The Art of Making Art

Visual artistry and self-expression flourish in the School for American Crafts. Originally established in 1943 at Dartmouth College, the program moved to RIT in 1953 with the financial support of Mrs. Aileen Webb, a longtime member of RIT’s Board of Trustees.

Part of the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, the school offers degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate level in ceramics, glass, metals and wood. Total enrollment is about 140 with approximately 35 students in each program. The nine faculty members travel the globe giving guest lectures and demonstrations.

“The education is a successful blend of developing hands skills and becoming expert at a trade and developing ideas and self-expression,” says Julia Galloway, chair of the School for American Crafts. “The school is grounded in practicality and at the same time allows the students to express their intense creativity and individuality.”

Visit the School for American Crafts. The annual “walkthrough” open house event takes place 4-6 p.m Monday, May 22, in the SAC studios, James E. Booth Building, RIT campus.

Working in wood: (top) second-year grad student Myungtaek Jung; (middle right) Professor Andy Buck, standing, discusses a project with third-year student Billy Pickford; (bottom right) third-year student Ned Weeks. At left is a finished piece by second-year student Cory Nogle.
Working in glass: (top) fourth-year student Dan Kemper; (middle right) work in progress; (bottom photo) second-year graduate student Jessica Julius, front left, assists SAC alum Ben Cobb ’01, middle, during a visiting artist workshop. Cobb works at the Tacoma (Wash.) Museum of Glass. Photo, middle right, shows a finished piece by second-year student Alex O’Leary.
Working in clay: (top) second-year student Thea Boyar and her self-portrait; (middle right) a vessel takes shape on the potter’s wheel; (bottom) clay figure study. At left is a pot by second-year student Josh Harmony.
Working in metals: (top right) a chair by graduate student Jeong Ju Lee; (middle right) a piece by graduate student Stephen Shachtman; (middle left) the heat goes on; (bottom) second-year student Jason Stein.