



**PAWVN**

**Tattoo**

**SELECTED ARTISTS  
FROM THE MFA PROGRAM AT  
WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY**





This Page  
Rivington Street, New York, NY

Opposite Page  
Pawn Tattoo Installation



This catalogue was published on the occasion of the exhibition, *Pawn Tattoo: Selected Artists from the MFA Program at William Paterson University*, curated by Deborah Frizzell, Michael Rees, and Thomas Uhlein. The exhibition took place at the LYNCH THAM gallery, 175 Rivington Street, New York, NY, July 15 through August 13, 2015.

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## FOREWORD

By Deborah Frizzell



**PAWN TATTOO** features the work of artists from the MFA Program at William Paterson University, Wayne, New Jersey. The thirteen exhibiting artists engage in a wide range of themes, media and artistic practices. While their materials, concepts and aesthetics may be varied, they share a commitment to creating visual languages that invite risk-taking and open-ended viewer participation. The artists include Heather Allen, Dana Apicella, Seth Bechtold, Maria Bovor, James Brehm, Marc Calello, Kelly Coyle, David D'Ostilio, Morgan Lawson, Joanne Olivier, Brian Sandilands, Rex Thomas, and Tyler Zeleny.

The verb to “pawn” means to make a pledge, to have a stake in and take a risk. To “tattoo” is to mark the skin with indelible, individual patterns of signification. These artists are shapers of both material and virtual worlds as they tap into our daydreams and nightmares, where we encounter realms of fantasy, history, beauty, paradox, and the tensions between myth and memory. Their subjects may include hybrid human-animal creatures, landscapes, intimate interiors, dysfunctional objects, fun-house games, and political realities. Wrestling with aesthetic and formal choices, often deploying shock or disjunction, they formulate artistic strategies that mix the contingent and abstract, the symbolic and political. They question what is at stake in making art in a “pawn tattoo” culture. •

▲  
*Untitled*  
By Marc Calello  
Detail

# WORKS IN EXHIBITION

HEATHER ALLEN



*Scan III*  
52"x44"x11"  
Paper mache and felt  
2015

Heather Lynn Bopp Allen was born in Dover, N.J. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from William Paterson University in 1997. Since then, her work has been in local group shows at the Art Center of Northern N.J. and the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Heather is a recent graduate of the William Paterson University Master of Fine Arts program and completed her solo thesis show entitled *Between Us* in April 2015. During the program, Heather's work was also displayed in two exhibitions: *Material Matters* and *Grawlixes*. She currently resides in Sparta, N.J. and has been an art educator in Rockaway Township, N.J. since 2002.



*Figure Study with Bile*  
33"19"x22"  
Styrofoam, paper mache, latex, acrylic  
2015

Dana Apicella was born and currently resides in Montclair, NJ. She received her BA in Art Education from Montclair State University (2006) and is a fourth year MFA student at William Paterson University. Dana currently works as an art educator in Chester, NJ. She works in both 2D and 3D media that deal largely with the human body. She received a 1st place award in Printmaking and 2nd place award in Painting in the juried art show at the Blackwell Gallery in Morristown, NJ (2001). During the course of her MFA work she has exhibited in two student group shows: March Masters (2014) and Grawlixes (2015).



*Mine*  
44"x 60"  
Digital Print  
2014

Seth Bechtold is a New Jersey based artist born in 1984. He received his BFA from Caldwell College in 2012, with a concentration in Sculpture, and a minor in Art History. He is currently an MFA candidate at William Paterson University, and was recently awarded with a Graduate Assitantship. His work has been featured in such Galleries as William Paterson's Power Arts Gallery, the Vincent Visceglia Gallery, and the Forrest Scott Gallery.



# MARIA BOVOR



Untitled  
22" x 30"  
Acrylics on Watercolor paper  
2015

Maria Bovor is an English artist born 1985 in Slough, UK. She was raised in Worcestershire and attended University College Falmouth, Cornwall (UK), where she received a BA(Hons) Illustration in 2008. Since graduation, she has been a practicing illustrator and is represented by Pure Illustration UK. Her work has appeared on the cover and in the interior of *The Illustrated Book of Quotes and Sayings 3* (University College Falmouth, 2008), and exhibited at the RSA Vaults (London, UK, 2008). She has had varied international clients such as Mantra Lingua Publishing, American Greetings, and through partnership with Swedish company Looklet AB, H&M and Absolut Vodka. Currently, Ms Bovor is developing and expanding her artistic practice and horizons through the Masters of Fine Art program at William Paterson University in New Jersey, where she is focusing on painting and printmaking.

