

# ARTISTS ON THE HILL

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY • SEPTEMBER 14–OCTOBER 12, 2012



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#### GALLERY SHOW DETAILS

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September 14–October 12, 2012  
Flaten Art Museum, St. Olaf College

*Opening Reception, September 14, 6–8 p.m.*

#### **Homecoming and Family Weekend**

September 21–23

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#### **Creativity and the Colleges: Art Crawl**

Welcome a new season with faculty  
exhibitions at Carleton and St. Olaf

#### ***Ibid.* (Referencing Carleton Collections)**

Perlman Teaching Museum, and Weitz  
Center Commons, Carleton College

*Opening Reception, September 14, 7–9 p.m.*  
*Artists' remarks at 7:30 p.m.*

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Every few years the Flaten Art Museum features work by all of the working artists in the Department of Art and Art History at St. Olaf College. This year we are pleased to include work by faculty emeriti A. Malcolm Gimse and Jan Shoger as well as work by the late Arch Leraan and John Maakestad. Such an exhibit gives students, colleagues, and visitors from near and far a glimpse into the minds and artistic activities of those in the department who teach both on a formal and an informal basis.

The work by past and present members of the department spans the breadth of media from paintings, drawings, and prints to textile, sculpture, ceramics, photography, and video, to combinations of media. This show represents the work of each artist.

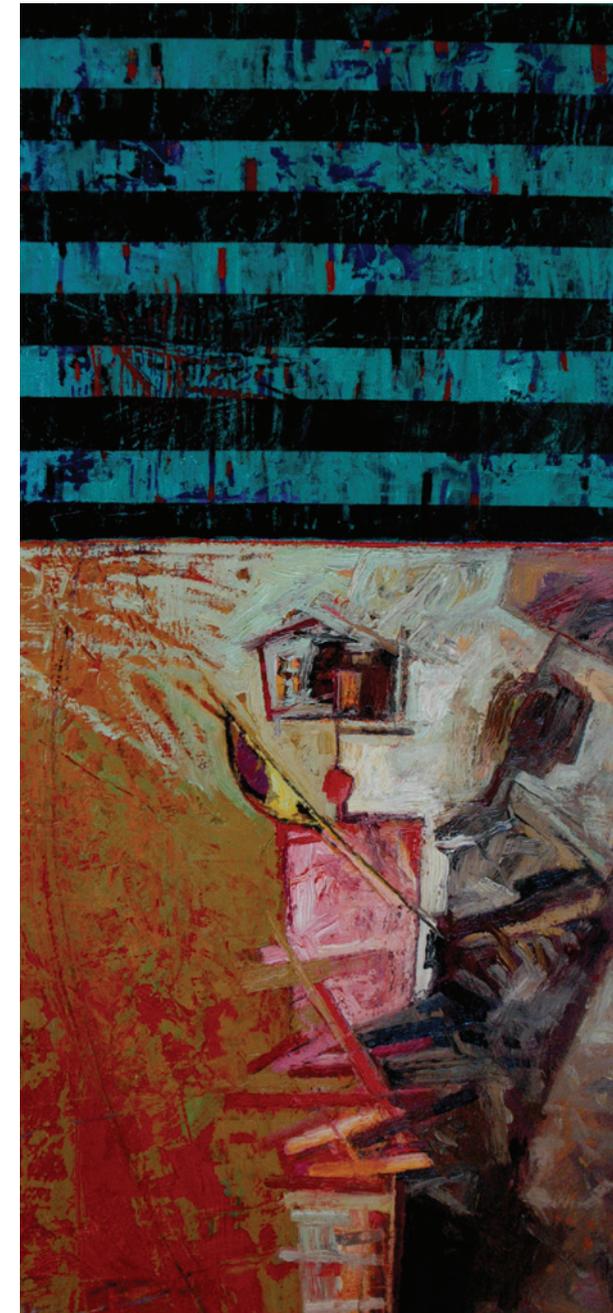
Jill Ewald  
*Director, Flaten Art Museum*

[stolaf.edu/collections/flaten](http://stolaf.edu/collections/flaten)

# WENDELL ARNESON

Wendell Arneson received his B.A. from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, his art education certification from the University of Wisconsin, and his M.F.A from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. His works have been exhibited nationally and internationally, and are included in numerous corporate and public collections. Arneson is the recipient of several national and international awards and grants, including travel grants. Recently named the Oscar and Gertrude Boe Overby Distinguished Professor, Arneson has been on the faculty at St. Olaf since 1978.

