



News Release

Contact: Tom Overton
713-525-3105
overtot@stthom.edu

Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Enhancing Education: The University of St. Thomas and the Arts

HOUSTON (July 21, 2006)-Studies have documented how the arts not only enhance learning but represent an educational end unto themselves. From brain development to language skills to academic performance, art augments virtually all aspects of learning and development.

UST's commitment to the arts has resulted in alliances throughout Houston's art community. In particular, UST collaborates with the Museum of Fine Arts Houston Glassell School of Art to offer a major, a minor and elective courses in Studio Art. This joint effort gives students access to the resources of the Glassell and to instruction offered by the reputable artists on its faculty.

One such faculty member recently received one of the largest cash awards for art in North America. Francesca Fuchs won the 2005 Hunting Art Prize for her paintings. Claire McDonald, associate professor and chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Art, said, "UST is so proud of the professional accomplishments of our teaching faculty at the Glassell School. Francesca Fuchs deservedly stands in the limelight now as the recipient of the prestigious Hunt Award. This achievement and those of the entire Glassell School faculty enhance the reputation of our joint UST/Glassell School of Art studio arts major program and allow it to attract phenomenally talented students."

Three UST students recently won their own accolades. Carla Novi, senior studio major, was awarded one of the Project Row Houses' 2006 summer residencies. PRH was established in 1993 on a site of 22 abandoned shotgun houses to connect the work of artists with the revitalization of the Third Ward community. A panel of professional artists reviewed the work of 14 students and selected five to receive studio space in row houses for a two-month residency. A free public showing 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, 2521 Holman St., at the row houses in the 2500 block of Holman will open an exhibition of works created during the students' residencies.

Junior pre-med, biology and studio arts student, Nam Nguyen, won one of eight MFAH summer internships for undergraduate students out of 128 applicants. Interns work full-time for 10 weeks from June to August and for their labor receive a stipend from the museum. At the end of the summer, the interns will give an oral presentation to museum staff and write a paper on their project.

The painting, *Felix with his Music and a Poem about Airplanes*, by Cody Ledvin, '06 studio arts graduate and now University of Houston master of fine arts graduate student, is the featured artwork on the cover of the Glassell School of Art Course Schedule for fall 2006. His work was also included in the 2005 Annual Student Art Show at the Glassell and was one of only 90 pieces selected out of over 1,200 submitted.

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