

FALL  
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## SCOPE

is a newsletter dedicated to keeping UT's community of art educators connected. The mission of the newsletter is to communicate the interests and accomplishments of current students, alumni, and faculty.

### Editor

Adele Powers

### Faculty Advisor

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# SCOPE

Artwork by MA candidate Raina Michalovic

## News from the Art Education Program at the University of Texas

November 27, 2019

### Letter from the Editor:

This semester has seen a flurry of activity: the TAEA conference in Galveston, programming at the VAC for families and teachers, a cohort field trip with Dr. Heise to a preschool in South Austin, as well as research and classwork for the Art Education Masters cohort of 2021.

We are a diverse group: Fine Art, English, Anthropology, and Political Science majors from Maine, Alabama, Georgia, Texas and elsewhere. Our artistic practices are even more diverse: we are painters, landscape architects, bookmakers, caricature artists. Two of the cohort, Shaun and Paige, are full-time teachers in Georgetown and San Antonio respectively. The rest of us come from other jobs or undergraduate programs: SMU, SAY Si, bartending, the Chinati Foundation. As a group, we come together each Monday and Wednesday for three-hour seminars about teaching art, where we learn as much from each other as we do our professors.

Please enjoy this issue of Scope, written by the Art Education masters candidates. It contains profiles of Clare Donnelly (a graduate of the program and current gallery manager at the VAC), and Dr. Donalyn Heise, a visiting professor. Also included are impressions of this year's TAEA conference and profiles of current students and working student teachers.

Happy holidays and warm wishes from sunny Austin,  
Adele Powers

## TAEA in Galveston

*Shaun Lane is a VAS graduate and has been teaching for 5 years. He's heavily involved with TAEA, having served in leadership positions and attended the conference for the last six years. Sarah Belle Sellinger is a first-year master's candidate and new to TAEA. These are their impressions from Galveston's TAEA Conference of 2019.*



Shaun: I have attended every TAEA State conference since 2013, and every year I am blown away by the amount of selflessness and sacrifice that comes part and parcel with this profession. I have been fortunate to be a part of the organization's leadership for this time period, and with that comes the esteemed privilege to be in a room of educators who have molded and shaped art education into what it is today. The word that continually came to mind for me during the conference in Galveston was 'Giants'. Men and women from all parts of the state and different backgrounds having an extremely profound impact on student's lives through art; all of it above and beyond what is required of them in the TEKS. The hours of volunteered time, time sacrificed from other personal pursuits I would wager, easily numbering into days, months, and years. I find that during these conferences—the one this year no exception—that I am a sponge. I do very little talking, and a great deal of listening, garnering wisdom from these titans and their expertise. I look forward to conference every year for this reason. I am inspired, amazed, affirmed, and challenged all at the same time.





# TAEA NEWS



All photos courtesy of Dr. Bain. Pictured: Dr. Bain delivering a presentation, a TAEA display table, one of the Houston Art Cars, Betsy Murphy receives the TAEA Higher Educator of the Year Award, Dr. Bain and Betsy Murphy, Dr. Bain with Elainy Lopez and Sakura Stevens.

Sarah: As a first time TAEA conference participant, I can see the value of gathering art teachers together yearly. The conference program outlined many different sessions that were available to attend, focusing on art lessons for elementary, middle and high school, as well as higher education. There were also a number of ticketed options for art workshops available for conference participants. Getting from one part of the convention center to the other was a pleasant experience because there were art pieces by children of all ages on display as well as various making-stations. The Houston Art Cars made an appearance on Friday, drawing many people out of the convention hall to take photos of the wacky car-decor. Many art supply companies had booths in the exhibitor's hall offering their goods, as well as highly discounted art supplies and sketchbooks. Friday and Saturday at 2:30 there was a keynote speaker, but unfortunately I wasn't able to make it to those sessions. Friday night there was an artisan's market that also served as a social. There was a bar available and select participants had handmade goods, like candles, jewelry, and ornaments for sale. I think the best way to get the most out of the experience is to do some research about which sessions you are most interested in attending, sign up for some workshops to learn new art techniques, and go with a coworker (or co-student) that you enjoy sharing meals and time with. I look forward to attending the conference again next year, a little more experienced.

