



## JORDAN POWELL

RECENT 2011 GRADUATE TALKS ABOUT VSU ART & DESIGN AND ABOUT HER GRADUATE CAREER

ENTERING THE VSU ART DEPARTMENT was done on a beautifully orchestrated whim. I started off as a journalist (Print-Mass Communication major) who happened to be really good at layout design and had a fetish for typefaces. One day after weighing the pros and cons, I decided to change my major and not let my fear of being a “starving-artist” quench my passion for design.

Over the following 4 years, **I was able to learn just how important my role as a designer is**, and I’d like to thank VSU for giving me a foundation that has proved solid while embarking on the next phase.

Currently I am enrolled at Savannah College of Art and Design, pursuing my MFA in Graphic Design. I oftentimes think that in undergrad students put the “how to”, or technique of designing, on a higher pedestal than the equally (if not, more) important factor of “Why?” In other words, the meaning or idea behind the design. Meaning and idea separate the words put on a page, while design has the power to mold a generation.

Good designers will make you stop and admire in appreciation, but great designers will make you wish you did it yourself. Simply put, I just want to be a great designer. —Jordan Powell, ‘11

## ARTIST TO KNOW: JEAN MICHELE BASQUIAT

WELL-KNOWN for his brightly colored, and symbol-laden neo-expressionist paintings, Basquiat was an artist and poet in New York City until his death in 1988.



## HOMECOMING GALLERY SHOW

*WAY BACK WHEN*, OPENING RECEPTION

WHEN: October 29, 6:00 – 8:00PM

WHERE: Meredith Art Gallery, 2nd floor Harris Hall

THE DEPARTMENT OF ART & DESIGN at Virginia State University will present *Way Back When*, a collection of 24 paintings, drawings, and sculptures by seven alumni and two former professors who were active in the VSU art program during the 1970’s.

Artists include: Gilmore McCoy (1978), Gilbert Trent (1979), Lorrain Bivens (1978), Ruth Jones Maclin (1978), Steve Harris (1976), Rondall James (1977) and Phyllis Coleman-Lacy (1981). Joining these alumni will be retired professors Doris Woodson and Eugene Vango. Please call (804) 524-5944 for directions and details.



## HOMECOMING

Homecoming 2011 at VSU is October 22 – 29th!

Notable events can be found at [www.vsuhomecoming.net](http://www.vsuhomecoming.net) and include the Homecoming game against Virginia Union University at 1:30PM at Rogers Stadium on the VSU campus.

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

“As the years go by the students are getting better because the faculty are really pushing us. I see that I have potential.”

—DENISE WILLIAMS

## UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

- **GOOD 50X70 2011**  
<http://good50x70.org/2011>  
DEADLINE: 11/10/11
- **SCA PACKAGING DESIGN CHALLENGE 03**  
<http://www.scapackaging-design-challenge.com/participate>  
DEADLINE: 12/04/11
- **iF CONCEPT DESIGN AWARD 2012**  
[ifdesign.de/talents\\_home\\_e](http://ifdesign.de/talents_home_e)  
DEADLINE: 01/10/12
- **COMMUNICATION ARTS ILLUSTRATION COMPETITION 2012**  
[commarts.com/competitions/illustration](http://commarts.com/competitions/illustration)  
DEADLINE: 01/06/12
- **COMMUNICATION ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2012**  
[commarts.com/competitions/photography](http://commarts.com/competitions/photography)  
DEADLINE: 03/16/12

## FROM THE SEAT OF MY PANTS: WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH NEW. When faced with all of the rapidly evolving technology that is drastically changing the art world on an almost daily basis, it would seem to be sound methodology for survival. After all, we need to evolve just as quickly as the machines, or risk being obsolete. We update our curricula to teach the new technologies and keep our students at least current, if not ahead of the rest of the world.

But that mentality negates what Art & Design is all about – people communicating to people. New tools change how we do things – it’s as true today as it was for the Renaissance – but they should not change what we do. After all, people are not evolving at the same pace. The theory and practices that got us to this point are still just as pertinent, perhaps even more so, as we are now able to instantly communicate out into a global community.

So while we embrace the new, we practice the old. We still teach drawing (lots of drawing) as the basic visualization skill for all art. And with it, lots of design theory. From this solid foundation, any structure embracing technologies old or new can be built. Or can be redesigned to accommodate whatever is coming down the road next.

—Dr. Thomas Larose

## FAMOUS VSU GRADUATES

THOMAS MILLER: prolific graphic designer and visual artist, whose best known publicly accessible work is the collection of mosaics depicting the founders of the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago, Illinois.