- *Painting occupies a space between the known and the unknown. The more a painting is viewed, the stronger it gets...it gains power from the viewers interaction with the work. This work draws from an inventory of images that make multiple, yet uncertain references allowing for content to shuffle, reinvent, and remake itself.*



## IRVE DELL

Irve Dell graduated from Williams College in 1983 with a major in biology and significant course work in art. He received an M.F.A in sculpture from the University of Minnesota in 1988. He is currently an associate professor of art at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. He has presented and exhibited locally, regionally, and internationally, including exhibitions at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Rochester Arts Center, and St. John's University. He was awarded a Bush Fellowship in 1988.

- *Most of the work for this show comes from applying sculpture to performance.*



## JILL EWALD

Jill Ewald earned an M.F.A. in visual arts from The Vermont College, Montpelier, Vermont, and a B.A. from St. Olaf College. She exhibits regionally and nationally. Her awards and honors include juror's awards, cash awards, and opportunity grants. Ewald regularly serves as a guest artist or juror. Her works are in many private collections across the country and in Norway. For more than a decade, Ewald has served as director of Flaten Art Museum at St. Olaf College. She and her husband, Ken, live in Northfield, Minnesota.

- *My work discusses light and space; it discusses art and its making. The surface of my art, even when the image is a simple line or mark, is tactile, one of traces, markings and forms that emerge into and disappear from focus, a visual parallel to how we are attuned to and unaware of our senses.*



# KATE FISHER

Kate Fisher received a B.A. in art history and studio art from St. Olaf College. She was an artisan on public commissions at RDG Dahlquist Art Studio before completing her M.F.A. at the University of North Texas. Prior to her arrival in Minnesota in 2008 she worked for Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, Colorado. Fisher has traveled internationally to enrich her artistic studies. She has taught ceramics, 3D foundations, and is the technical assistant for the art department at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

- *My work is either for or about the home. It is the first interior space we know as a human. It can be used as metaphor for our psyche. The spaces we inhabit in our daily lives often bear a resemblance to the home. I am drawn to the domestic environment through personal artifacts and emotion. Home to me is not just a specific place or structure. More often it is a feeling and/or geographic location.*



## RON GALLAS

Ron Gallas earned his B.A. from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and his M.F.A. in ceramics from the University of Minnesota. He has conducted regional, national, and international exhibitions, lectures, and workshops; grants and fellowships pepper his resume. His work can be found in several clay and ceramics publications. Gallas' teaching assignments have included Pennsylvania State University, Macalester College, and St. Olaf College, where he is currently an associate professor of art.

- *I have become increasingly infatuated with objects in nature that are created by the elements and the process of time, such as the southern California coastline. Each day, the organic and non-organic elements along with the ocean's edge rearrange into astonishing new visual presentations. I strive to infuse my work with this idea of creating a new language from nature's mysterious applications of organic compatibility. I view these latest endeavors as "New Terrain Sculptures."*



# MARY GRIEP

Mary Griep received a B.A. with honors from Macalester College and an M.A. from Hamline University. Her work has been shown regionally, nationally, and internationally, and is part of collections throughout the United States, including Bank of America, General Mills, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and the Minnesota Museum of American Art. Griep has been awarded grants, fellowships, and residencies, both nationally and internationally. A professor of art and art history at St. Olaf College, Griep has been a member of the art faculty since 1988 and specializes in drawing and painting.

