

2013 USC International Artist Fellowship Program

Frederico Fernandez

Brazil



ANIMATION & DIGITAL ARTS



Frederico Fernandez is a distinguished artist whose painting, illustrations, graffiti art, and animation create hybrid blends of digital media and exhibition formats. Born in Bahia, Brazil, Fernandez received his Bachelor's degree in Advertising/Communication from the University of São Paulo. To further build on his artistic training, Fernandez left Brazil to study Fine Arts and Animation at École Émile Cohl, in the city of Lyon, France. After living and exhibiting art for more than two and a half years between Paris and Lyon, he moved back to his native country of Brazil. During this period, Fernandez worked with projects in animation, illustration and design as well as independent fine art projects and exhibitions of his own. His endeavors include working on the feature film *Ritos de Passagem* as an animator and background artist and showcasing his first illustration exhibit in conjunction with Sinlogo Studio.

Fernandez's diverse subject matters range from political and social commentary to purely illustrative vivid depictions of everyday life in São Paulo. His passion and innovation utilizing animated graffiti street art projected onto buildings as well as his work being streamed live across the internet, reflects the mobility and reach of indigenous art forms to a broader global audience. Much of this art is created to convey our individual and collective needs for coexistence and his hope to bring social awareness to the environmental consequences of unchecked human development.

Fernandez is trilingual, with language fluency in Portuguese, French, and English. As a USC International Artist Fellow, he will begin his Master of Fine Arts degree in the USC School of Cinematic Arts' John C. Hench Division of Animation and Digital Arts.

2013 USC International Artist Fellowship Program

Vladimir Gorbach

Russia 

GUITAR



Internationally acclaimed guitarist Vladimir Gorbach has captivated audiences across the world and in his native country of Russia. He has been a featured performer for some of the most highly regarded concert organizations, festivals and musical institutions in the world, performing on the Moscow Philharmonic Concert Series, at the Koblenz International Guitar Festival in Germany, and for the Sydney Crow's Nest Concert Cycle in Australia. He has also been a soloist with orchestras such as the Orchestra de Las Beiras and Orchestra de Aveiro in Portugal as well as the Russian Academic Chamber Orchestra "Musica Viva" at the famed Tchaikovsky Hall.

A first place winner of more than ten of the most important international competitions, his most recent win at the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America's International Concert Artist Competition earned him a 50-city concert tour of the U.S., (including his Carnegie Hall debut in February 2013) Mexico, and Canada with appearances in Brazil and China. Broadcasts of Gorbach's live and recorded performances have aired in Eastern and Western Europe. He recently recorded a solo CD with Naxos, the world's largest classical label, and is due to record with the same label as a member of Duo Cologne along with Goran Krivokapic, the 2005 first prize-winner of the Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition.

Gorbach grew up in Siberia and graduated with honors from the Music College of Novosibirsk, the city where he was born. At a young age he received recognition for his accomplishments, and he later received scholarships from such prestigious sources as the Russian Ministry of Culture. He left Russia to complete his Bachelor and Masters degrees at the Conservatory for Music and Dance in Cologne, Germany under the tutelage of internationally renowned concert artists and pedagogues Roberto Aussel and Carlo Marchione. He begins his doctoral studies in classical guitar at the USC Thornton School of Music where he joins the inaugural class of USC International Artist Fellows.

2014 USC International Artist Fellowship Program

Hui Jin

China



VOCAL ARTS - TENOR



Hui Jin is a celebrated tenor who has appeared in numerous opera productions in the United States and Germany, including “L’ Ormindo” by Cavalli , “Cosi fan tutte”, “Die Zauberflöte” and “La clemenza di Tito” by Mozart and “L’elisir d’amore” by Donizetti.

He has appeared as soloist in several oratorios and masses in Austria, including “Matthäus-Passion” by J.S.Bach, “Die Schöpfung” by Haydn, “Messiah” by Handel and “Coronation Mass” by Mozart. He has also made numerous performances in Fort Worth, Graz and Beijing as a recitalist. Hui also has recorded the symphonic song cycle “Songs of Awe and Wonder” written by the British composer Andrew Webb-Mitchell with Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, and “Requiem” written by W.A. Mozart with New Century Orchestra at Ambronay Music Festival.

Hui Jin was born in Beijing, China. Upon graduating with a master’s degree in music performance from Texas Christian University, he embarked on a two-year post-graduate training program with Barbara Bonney at University Mozarteum in Salzburg. One of his primary goals is to further develop his knowledge and performance of the German Lieder repertoire. As a USC International Artist Fellow, he will begin his Doctoral program in Vocal Arts at the USC Thornton School of Music, where he will study under Professor Gary Glaze.

2013 USC International Artist Fellowship Program

Fei Kayser

China



DRAMATIC WRITING

Fei Kayser is an international dramatist who writes about the ways that Chinese people both collide against and celebrate their rapidly changing country and the world. Tradition and history-laden culture are matched against a newer, faster society and its evolving expectations. There is excitement in this drama that plays out in the new China – in its challenges and triumphs - which form the narratives and fabric of Kayser’s work.

