



## BLACK KIRBY EXHIBITION JENNINGS VISITS VSU ART & DESIGN

WHEN: February 5 – 28th, 2013

WHERE: Meredith Art Gallery, 2nd floor Harris Hall

FOR THE SECOND TIME Virginia State University has been fortunate to host famed illustrator and Associate Professor at SUNY Buffalo John Jennings, who uses comics, hip-hop and his own drawings to showcase African-American expressions. Workshops and talks for the students were given throughout the first week of February to kick off Jennings' exhibition with Stacey Robinson called *Black Kirby*, currently hanging in the Meredith Art Gallery. *Black Kirby* pays homage to comic genius Jack Kirby and explores parallels between the experiences of Jewish-American artists like Kirby and African-American stories in comic literature and popular narratives.

Read more at [buffalo.edu/home/feature\\_story/black-comix](http://buffalo.edu/home/feature_story/black-comix).



### FROM THE CHAIR

#### *A Few Words...*

HOME. It's a simple word and a simple concept: more than a place to be, it is a place to belong.

For many years, Art & Design has been just another tenant of Harris Hall, sharing space with numerous other disciplines and having our students attend classes in what is the academic equivalent of an apartment complex. People come and go; the neighborhood is constantly changeable, in flux. It's a place to be, but only in a transitory way.

With the renovation of Fauntleroy Hall, Art & Design now has a home. It may be an old barn, but the open spaces with vast amounts of light streaming in are exactly what an artist craves. The open plan allows for movement of bodies, materials, and ideas; the light illuminates not only what is on the paper or canvas, but also what is in the mind. The walls are still freshly painted, the floors waxed and shiny. But there's a sense of permanence that transcends the mere physical relocation to another building. The students and faculty congregate and share with each other; classes combine, instructors collaborate, students mingle and comprehend.

We've changed more than a location: *we've changed a way of being.* We now have a feeling of comfort and coexistence that comes from belonging in a place we call 'home'.

—Dr. Thomas Larose

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## VSU AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

THE 2012 AIGA DESIGN EDUCATORS CONFERENCE *geo/graphics: design, education and the transnational terrain* was held this past December in Honolulu, Hawaii. This conference focused on design projects, research and institutions reflecting particularly fluid boundaries and retaining cultural and international complexity. It played host to hundreds of designers and design educators from all across the globe including Meena Khalili, Assistant Professor of Visual Communication at VSU Art & Design and AIGA Richmond Board Member.

Ms. Khalili presented a paper titled *Entropic Design as a Method of Visualizing Cultural Impermanence*. This work examines her research expressing her experiences as a first generation Iranian-American designer and her work with the students at Virginia State University.

The AIGA *geo/graphics* conference provided design educators a platform to share examples of implemented design projects, programs and theoretical ideas, as well as discuss reflective positions on the role of design as it can be utilized today within this transnational context.

The conference took place at the East-West Center at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa December 13 – 15 and hosted keynote speakers Ella Shohat (Art & Public Policy, Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies at NYU) and Michael Sorkin (distinguished author, Professor of Architecture, Director of the Graduate Program in Urban Design, City College of New York). Professor Shohat and Professor Sorkin inaugurated the conference and worked alongside design critic Peter Hall (Brisbane), critic of contemporary design Lydia Matthews (New York), former ICOGRADA president Russell Kennedy (Melbourne), and design educator Muneera Umedaly Spence (VCUQ, Doha) in conference strands and panel discussions sharing their unique perspectives.

More on the *geo/graphics* conference: <http://aigageogfx.com>  
 Professor Khalili's work can be viewed on her website: [lot15studio.com](http://lot15studio.com)



## CLINTON HELMS | AIR FORCE W, DC.

VSU ART & DESIGN INSTRUCTOR CLINTON HELMS recently completed a series of works for the United States Air Force. The work seen above will be sent to Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton OH., for the June AIR FORCE ART PRESENTATION. Work for the program by artists all over the United States will be on display from June until August before it is shipped out to other Air Force Bases around the world. The first three paintings are from an assignment with the 11th Wing at Andrews AFB Maryland, the last one is from an assignment in 2011 with the 24th Air Force Cyber Command at Lackland AFB in San Antonio TX.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & COMPETITIONS!

- JOHN JENNINGS *BLACK KIRBY*  
 Thru FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup> \_Meredith Art Gallery, 2nd floor Harris Hall
- 2013 STUDENT JURIED SHOW  
 SUBMISSIONS DUE 3/1  
 SHOW BEGINS MARCH 11<sup>th</sup> \_Meredith Art Gallery, 2nd floor Harris Hall
- SPRING 2013 CHARETTE  
 SUBMISSIONS DUE 3/15
- SENIOR THESIS EXHIBITION  
 APRIL 15<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> \_Meredith Art Gallery, 2nd floor Harris Hall
- SUBMIT TO AIGA RICHMOND GRADE 7 COMPETITION!  
[commarts.com/competitions/photography](http://commarts.com/competitions/photography)  
 DEADLINE: 03/16/12
- VSU will have a presence at **TEDxRVA**  
 Event held 3/22 downtown Richmond. Learn more at [tedxrva.com](http://tedxrva.com)

### STUDENT 2013 PORTFOLIO REVIEWS SCHEDULE REMINDER

**Freshmen** DROP OFF 3/1  
**Sophomores** PRESENT 3/15  
**Juniors** PRESENT 3/29