- *Included in the faculty show is my ninth drawing in the Anastylosis Project, the Byzantine Church, St. Dimitrios of Thessaloniki, Greece. The Anastylosis Project is an ongoing series of large-scale drawings of medieval monuments around the world.*

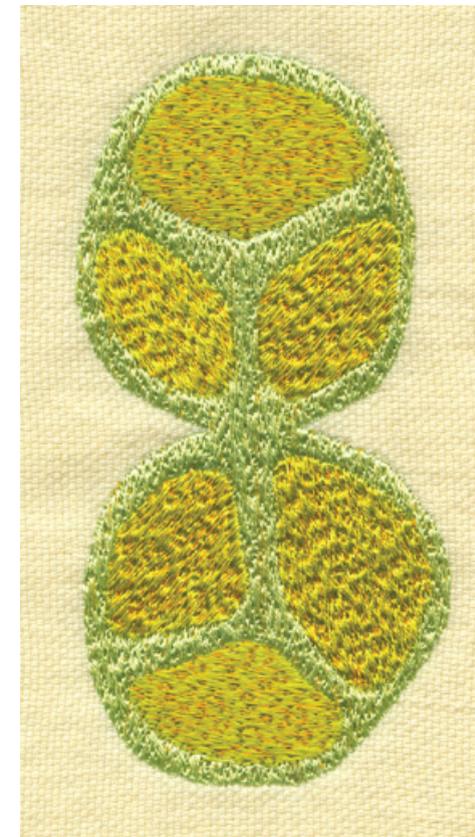


*St. Dimitrios Orthodox Church, Thessaloniki Greece*

# CHRISTIE HAWKINS

Christie Hawkins received a B.F.A. in glass and sculpture from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, and an M.F.A. in sculpture from the University of Minnesota. She has been with the St. Olaf Department of Art and Art History as technical supervisor since 1994. Christie and her husband, John Saurer, live in Northfield with their daughter, Anna.

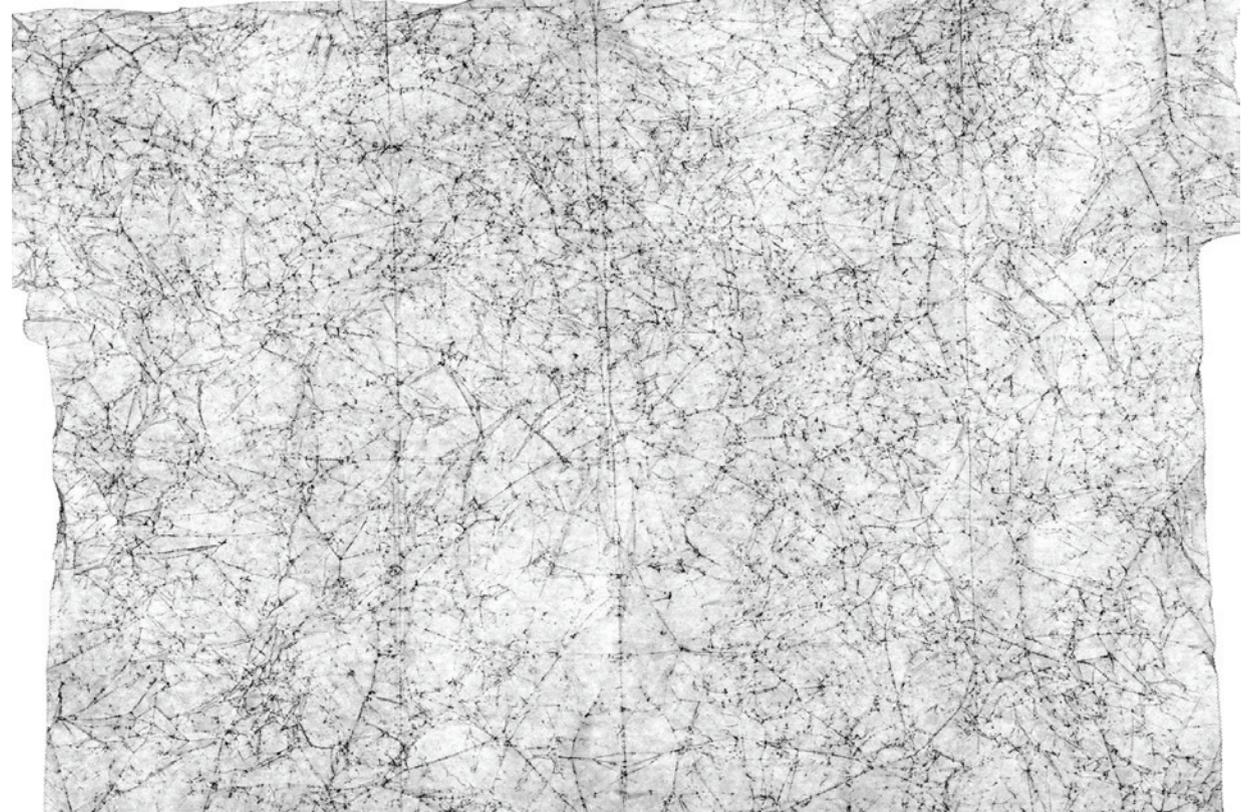
- *Some of my recent projects are made specifically for churches and worship spaces, and in some ways address that function. I also continue to work with smaller abstract pieces that explore formal elements such as texture, pattern, and optical abstraction. I've found the combination of these two ways of working to be more rewarding than either of them alone — something I liken to the mix of extrovert and introvert traits in a personality.*



