### Columbia Visual Arts Students, Alumni to Participate in Venice and Prague Biennales

**BY KRISTIN STERLING**

This summer the School of the Arts (SOA) will be represented at one of the oldest, and one of the newest international art exhibitions—the 50th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition (June 15–Nov. 2) and the 2nd Prague Biennale (opening June 20) respectfully.

One year after graduating from the SOA, Dana Schutz will participate in both exhibitions. She was selected for the "Clandestine" section within the Venice Biennale where she will have four oil on canvas paintings on exhibition: "The Breeders," "The Chicken and Egg," "Suicide" and "Lovers."

Schutz says the Clandestine section comprises younger artists who have various approaches to art. While it is not a cohesive group show, Schutz points out that this diversity fits with the Biennale’s overall theme this year, which reflects on the idea of the large scale contemporary international exhibition, questioning the validity of such an exhibition as representative of the current status of contemporary art.

At the end of June she will travel to Prague, where she will have three new paintings on exhibition in the Biennale: "Fifty Foot Queenie," "FJ. Hancock," and one unnamed work in progress.

"Prague is a new international art show with a lot of younger artists," says Schutz. "It will be a very energetic show."

She will return to New York in the fall when she will teach a figure painting class at Columbia’s School of the Arts. In addition to Schutz, Visual Arts Professor Rakhi Tiravanija is one of the curators at the 50th Venice Biennale and a recent recipient of the Smithsoniam American Art Museum’s Lucelia Artist Award for his pioneering approach to the creation and presentation of art.

In conjunction with the Venice Biennale, Columbia is the only university in the United States invited to participate in a special student program. In the weeks leading up to the Biennale opening Will Kwan, SOA’04, and Rachel Foulion, SOA’04, are joining students from art schools in countries ranging from Australia and China to France and Slovenia in creating site-specific art-works to be displayed outdoors along the path between the two main exhibition areas: Gianinini and Ane~nale.

The title of the student show is "Recycling the Future," in which artists will work to create a street of possible worlds, physical places and renovated ideas from the past that will be relevant to the future. The entire project will be created while the students are in residence in Venice. The opening of this exhibition will coincide with the press opening of the Biennale, June 12, and participating universities will be represented in the official catalogue.

Prior to leaving for Venice, neither Kwan nor Foulion had ideas in mind for the project. "I want the experience of Venice to help fabricate the results," says Foulion. "I want to use materials and technologies that are available locally—things that are specific to Venice—rather than transplanting what I do here."

Kwan echoes her sentiment. Since it is a site-specific project, many of my decisions will be determined by responses to the site," he said. "Being trained as a performance artist, my intuition is toward something performative, event-based and ephemeral."

After Kwan concludes his four-week residency in Venice, he will head to Prague where he and Schutz will participate in the Prague Biennale along with SOA students Karn~nour Aram, José León Cerrillo and Karel Fischler.

For his project in Prague, Kwan has been working with a New York-based Lithuanian curator who has created a "Lithuanian pavilion" for the Biennale. Kwan’s project involves trying to identify and communicate with Lithuanian expatriate/immigrant communities in the New York region. His installation in Prague will consist of research and documents related to his efforts to infiltrate these communities. This project will continue on the Contemporary Art Center in Vilnius, Lithuania, as part of the "24/7" exhibition.

Columbia Funk will have three untitled acrylic on panel paintings exhibited in Prague, while Aram will exhibit two 5’ by 7’ on canvas paintings entitled “Beyond the Borders II” and “Beyond the Borders III.” He sums up the feelings of many by saying, “This is the first time I am showing my work internationally and it is pretty exciting.”

### Kraft Center’s Third Annual Seixas Dinner Raises $500,000 for Columbia/Barnard Hillel

**BY JASON HOLLANDER**

During the Revolutionary War, Ger~n~ M. Seixas, the first American-born rabbi, was ordered by British troops who had recently captured New York City to make his congregation pray to Philadelphia, where religious freedom still existed.

Seixas eventually returned to New York after the war to serve as a Columbia College trustee for over 30 years. As a trustee, he was instrumental in helping the fabricate the Columbia Columbia U niversity R ecord June 10, 2003

### Columbia/Barndan Hillel Engages students in over 70 groups and all facets of Jewish cultural, social, religious, artistic, and educational life. A thriving program also serves the graduate and professional schools with regular dinners and events. The organization received the University’s Alma Mater Award this year for its contribution to positive community building on campus.

Hillel’s Tzedek Hillel program weaves social action into the fabric of Jewish student life through community service and partnerships with other campus and neighborhood agencies. Its “Alternative Spring Break” sends a group of students to El Salvador to work on sustainable development projects, and to explore how social justice commitments are integral to their Jewish identity.

Hillel also puts on an assortment of social events that bring Jewish students together throughout the year. The Hannukkah Ball features a live band and dancing, while the annual Homan Coleman Festival of Jewish Performing Arts—now in its 13th year—includes a cappella groups, Israeli dance troupes and klezmer bands from campuses on the East Coast. Classes are offered by selected community members and Hillel Rabbis Charles Slicer and Jennie Rosenn. This year, the Center initiated a new Reconstructionist group and “Alternative Mondays,” featuring Jewish meditation.

Prior Seixas Award winners include business leader Robert Kraft, publisher Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, novelist Herman Wouk, and former Columbia President George Rupp.

More than 300 alumni, parents, faculty, and students attended the annual Seixas Awards dinner, which raised over $500,000 for Hillel activities. Pictured, from left, are: Trustee Emeritus Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, CC’51; International Hillel Chairman Edgar M. Bronfman; Trustee Robert Kraft, CC’63; Norma Lerner—President Leo L. Bollinger, Hillel Board Chairman Earle W. Kazis, Business’58, and Hillel Co-President Richard K. Kobrin, CC’62.