition is on view through March 29.

**Events at SCAD Hong Kong****Lecture by Dr. Lars Nittve, executive director of M+, the museum of visual culture:**

*Courtroom 1, SCAD Hong Kong, 292 Tai Po Road, Sham Shui Po, Feb. 19, 7-8 p.m.*

This event features a lecture by Lars Nittve, executive director of M+, the museum of visual culture, which will open in Hong Kong in 2017. In his talk, titled "Access and Excellence: 25 years of searching for the keys to the good museum," Nittve will address lessons learned from some of Europe's leading museums—the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Tate Modern and the Moderna Museet—and what they may mean for the creation of Hong Kong's future M+ museum. RSVP to [events@scad.edu](mailto:events@scad.edu).

**Reception and artist talk by Lam Wai Kit:**

*10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Central, Hong Kong, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m.*

Artist Lam Wai Kit discusses the interrelationship between individuals and their surrounding circumstances. With self-portraits created through several artistic journeys around the world, Kit continuously explores the meaning of identity. Through the execution of "Divided Minds," "Forgotten Land," "Unknown" and "Fake Tarot," her work reflects her concern for identity and recognition, reality and illusion. RSVP to [rsvp@10chancerylanegallery.com](mailto:rsvp@10chancerylanegallery.com).

These events are free and open to the public.

**About SCAD deFINE ART**

SCAD deFINE ART is an annual series of major contemporary art exhibitions, lectures and public events presented at SCAD's global locations in Savannah, Atlanta and Hong Kong. At its very foundation, deFINE ART celebrates SCAD's exhibitions program, which is actively shaping and giving rise to artistic expression, dialogue and innovation. In collaboration with numerous departments throughout the university, deFINE ART represents one of SCAD's many initiatives to expand the learning environment beyond the boundaries of the classroom and studio.

**For more information about deFINE ART 2013 programming, visit [scad.edu/defineart](http://scad.edu/defineart) or [scadmoa.org](http://scadmoa.org) or call +1 (912) 525-4727.**

**SCAD: The University for Creative Careers**

The Savannah College of Art and Design is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution conferring bachelor's and master's degrees at distinctive locations and online to prepare talented students for professional careers. SCAD offers degrees in more than 40 majors. Visit [scad.edu](http://scad.edu).

# # #