## MEG OJALA

Meg Ojala has lived in Minnesota most of her life and taught photography at St. Olaf College for the past 30 years. A professor of art and art history, Ojala received her B.A. from the University of Minnesota and an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has exhibited in places such as the Groveland Gallery in Minneapolis, the Tisch School of Fine Arts, and the The Center for Photography at Woodstock, New York. She was a recipient of the University of Minnesota/McKnight Foundation Artist Fellowship for Photographers, and was one of 10 artists commissioned by the McKnight Foundation to document “Twin Cities Treasures.” She resides in Dundas, Minnesota.

- *My recent works are metaphors for the space and place of the mind and body. They represent the cartography of the breath, of habits of thinking, of injury and healing. They are compressed evocations of experience over time.*



## JOHN SAURER

John Saurer, an associate professor of art and art history at St. Olaf College, earned his B.A. at Hope College in Michigan and his M.F.A. at Colorado State University. His many exhibitions include shows in New York, Michigan, Georgia, Minnesota, North Dakota, Iowa, Colorado, and Argentina. His work consistently involves sculpture, printmaking, and drawing, and he has been teaching each of these media at St. Olaf since 1995.

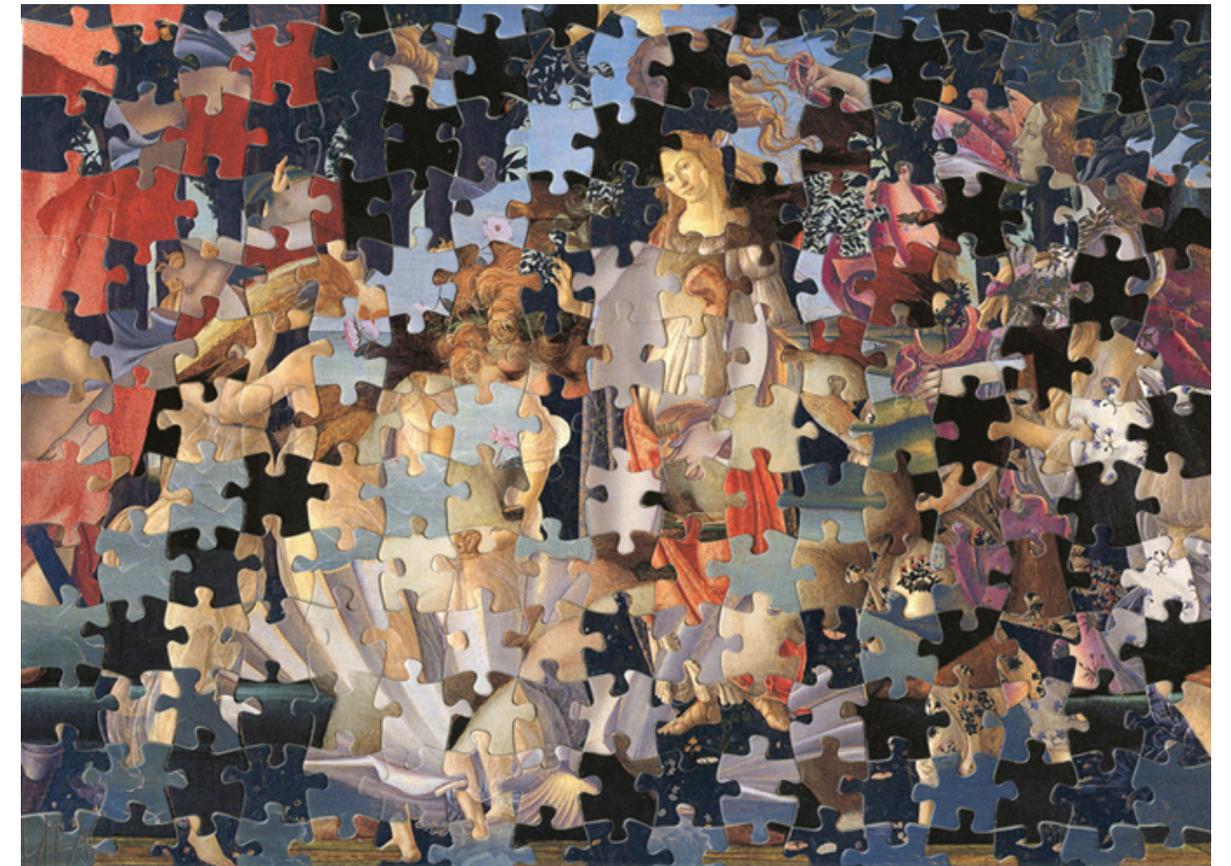
- *My artwork is a metaphor for order: sometimes re-expressing order found in the landscape, a mechanical process, the rhythm of form, personal relationships, and the life around me. Each work is often a collaboration of many independent parts that are crafted to come together and express a larger whole.*



# CHRISTOPHER TRADOWSKY

Christopher Tradowsky is a visiting assistant professor of art history at St. Olaf College. He received his doctorate in art history from UCLA, and a master's in interdisciplinary humanities from the University of Chicago. His undergraduate degree is from Macalester College, where he studied studio art with an emphasis on painting. When not teaching modern and contemporary art, Tradowsky has some time to make small collages and assemblages.

- *My most recent visual pieces have been directly influenced by my work as an art historian. I have always been fascinated by received genres and motifs, even quite clichéd or staid ones. Lately I have been trying to hybridize the logic of the genre with that of the game or puzzle by asking these two questions: can the parameters of an old genre be stretched like those of a game? Can the rigorous illogic (or aimless logic) of a puzzle help to refresh a visual motif?*



## MICHON WEEKS

Michon Weeks received her M.F.A. in drawing and painting from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and her B.A. from Iowa State University, Ames. Her exhibitions include many exhibits in Minnesota and Iowa, and she is the recipient of several prestigious grants. She has served on grant panels and hosted the Open Field Drawing Club at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. In 2011, Weeks created 20 etched-glass drawings for the windows of the Marshall-Lyon County Library. Weeks is currently teaching studio art at St. Olaf.