# JAMES BREHM



Untitled  
Dimensions Variable  
Digital Projection  
2015

James Brehm is currently pursuing an MFA at William Paterson University with a focus in sculpture and mixed digital media. At Rutgers University he founded a thriving Makerspace and was awarded the Paul Robeson Emerging Young Artist Grant. His work has recently been displayed at the Newark Museum, Newark, NJ; The Center for New Art, Wayne, NJ; and Alfa Art Gallery, New Brunswick, NJ. He has received an Autodesk Scholarship to participate in the residency at Garfagnana Innovazione, Carrara, Italy.

## MARC CALELLO



*Untitled*  
42x36"x32"  
Polystyrene, House Paint, 3D Print  
2014

Marc Calello was born and raised in Union County New Jersey. In 2003 he was enrolled in SUNY New Paltz to study art. In 2006 he studied abroad and showed in Florence, Italy at the Lorenzo de Medici School of Art. In 2008 he graduated with a BS in art education with a concentration in sculpture from New Paltz. In 2011 he enrolled in the MFA program at William Paterson University where he is projected to graduate in 2017. In addition to working on sculptures at night he is an art educator during the day at Teaneck High School. In the past few years Marc has shown his works in group shows and galleries such as the Newark Museum, the Center for New Art, and Power Art Gallery. This summer he is having his first solo exhibition in Piermont, NY at Tess Delia Studio.



*Clever*  
Dimensions Variable  
Mixed Media  
2015

## KELLY COYLE



*Untitled*  
16"x20"  
Oil and encaustic  
2015

Kelly Coyle is a practicing artist and teacher. She is currently working on her Masters of Fine Art at William Paterson. Her work has been in group shows in Mondo Gallery (Summit, NJ, 2015), the Alfa Art Gallery (New Brunswick, NJ, 2014), and Bridgette Mayer Gallery (Philadelphia, Pa, 2008). She received her Bachelors of Fine Art from the University of the Arts (2008) along with a Certificate in K-12 Art Education. During her undergraduate years, she received the Presidential Scholarship 2004-2008, and her work is a part of the University of the Arts Foundation Permanent Collection. Currently, her paintings are primarily created through the combination of oil paints and encaustics. Ms. Coyle works at Summit High School in northern New Jersey teaching a variety of fine arts classes.







# DAVID D'OSTILIO



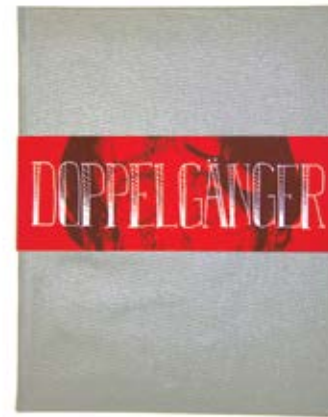
*Sandwich*  
12"x 5"x 8"  
Mixed Media  
2015



*Work*  
Dimensions Variable  
Mixed Media  
2015

David D'Ostilio was born in 1982 in Monroe, CT. He earned a BA from Moravian College in 2006 and is currently enrolled in the MFA program at William Paterson University. David has received an Autodesk Scholarship to participate in the Garfagnana Innovazione Digital Stone Project in Carrara, Italy. Recent group exhibitions include the Mini Maker Faire at the Newark Museum, Newark, NJ; Dim Sum at the Center for New Art, Wayne, NJ; Digital Magic at BJ Spoke Gallery, Huntington, NY; Grawlixes at Power Art Gallery, Wayne, NJ; and Gimme Shelter at Byrdcliffe Colony, Woodstock, NY. D'Ostilio's first solo exhibition was The Chopping Block in 2013 at Open Source Gallery, Brooklyn, NY. His work is included in the collections of Moravian College and Amtek, West Hartford, CT. David has curated printmaking entries for the Exquisite Corpse Festival. An ongoing project is cataloguing Dominick D'Ostilio's full body of work!

# MORGAN LAWSON



*Doppelgänger*  
8.25" x 10.5"  
Ink and paper with digital compositing  
Selected spreads  
2015

Morgan Lawson was born in northern New Jersey in 1989. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in animation from William Paterson University, where her work was featured in the WPU Foundation Show (2009), WPU Faculty Juried Student Art Shows (2010 and 2011), and the WPU Genesis Outlet Student Art Show (2011). More recent exhibitions include work featured in Jar of Teeth art zine in 2013 and William Paterson University MFA exhibition *Grawlixes* in 2014. She also did post-production animation work on the documentary *Blue Like Me: The Art of Siona Benjamin*, which was featured in the New York Indian Film Festival in May 2015. As a freelance artist and animator, she has worked with clients such as EcoMUKTI Gifts and collaborated with artist Siona Benjamin on a number of animation projects that have been exhibited internationally. She currently lives and works in New Jersey, where she is pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts at William Paterson University.



