



MIAD graduates to join coveted creative class May 12

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PRESS RELEASE

MILWAUKEE... The Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design will award bachelor of fine arts degrees to 120 students at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 12, in the Milwaukee Public Library's Centennial Hall, 733 N. 8th St.

The graduates of Wisconsin's only independent, four-year college of art and design will join 2,200 other alumni in the coveted creative class that fuels the state's economy and society. Some 80 percent of MIAD alumni live and work in Wisconsin, negating a well-documented regional brain drain.

In keeping with MIAD tradition, the graduates elected speakers for their commencement exercises. They are:

- Jim Slauson, a professor of Art and Design History, and humanities courses, at MIAD for more than two decades. Slauson is a national conference speaker and presenter, most recently at this spring's FATE conference hosted by MIAD for art and design educators from across the country.
- Marissa Nans, an honors student with a major in Interior Architecture + Design and minor in Art History. Originally from Milwaukee and Pius XI High School, Nans is completing a yearlong internship at Engberg Anderson Design Partnership. Her senior thesis project, on exhibit through May 12, is a pre-fabricated kit home intended for mass building in the poverty-stricken townships of South Africa.
- Tom Wanderer, also an honors student and originally from Batavia, Ill., who majored in Printmaking. Before attending MIAD, Wanderer studied printmaking at Anchor Graphics in Chicago and worked as a printmaker for Chicago's Gallery 37 program. His thesis project encompasses mixed media painting, printmaking, drawing and collage to document this time in history with humor and cultural references.

All graduating seniors participate in the MIAD 2007 Senior Exhibition, which represents thesis work in the college's 11 bachelor of fine arts majors. It continues through May 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at MIAD's Third Ward campus, 273 E. Erie St. Admission is free.

An additional 20 seniors will receive their degrees in August and December 2007.

MIAD is Wisconsin's only college devoted exclusively to the education of artists and designers. Founded in 1974, it enrolls 650 talented students from across the country who are taught by artists and designers recognized regionally and nationally for their professional and educational accomplishments. Its unique academic approach blends curricular and extracurricular experiences, a community service course requirement, and liberal studies in 11 majors toward the bachelor of fine arts degree. With 80% of its 2,000 graduates living and working in Wisconsin, the college contributes a vital "brain gain" to the state that shapes its creative and economic future.