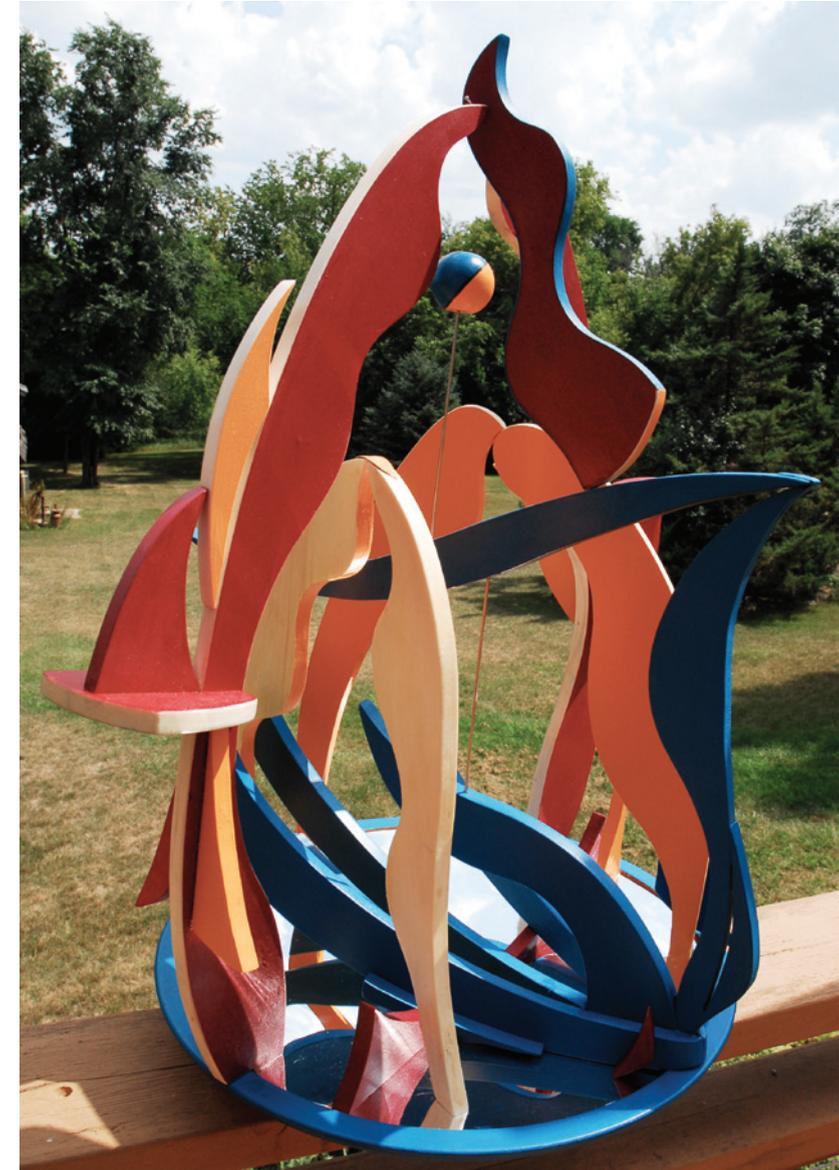
- *My artwork is inspired by a mixture of cultural influences. I combine imagery from popular culture with words and symbols from biblical narratives, abstracting the forms with systems from traditional crafts. I use objects from popular culture to help cut through the years and cultures that separate us from the Bible. The subjects in my work are abstracted to indicate that the forms are not literal representations, but are symbols representing ideas.*



## A. MALCOLM GIMSE

During his 31 years as a member of the St. Olaf art faculty, A. Malcolm “Mac” Gimse ’58 fostered a love for faith, art, and teaching in a rich learning environment for students, helping them reach for the cultural and spiritual meaning beneath the surface of a sculpture or other work of art. A professor emeritus of art, Gimse combines his interests in art and teaching with his other passion: travel. As an artist, sculptor, and poet, Gimse has completed many commissions for his work, and his sculpture and poetry have been exhibited and presented around the world, from the United Nations to the Vatican, to many places in Asia. St. Olaf commissioned him to create bronzes and write poetry for five Nobel Peace Prize Forums, including “Roots and Wings” for Laureate, President Jimmy Carter. “Bearing the Burden of Peace” is in the Nobel Institute in Oslo, Norway.