*Lawyer Pakistan*  
22"x 30"  
mixed media  
2015

Joanne Olivier was born and raised in New York City. She earned a BA in English/Drama from Barnard College and is currently an MFA candidate at William Paterson University. Her work has been exhibited in New York City, New Jersey and New England, including a one-person show at Hampshire College, Amherst, MA. At present, Joanne is working on her thesis project scheduled for October, 2015. She lives and works in Morristown, NJ.



*Origins*  
Dimensions Variable  
Mixed Media  
2014

Brian Sandilands was born and raised in Northern New Jersey. Since 2008, he has curated and organized alternative art and music events across the state. In 2010 he graduated from Rutgers, New Brunswick, with a BA in Art and History. Sandilands lends his services to The Botto House, The American Labor Museum where he portrayed Carlo Tresca for the 100 year anniversary of the Paterson Silk Strike. In 2013 he participated in the Ricardo Galleni Memorial Grant Workshop, an international residency sponsored by Autodesk, The Digital Stone Project and Garfagnana Innovazione. His first solo exhibition, "The 3D Printed Gun Show," was held at William Paterson University where he is an MFA candidate. Sandilands has exhibited in NJ and Italy. He is currently working on his MFA thesis and 3D scanning the Gaetano Federici Collection.



# REX THOMAS



*The Nest*  
30"x 32"  
Kodak TMAX 120; Digital Archival Print  
2014

Richard Rex Thomas is a narrative artist who works in the visual and performing arts. He holds a BA in Psychology from Ramapo College, MFA in Dramatic and Film Studies from the University of London, a Master's of Arts in Studio Arts (Photography) from Montclair State University, and is currently working on a second MFA at William Paterson University in Interdisciplinary Arts. He is an Associate Professor and Director of the Photojournalism program at St. John's University, as well as Chair of the Division of Mass Communication. Exhibitions include the George Segal Gallery, the Garden State International Film Festival, Studio 33 (Montclair State University), and the Area Gallery (University of Southern Maine), among others. He has directed his original plays at Theatre 22, Playhouse on the Mall, and the American Stage Company, and has directed plays at the Studio 8 (University of London), American Stage Company, and Theatre 22. His documentary short, *New World Order: Images From The Gulf War* received the International Psychohistorian Association's Emilio Bernabe Award, and he has received grants for his film *2nd Line* and *Rebirth* and his multimedia installation, *My Favorite Toy*.

# TYLER ZELENY



42 x 42 #3  
42"x 42"  
Inkjet print and Graphite  
2015

Tyler Zeleny (b. 1990, Brunswick, OH) is a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) recipient from the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA) and Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Candidate at William Paterson University where he was awarded a Graduate Assistantship in the Graduate Art Department. At CIA he was recipient of four year scholarships: the Ospanik Scholarship, Horvath Scholarship and CIA Portfolio Scholarship, and additional awards including the David and Anne Deming Award and the Cleveland Institute of Art's Board of Director's Award. Tyler worked as a teacher and teacher's assistant at CIA in 2012 and as a substitute teacher in the Strongsville School System in 2013. Zeleny curated an exhibition of MFA Candidate work titled "Grawlixes" at William Paterson University's Power Arts Gallery; in addition to William Paterson exhibitions "Dim Sum" and "Material Matters" his work has been shown at the Miller Schneider Gallery (2013; now Gallery One-Sixty), Survival Kit Gallery (2012), ArtSpot (2012), Legation a Gallery (2011), Forum Artspace (2011), was frequently a part of exhibitions at CIA including the Student Independent Exhibition 66 (2012) and EMIT Film and Video Festival (2010). Tyler lives and works outside Wayne, New Jersey.



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thank you also to Jianling (Jay) Hu, for attending to the work in the gallery during the exhibition.

#### THE MFA AT WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

The master of fine arts (M.F.A.) degree is designed as the professional degree for the fine artist, designer, and media artist. It is the mission of the program to provide the MFA candidate with a rigorous environment in which to focus on professional goals and artistic excellence. An important aspect of this environment is the creation of a community of peers and mentors all pursuing the enhancement of imagination through the creation and interpretation of meaningful work. Faculty members have a substantial professional and educational background and are dedicated to the highest standards of artistic endeavor.

The M.F.A. is offered as a three-year, full-time degree program, or as a five-year, part-time degree program for the working professional. Students choose from course offerings that include computer art and animation, painting, printmaking, sculpture and digital sculpture, ceramics, photography, graphic media, and furniture design. Fully equipped studios in all areas provide the resources necessary for the actualization of a wide range of two-dimensional, three-dimensional and time based work.

The University's proximity to New York City gives ready access to the concentration of working art professionals, the availability of world-class museums, the proliferation of private galleries, and the accessibility of major libraries and collections. Visits to artists' studios, guest lecturers, and possible internships complement the program of study.



Photo  
175 Rivington Street, New York, NY



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