

School of Art
Commissions: The Artist – Client Process



Design Marissa Rosa Williams © 2007

GOAL: To provide School of Art students with valuable career development experiences through art patron sponsorships while raising funds to support special learning opportunities and unique technical advancements. In this innovative course, taught by Professor Layne Goldsmith, each student learns strategies and skills for the design and production of custom carpets and accent rugs for a participating sponsor. Your participation in this project will ensure the success of this innovative educational opportunity.

NUMBER OF SPONSORS: 15

SPONSORSHIP AMOUNT: \$350.00 for woven sample + XXXX* rug option

For more information and for payment on this project, please contact:

Commissions Project

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Commissions: The Artist-Client Process

An Uncommon Learning Opportunity

The UW School of Art builds upon the successes of its existing B.A., B.F.A., and M.F.A. programs with courses that expose students to career skills that are valuable to practicing artists. With this in mind, Professor Layne Goldsmith has developed a course curriculum that explores a career path followed by many artists, and that fills a need that has been repeatedly voiced by arts alumni.

Many visual artists supplement their income by working with clients to create one-of-a-kind, commissioned works; but it is rare that art students have the opportunity to gain practical experience with this type of professional agreement. Professor Goldsmith's answer to the need is *Commissions: The Artist-Client Process*, an upper level course that will be offered again in Winter Quarter of 2013. By the end of the course, students will have participated in all phases of the commission process and will have learned

many of the issues associated with the execution of an art commission. Coursework also covers small business development + business planning, copyright issues, fair trade and labor related issues, environmental and labor issues related to production, and more.

The Coursework: Open to advanced studio art and design majors by portfolio review, *Commissions: The Artist-Client Process* pairs sponsors as “clients” and students as “artists.” Each pair works together – from initial consultation to presentation of the finished commission – as the artist designs a custom carpet or accent rug for the client’s specific location. With close oversight by Professor Goldsmith, the client-approved designs will be sent to Nepal to be hand-woven. The process of having rugs designed and manufactured in Nepal introduces students to issues of fair trade in developing economies, demonstrates the importance of the hand rug weaving industry to Nepal’s economy, and exposes students to the potential income represented in the interiors and accessory market. In addition, students become familiar with the details of contracts, shipping, duties, customs and final exhibition.

To augment their work with sponsors, students attend lectures, work sessions, and panel discussions on a range of topics designed to outline the commission process. Artists, collectors, interior designers, attorneys, and curators will be asked to share their experiences and tips on best practices. When the carpets are complete, students and sponsors will have the unique opportunity to “show” their work in a group exhibition. Both sponsors and students will be encouraged to talk with exhibition guests about their experiences with the project.



2007Exhibition Tacoma Art Museum

Faculty Leadership: *Commissions: The Artist-Client Process* is the brainchild of Professor Layne Goldsmith, a prolific and active studio artist with work represented in both private and public collections. Under Layne’s leadership, the UW’s Fibers Program was ranked as the top public program on the West Coast. Since her appointment to the UW Fibers Program in 1983, Layne has provided students with opportunities to apply classroom skills to the workplace. To that end, she has organized and directed numerous unique educational programs, including conferences, workshops and a 4-year series of interdisciplinary summer art institutes. These programs have enabled students to study with artists from Japan, Guatemala, Canada and the U.S. She has also developed relationships with local businesses and artists to provide student internships. Her students frequently hold internships with museums, public and private arts organizations, production weavers, natural and industrial dye businesses, and practicing studio artists. *Professor Goldsmith has spent numerous hours researching the logistics of this course. Her site research includes trips to Nepal, where she travels through the country’s rug manufacturing region, confirming the business, environmental, fair trade and labor practices of many of Nepal’s most respected manufacturers. Her findings reinforced for her that the information in the Commissions course will not only teach strong business and interpersonal skills, but the Nepali model also will demonstrate to students the necessity for fair and responsible trade practices*

You Make the Difference: *As a sponsor in this project, you have the uncommon opportunity to participate in an exciting learning experience for developing artists while supporting special student opportunities and unique technical advancements. When you support this innovative project with an investment of \$350.00*, you help the students in the School of Art become better equipped to meet the future demands of a career in the visual arts. In return, you receive a woven strike off for a one-of-a-kind custom carpet designed for your home, office or other special site*. The project will end with a public exhibition of the carpets, in recognition of the work of the artists and their clients. The fair market value of these custom rugs is based on a cost of \$60.00 per square foot. While your entire sponsorship is an official gift to the UW, per IRS regulations, \$100 is the tax-deductible portion of the sponsorship.*

*Your design will be woven to order upon approval of woven sample and will be billed at fair market value.