- *In the last few years, Gimse has been collaborating with composers to set his poetry to music for the St. Olaf Band and St. Olaf Choir. He shares his vision of life, love, and faith through the eyes and hands of a spiritually-based artist who has traveled the world in search of inspiration for his sculpture and poetry. But he is always happy to come back to St. Olaf, where his aesthetic can flourish and he feels at home.*



# JAN SHOGER

For the past decade, since retiring from St. Olaf College where she taught drawing and printmaking for 20 years, Jan Shoger has been producing and exhibiting lithographs, woodcuts, monoprints, and etchings as part of the Co-op at Highpoint Center for Printmaking in Minneapolis. During this time she participated in juried exhibitions in the Twin Cities area at Groveland Gallery, Phipps Gallery, Plymouth Church Gallery, and the Northfield Arts Guild Gallery.

- *I have been exploring natural phenomena and objects that have weathered. They change significantly as they adapt to forces of the elements and time. In this process not only their texture and shape changes but they often become radically transformed, taking on unexpected complexity and beauty. They evolve into what appears as abstractions.*

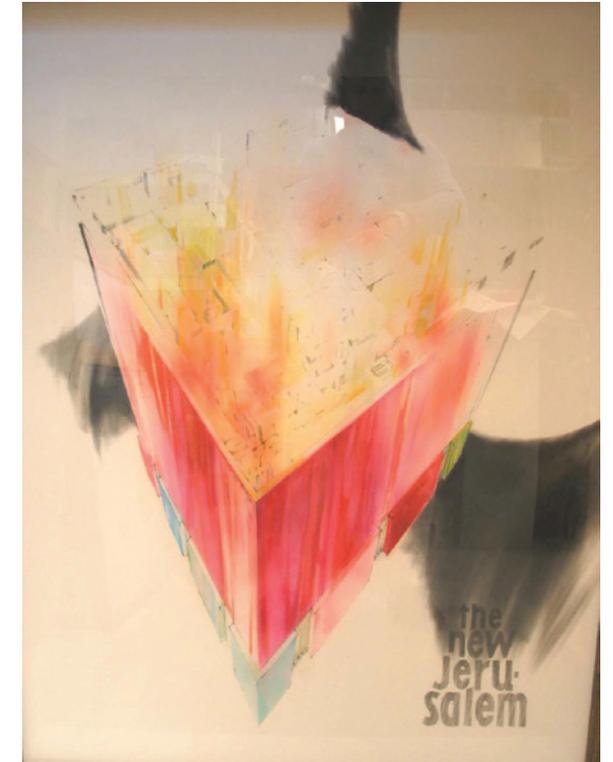


# ARCH LEEAN

Arch Leean (1929 – 2011) came to St. Olaf College in 1964 after beginning his career as an animator for a number of well-known entertainment companies in Los Angeles, including Walt Disney Studios, Hanna-Barbera Productions, Creston Studios, and Clokey Productions. His artistic activity included documentary, animation and live action films, drawings, paintings, computer enhanced drawings and prints, and sculpture. The home he made in Reed Springs, Missouri, with his wife Mary, following his retirement from St. Olaf in 1993, is itself a work of art.

- *“Visual art for me is a way to respond to personal experience. Sometimes the experience is simply discovering a different material, sometimes a memory. Regardless, the process is always satisfying and usually enjoyable.”*

From catalog copy, *Faculty Past and Present* (February 2002)



# JOHN MAAKESTAD

John Maakestad (1928 – 2012) earned a B.A. in art and English at St. Olaf College in 1950, then served in the military until 1953. His love of art took him to the State University of Iowa where he earned an M.F.A. in 1956, the same year he joined the St. Olaf art faculty. During his 38 years at St. Olaf, Maakestad taught drawing, design, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Although he retired in 1994, Maakestad remained active in art-making in a variety of media until the time of his death.

- *“Art-making is a conversation among several contributors, the doer or maker, the medium or materials, or tools; the subject such as a tree or an ant or a formal relationship or a story or another artwork or a real or imagined event or dimly perceived feelings. Doing or making might be verbs which are too active. More often the maker is an earnest listener...”*

From catalog copy, *Faculty Past and Present* (February 2002)