## Visiting Associate Professor Joins UT's Art Education Team

by J. Paige Gandara-Valderas, MA Candidate, Schools



UT Austin's art education program welcomed Donalyn Heise, PhD to the team this fall. Heise has been an artist and educator for over 30 years and has a wide range of experience: she's taught in K-12 classrooms; lectured at the university level; worked in communities and in museums; and conducted professional development for educators across the country. She is currently teaching one undergraduate course, Conversations and Criticism in Art Education; and two graduate courses--Contemporary Issues in Art Education and Museum Education: History and Theory at the University of Texas.

Dr. Heise was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where her love of art flourished from a young age. She earned her bachelor's in 1987 with a degree in art education from Louisiana State University. Following this, she pursued a master's degree at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. Heise's thesis culminated in a gifted endorsement for educators that focused on art and technology integration. She gathered research from Nebraska art teachers about their use of the internet/technology within their classrooms.

After earning her master's, Heise went on to earn her doctorate degree at Nova South Eastern University in instructional technology and education, a leadership program tailored around art and art education. Her research focused on art teacher preparation, art and resilience, and community art collaborations.

After her doctorate degree, Heise began teaching at the University of Nebraska in 2001. She later worked for the US Department of Education, where she was involved in the Technology Innovation Challenge Grant. Also while at the Department of Education, Heise was appointed Art and Technology Coordinator, working with museums across the state and in five school districts. She served as Director for the Center for Innovation in Art Education, Director of the Paul R Williams Project Education, President of the Tennessee Art Education Association, President of the Nebraska Art Teachers Association, founding board member of the Nebraska Alliance for Art, and Education Advisory Committee of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens.

Some of her awards and achievements include the 2013 Tennessee Special

# FACULTY UPDATE

Needs Art Educator of the Year award, 2010 Tennessee Art Educator of the Year, the 2010 NAEA Southeastern Region Higher Ed award, the 2009 NAEA VSA CEC Beverly Levett Gerber Special Needs Lifetime Achievement Award, 2007 Tennessee Higher Ed Art Educator of the Year and the Nebraska Art Teachers' Association Supervisor /Administrator of the Year Award, 1997.

Dr. Heise lived in Texas in the 80s, and recently found herself wanting to move back. She and her family chose Austin.

"I was ready to get back (closer) to home, so I moved back to Texas and I have been doing professional development with educators and teachers across the country," Heise said. "Then, I was invited to come this year to work with students and teach full-time at the University of Texas – I missed teaching in the classroom even though I am doing professional development in education."

Heise was already living in Austin prior to being employed at UT, and it was a natural fit to join the Art Education Department. While working in the field of professional development here, she found a respect for UT's art education program, and now feels honored to teach at the university.

"The UT art education program has such a great reputation and there's so many talented people coming out of these programs and going into museums, working in the community or in schools – I feel like it's an honor to work here – I mean it truly is," Heise said.

Heise loves to teach art and anything art-based. Aside from teaching, she is also a practicing artist and exhibits her work. In the past, she's painted on canvas, but her interests now are in china-painting as a fine art form, substituting porcelain for canvas. Heise's passion for china-painting was developed as a teenager in Louisiana.

Heise is also a published author. She is the co-editor of the book, *Art for Children Experiencing Psychological Trauma: A Guide for Art Educators and School-Based Professionals*. In addition, she co-authored *Working with Students Who Have Anxiety: Creative Connections and Practical Strategies* with Beverly Johns and Adrienne Hunter.

With all the experience that Heise has to offer, she is especially happy to work with and help her students at UT. The best advice that she has to offer her students this year is, "don't wait for the funding to start up a dream project!" Heise is willing to help find ways to make funding and research happen. Other advice includes: continue to network and build relationships; focus on self-care.

Heise already sees the potential in her current students at UT Austin and feels lucky to be a part of their educational journey and share her wisdom with students who she believes will change the world.

"The thing that excites me the most is working with students," Heise said. "I see the potential in all of my students, and I can just picture the mark that they are going to make on the world one day. They will continue to shape it and to think that I got to be a tiny part of their professional and academic journey is awesome."



# STUDENT UPDATE



**JULIA DAVIS**

Julia is an educator interested in accessibility and interdisciplinary practices in museums. She is originally from Thomasville, GA. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and Art History and a Bachelor of Science in Educational Studies with a focus in Secondary Education at Southern Methodist University in 2019. During her time at SMU, Julia interned at museums such as the Meadows Museum, the Old Red Museum, and the Denver Art Museum. She enjoys learning the names of colors, sushi, the word “autumnal,” doing puzzles, free stuff, and baking shows.

