



MIAD 2015 Senior Exhibition highlights dedication to service, innovative approaches to problem solving

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**Summary:** MIAD 2015 Senior Exhibition, April 17 – May 9  
Opening Reception: Gallery Night, April 17, 5 – 9 p.m.  
[miad.edu/seniorexhibition](http://miad.edu/seniorexhibition); [Images available](#).

PRESS RELEASE

**MILWAUKEE...** Seatbelts for those afflicted with arthritis; improving teaching and learning for those with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); confronting the desire to uphold perfection; challenging the literal definition of painting. These topics only scratch the surface of the more than 130 emerging artists & designers in the MIAD 2015 Senior Exhibition.

Seniors at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design demonstrate their passion for service and creating innovative solutions to societal and economic challenges, and opportunities, in the 2015 Senior Exhibition, Wisconsin's largest exhibition of its kind.

**On view April 17 – May 9 throughout MIAD galleries, the exhibition is generously sponsored by BMO Harris Bank.**

Students will be available to discuss their work during the Opening Reception, Gallery Night, Friday, April 17, 5 – 9 p.m., and during the college-wide MIAD DEFINE, Wednesday, April 22, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Three students received an Alumni Thesis Exhibition Scholarship for their projects:

- **Zeke Johnson (Industrial Design)** – Inspired by his grandmother's decreased hand dexterity, Johnson redesigned the automotive seatbelt and buckle so that users with limitations due to arthritis and other conditions are able to independently buckle their seatbelt.
- **Samantha Primuth (Communication Design)** – Primuth's "The Skilled Dayreamers" takes a multi-sensory approach to teaching and learning for those with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). She incorporates visual, auditory and kinesthetic methods into educational platforms, improving engagement in the learning process.
- **Michelle Zealy (Drawing)** – Zealy constantly questions and challenges her mundane surroundings, seeing the ordinary in new ways. Her "Electrical Towers" re-create a typically mundane experience for audiences to share.

Among the inspiring work this year:

- **Noel Motzing (Industrial Design)** – Motzing's redesigns the police motorcycle in "RingRing." His design is based off of a full-size, functional dirt bike that fosters communication between police and their communities by challenging the image of police as enforcers or punishers. Akin to the D.A.R.E. program that focuses on educating about drug use, "RingRing" uses the excitement surrounding the world of extreme sports, and the high-flying potential of dirt bikes, to make kids feel comfortable about engaging with police, hopefully opening new lines of communication.
- **Emily Ebert (Communication Design)** – Ebert, first place winner of the AIGA Wisconsin Student Excellence Awards, creates a solution for the increasing demand for creative problem solving with "Primer," an online publication and framework for dynamic learning that provides tools and insights for prime creativity. Creative professionals of various backgrounds are invited to curate packages for users to try their way of thinking for a few weeks. Ebert's first curators include Aaron Draplin of Draplin Design Co., Jessica Walsh of Sagmeister & Walsh, and Anthony Giacomino of Milwaukee's BVK.

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- **Kayle Karbowski (Integrated Studio Arts)** –Karbowski creates “Landscaping,” a series of sculptural objects and video performances that confront the trivial desire to uphold an image of perfection. She renegotiates materials, colors and patterns as private aspirations and public performances collide.
- **Whitney Salgado (Illustration)** – Salgado couples her editorial and medical illustration passions to create work based on contemporary poetry written from the perspectives of patients with illnesses and their families. Her work reflects the stories of those suffering from medical and physical ailments.
- **Elaina Johann (Painting)** – Johann looks at painting’s tradition and history of criticism, rejection, acceptance and development to construct a literal definition of painting as the basic components of wall, frame, fabric and surface. Her organization of stretched canvases over frames examines painting’s relationship to itself as a surface and object in space.
- **Michelle Sharp (Photography)** – “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn,” Sharp’s favorite novel, is dissected and becomes a collaboration between Sharp and the novel’s protagonist, Francie. Sharp merges and inserts her images into Francie’s experiences, connecting with the character’s life and history.
- **Josh Christensen (Printmaking)** – “Cross Connection” is an artist-run and produced publication building platforms and settings to expose up-and-coming talent. Each issue in Christensen’s community-oriented project features interviews, stories and artist collaborations, and every issue has a new designer with creative control over the publication.
- **Kyle James (Time-Based Media)** – “The Death Drive,” James’s short film about a young thrill seeker, explores why humans have the urge to do dangerous things, and what it means to truly live.

MIAD DEFINE – a day dedicated to senior presentations, discussions, and TED-like lectures and presentations – happens within the 2015 Senior Exhibition, and is open to the public Wednesday, April 22, 9 a.m. – noon and 1 – 4 p.m. During the morning session, seniors discuss their capstone project and academic path.

The MIAD 2015 Senior Exhibition is on view April 17 – May 9 throughout all MIAD Galleries, 273 East Erie Street. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

*At the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, students driven to become creative professionals have the freedom to develop their talents beyond traditional boundaries while immersed in a transformative studio, academic and career-driven curriculum. On graduation, they join thousands of successful MIAD alumni whose talents are continuously in demand, and whose lifework is driven by the passion to inspire, problem solve and innovate for our economy and society.*