Kayser was born in Xi’an, Shaanxi, and lived in China, America, Canada, and the United Kingdom, before settling in Beijing. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University with distinction in her major of theater studies, with a concentration in playwriting. Her writing has been honored with a number of awards, prizes, and fellowships, including the Elga Ruth Wasserman Award in Women's and Gender Studies, the Henry S. McNeil Fellowship, and a Hedgebrook Writing Residency, among other distinctions.

In addition to writing drama for the stage, Kayser has written for China Central Television, China Daily, and interactive media. She is a sought after collaborator on screenplays, with credits on projects spanning the genres of deep science fiction, Chinese fantasy, and historical drama. She has advised Chinese film companies both small and established, and she was a founding member of the screenwriting program at Naga Film, Beijing, serving as the senior consultant to its board.

Kayser will begin her Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing at the USC School of Dramatic Arts in the fall of 2013. She will join the inaugural class of USC International Artist Fellows.

2015 USC International Artist Fellowship Program

HaeAhn Kwon

South Korea



Visual Arts



HaeAhn Kwon has been a practicing artist in South Korea since her graduation from Cooper Union College of Art in 2009. Her work centers on sculpture and found objects, but is multimedia in approach. Joining the cohort of USC International Artist Fellows, she begins her Master of Fine Arts at the USC Roski School of Art and Design.

Within a relatively few years of working as an artist in Seoul, Kwon has produced an impressive series of modestly scaled works that attempt to forge a relationship between sculptural form and the kinds of material accumulations that occur in everyday life. Her practice borders on the ephemeral and the nearly visible, utilizing a range of found objects and materials that are culled from her urban surroundings in Seoul. By observing the vernacular, readymade environment of the city, Kwon has developed a body of work that is both sensitive to its environment and engaged in the politics of adaptive reuse, which is a common tendency among residents of cities whose socioeconomic conditions require creative repurposing of materials to serve functional ends. She has also worked as a project coordinator and production translator for various artists and filmmakers in Korea.

2014 USC International Artist Fellowship Program

Diego Alberto Najera Martinez

Mexico 

CINEMATIC ARTS -
PETER STARK
PRODUCING PROGRAM



Diego Alberto Najera Martinez was born and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico. Since 2009 he has served as a Producer in charge of Programming for the *Guadalajara International Film Festival*, where he began as a screenings manager. Previously, he worked in physical production for video advertising, live productions, and freelance directing. He has also produced a series of thirty-minute documentaries for the International Case Center of Tecnológico de Monterrey that discussed projects in low-income communities aimed at triggering equal growth through fair business practices. His passion for bringing international voices to the forefront gives him a great sense of daily fulfillment.

Diego was ranked first in his class at the Tecnológico de Monterrey, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Sciences and graduated with Highest Honors in 2008. While there, he came to Los Angeles to study for a year at UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television. Living in the US for a year, Diego's dreams of working in the international market grew. More recently, he has begun traveling throughout Latin America in order to learn about the similarities and distinctions between Latin American cultures.

Diego believes that the Latin American film industries have an urgent need for diversification, strong content and better-prepared producers. He hopes to be part of the solution, capitalizing on his experiences, skills, and motivations. As a 2014 USC International Artist Fellow, he will begin his Master of Fine Arts degree in the USC School of Cinematic Arts' Peter Stark Producing Program.

2014 USC International Artist Fellowship Program

Mehrnaz Mohammadi

Canada 

DRAMATIC ARTS



Mehrnaz Mohammadi is an actress, performance artist and story teller. Mehrnaz was born and raised in Tehran, where she studied graphic design at the University of Tehran. She moved to Canada in 2007 to pursue her education in theater performance. She began her studies at LaSalle College in Montreal where she obtained a degree in Set and Prop Design. She continued her education at Concordia University and graduated with distinction from the BFA program in Theatre. Mehrnaz is interested in physical theatre, and she has been trained in Chinese Opera and biomechanics. She traveled to Beijing to study Chinese Opera in 2011 and had a chance to perform as a Chinese Opera dancer and singer on stage.

Mehrnaz was part of the Black Theatre Workshop Mentorship Program for 2013-14. She has also worked with Imago Theatre and Teesri Duniya Theatre; these companies produce works that address social and political inequalities and support multiculturalism and gender equality. In addition to performing, Mehrnaz writes plays based on current social and political issues. She believes in the power of theatre as a way to reach people. For her, theatre is an excellent instrument to create awareness. She is also fascinated by history, politics, and current events. In her opinion, a knowledge of the past allows an artist to create relevant artwork.

In her spare time, Mehrnaz enjoys drawing, playing traditional Iranian drum and violin. She will begin her Master of Fine Arts in Acting at the USC School of Dramatic Arts in the fall 2014 where she joins the second class of USC International Artist Fellows.