**LESLIE FLORES**

Leslie is a first year graduate student in Art Education, with a focus on schools. She graduated in May of 2019 from the University of Central Arkansas with a BA in Psychology. She is pursuing her masters in Art Education because she is passionate about empowering students. While at the University of Texas, she intends to expand her knowledge in art, in teaching, and in working with others.



**ERIN FRISCH**

Erin is an embroidery artist who specializes in painting with thread. She has taught community embroidery workshops at the Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas Contemporary, and Oil and Cotton. Erin earned a Bachelor of Arts with honors in Art History and English from Trinity University in San Antonio. While living in San Antonio, she served as the Operations Director of the nationally recognized creative youth development organization SAY Sí, providing opportunities for youth to create art. In her free time, she likes to write for her arts blog, Certain Slant of Light, and cuddle with her cat Theodore.

# STUDENT UPDATE



## PAIGE GANDARA-VALDERAS

Paige graduated from St. Mary's University in 2017 with a BA in Art Education and is now pursuing her MA in the schools track. She currently lives in San Antonio, TX as a full-time high school art teacher in SAISD (yes, she commutes twice a week from SA to ATX!) She's passionate about her profession and enjoys being a part of young lives as they discover new aspects of themselves through art. She's also a traveling caricature artist and business owner. Her other interests include digital design, writing and photography. She spends her (little) spare time with her Corgi, Ollie; her friends; and traveling.

## SHAUN LANE

Shaun Lane is 5th year public school art educator serving students in the Georgetown Independent School District. He teaches Ceramics, Sculpture, and Drawing at East View High School. Teaching art has granted him many opportunities to reflect on his own life, relationships, and artistic practice. He enjoys learning and helping others to learn. Shaun lives with his wife, daughters, and dogs in Jarrell, Tx. He uses the quote by Austin "Dusty" Miller as a metaphor for his life, "Man's flight through life is sustained by the power of his knowledge."



## KAREN MARCO

Karen earned her BA in Political Science and Visual Art from Eckerd College in Florida. While pursuing dual degrees, she interned for local government and community art programs. During her time at Clearwater, FL's Parks and Recreation Department, she learned how local governments coordinate events. This experience merged her passions for art, community involvement, and political science. She also worked with the non-profit organization Creative Clay as both an art therapy volunteer and event coordinator, where she grasped first-hand the importance of community fundraising. After graduating, Karen worked primarily in childcare, as a nanny and a preschool teacher. She is passionate about using art as a means to foster community, and hopes to create more spaces where all people can have access to art and art education.



# STUDENT UPDATE



**RAINA MICHALOVIC**

Raina is a multidisciplinary artist, spatial designer, and plant person. She earned a BA in Studio Art from the University of Southern Maine in 2007, where she blended sculpture, printmaking, architectural drafting and design. She earned a Master of Landscape Architecture from UT Austin in 2012, and has since worked as an art studio assistant, independently in plant and garden design, and as a garden educator for a local preschool. As an artist, her work includes drawing, painting, collage, metalwork, assemblage, and weaving. Raina is a mom of two, and spends her free time with her family.

**ALEXIS PIERCE**

Alexis is an artist and writer pursuing a Master's degree in Art Education. Alexis earned a Bachelor of Arts with honors in Anthropology and Studio Art from the University of Alabama. Her interests include painting, drawing, and printmaking.



**ADELE POWERS**

Adele is an artist and educator pursuing her masters to become a certified teacher. She received her BA in English and Plan II from UT in 2014. From 2015 – 2019, Adele worked for the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas as a museum educator. Her interests include rural education, screen printing, book binding, illustration and child development.



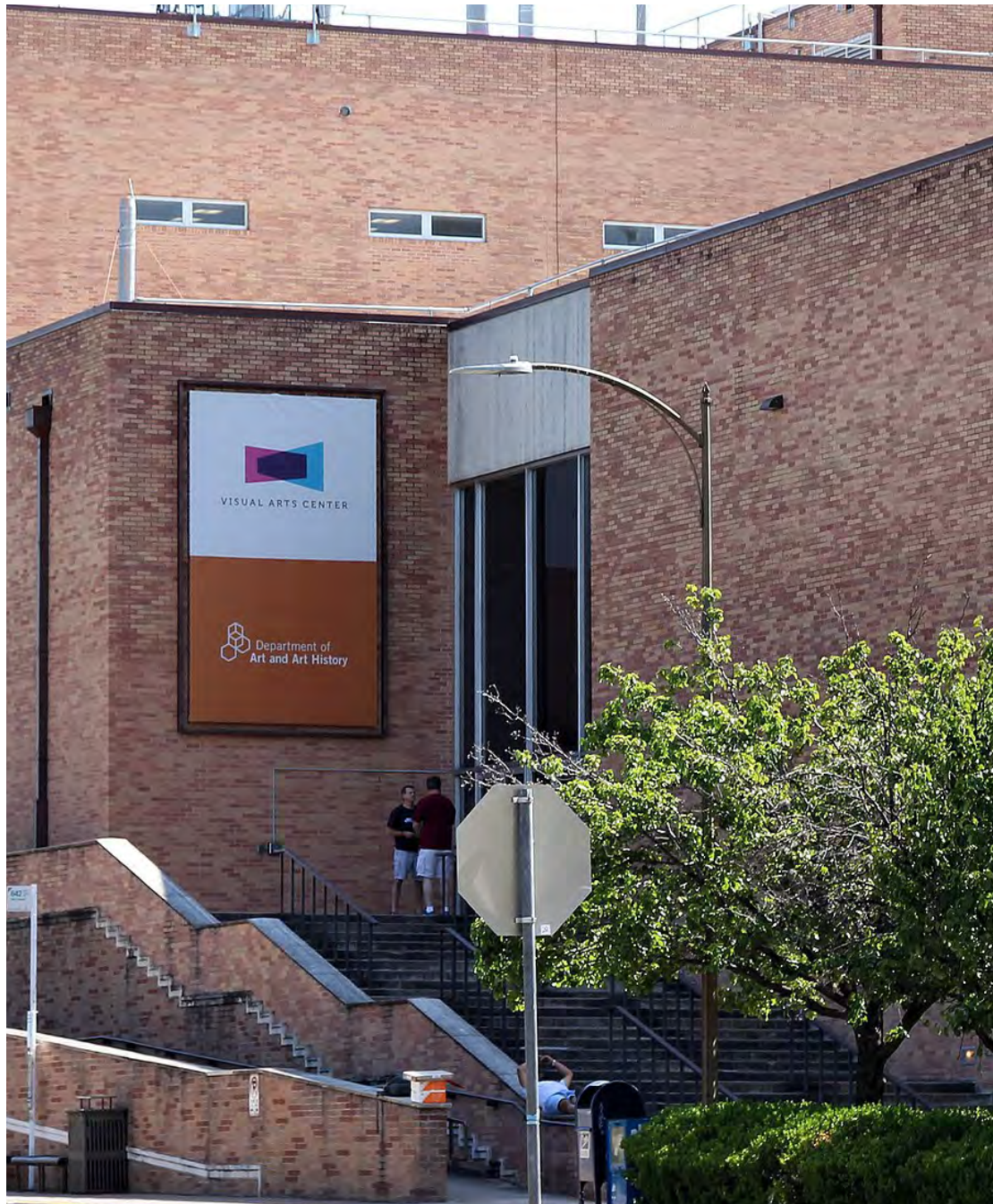


# STUDENT UPDATE



**SARAH BELLE SELINGER**

Sarah earned her Bachelor's degree in Studio Arts at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa, where she was born and raised. Shortly after college she moved to Austin, Texas and worked as a painter and event manager for 5 years before beginning graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Art Education with a schools focus. Her passions include community activities, exploring, making art, and hiking with her husband, Paul, and their two dogs, Athena and Dottie.





# STUDENT TEACHER UPDATE



**KRISTIN GARRISON**

Kristin is an educator with interests in art museum accessibility and emerging technologies. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Willamette University in 2016. While living in Austin she has worked in the education departments of the Mexic-Arte Museum, The Contemporary Austin, and the Blanton Museum of Art. She is currently writing her thesis on virtual museums and their potential use in art classrooms and hopes to graduate in December 2019. When she's not writing, Kristin enjoys playing with her cat Cricket and reading for fun.

**ELAINY LOPEZ**

Elainy is from Dallas, Texas. She has a B.F.A. in studio art and a B.A. in anthropology. Her thesis, "Weaving Experiences: A Study of the Learning Experiences of Two Maya Weavers in Guatemala", explores the learning and teaching experiences of two Maya weavers throughout their weaving practice. This semester she is student teaching at MST Elementary and West Arts and Technology Magnet in Richardson, Texas as she works towards completing her teaching certification. In her free time, she enjoys reading for fun and continuing her personal art practice through drawing, printmaking, and painting.



**CAITLYN MCKEY**

Caitlyn is a teacher and artist with an interest in mindfulness-based art making. She has worked with the Cancer Rehab Center of Austin, creating a series of mindfulness-based art classes that focus on connecting emotions and experiences to color, line, and shape. She has also taught ceramics at Laguna Gloria. Currently, Caitlyn is student-teaching and plans to graduate in Spring 2020. In the spring, Caitlyn plans to work with local artist and illustrator Rebecca Borelli in designing and implementing an intuitive-based art class at Borelli's co-op studio, the Lemon House. In the coming years, Caitlyn plans to continue to build her experience in teaching and practicing mindfulness-based art. Caitlyn's long term goals include another master's degree—this time in art therapy.





# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## A Profile of Clare Donnelley

by Erin Frisch, MA Candidate, Museum Education

Clare Donnelly currently serves as the Gallery Manager of the Visual Art Center (VAC), a contemporary art gallery situated on the UT campus in the Department of Art and Art History. She's a graduate of UT's Art Education M.A. program, where she focused on Museum Education.

Clare considers the VAC an important space in the broader context of the university, telling me, "because we're situated on the university campus we're an educational resource. We see ourselves as a learning lab in many ways." It's a space where arts practitioners entering the field (artists, curators, and educators) can get experience, take risks, and experiment. Clare began her time at the VAC as a T.A., and she was hired after receiving her master's degree. Gradually, Clare's job took on more administrative and gallery management duties—over the course of three years, the role morphed into Gallery Manager. Now, when people without an arts background come to the VAC, Clare gets excited. She acknowledges that the work displayed at the VAC can include "daunting or confusing works of contemporary art," but the possibility of a connection with that work through tours and gallery teaching far outweighs the initial fear or confusion. Donnelly believes that we can use those works of art to have conversations that are relevant to all our lives.



Maria Antelman: Mechanisms of Affection installation view, VAC, 2019. Photo: Mark Doroba

# A L U M N I SPOTLIGHT

Clare grew up in Rhode Island. Although her family-life didn't emphasize the arts, Donnelly found herself engaging in theater with her older sister, playing the viola in orchestra and acting in musicals. In college, at Georgetown University, she took risks and experimented in a theater club. After taking a modern art history course that changed the course of her undergraduate career, she decided to major in art history. Donnelly loved the ideas she was learning about in modern art, fascinated by how those ideas could become representations. While pursuing her art history degree, Clare also minored in studio art and wrote a column for the newspaper that connected art to our everyday lives—striving to make art accessible and fun. Clare had two influential internships: at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, she developed public programming. At the Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Clare developed a voice as an educator helping visitors understand modern art.

Clare's favorite class while in the M.A. Art Education program was Museum Education Practice and Application with Melinda Mayer. Dr. Mayer, who retired the year after Clare's influential class with her, is described by Donnelly as "an incredible museum educator" who "pushed us to develop our ideas and think deeper about all these questions around access and mission." In Mayer's class, the students developed a self-guided iPad app targeted at millennials that offered a tour of the Blanton. The class helped Clare experience rewarding in-gallery experiences and to learn how to captivate an audience while making art accessible.

In terms of advice for current graduate students, Clare says, "See everything as an opportunity." Clare was able to turn her experience as a T.A. with the VAC into a full-time job. She advises us to seek every opportunity UT Austin has to offer. In turn, Clare also advises, "Be kind to yourself and listen to yourself. Know when you're doing too much." She says that her cohort formed a tight-knit group who loved and supported each other through the program and beyond. For Clare, that support came in handy—especially during thesis writing. "Other people in your life might not want to hear you endlessly rant about Chapter 3." Keeping in touch, those who stayed in Austin even have a book group. "I am so grateful for my little community that I found in this program."

Clare finished our conversation with words of encouragement and support to the current cohort, "Just know that I'm just downstairs, I'm in the building. I'm a resource. I came out of this program. I remember it fondly. And so is the VAC."



Nikita Gale: EASY LISTENING, installation view, VAC, 2019. Photo: Mark Doroba.