



**WASHINGTON
STUDIO
SCHOOL**

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2015

Your support allows the Washington Studio School to recruit talented faculty and maintain intimate classroom sizes.



This page:
Drawing by new faculty member
Katie Pumphrey

On the Cover:
Detail of drawing by Phyllis Ruffer

Dear WSS Friends,

This is an exceptional time in the history of the Washington Studio School. Thanks to your support, we have entered our fourth decade on a high note and with much to celebrate.

We continue to build on a lineage that celebrates DC institutions like The Phillips Collection, and stand on the shoulders of a superb group of founding artists and teachers. They remain our guiding force.

Our current faculty is a brilliant mix of working artists, including painters who have been with the school since its beginnings, as well as new members who bring fresh ideas and expanded vision.

In the years since moving to our beautiful S Street location we have more than doubled our student population. That means we have added more classes and workshops, a thriving teen program, and are bringing more visiting artists for master classes. To accommodate this, we also have hired additional faculty. The increase in program revenue, as well as the generous support of our donors allows us to do this.

With this growth we remain committed to our founding principle: the importance of teaching through observation. And as our world changes, observation has added meanings. We now can ‘observe’ a scene via google maps or ‘see’ something happening in real time on the other side of the planet. We can ‘see’ through filters that distort and enhance. Our ways of seeing and what we observe have expanded greatly.

And what do we do with our observations? Art is about communication — what do we want to say? But just as importantly it is about questioning — what do we want to know? In the classroom and the studio, artists build bodies of work by asking themselves “what if...?” questions. What will take us to the next step? How do we grow? What if we try this? Let’s take a risk.

Our board members ask their own set of “what if...?” questions, and it is exciting to think of what WSS can become as these questions are discussed between board, faculty and administration. With new ways of seeing, new blood mingled with mature, and “what if...?” questions being asked every day, our future is full of possibilities. We are respectfully engaged with the past, we are open to the new. And we invite you to join us as we move forward to see what lies ahead!

With the warmest regards,

Jill Phillips
Head of Faculty

Collage by board member, Jackie Greenbaum, created at the 3-day workshop lead by nationally-renowned artist **Catherine Kehoe**. Visiting artist lectures and workshops supplement and enrich our WSS programming. They also strengthen our regional visibility.

During this year of continued growth WE SAW:

Continued increase in enrollment, course offerings and workshops.

This upward trend is due to the hard work and dedication from a number of individuals. In particular, we are most appreciative of our Head of Faculty, Jill Phillips, who has been involved with the School for almost its entire 30-year existence. And while our tuition income increased as well, it still only accounts for 67% of the School's expenses. Donor contributions are essential for balancing our annual budget, as well as for enabling the growth of the school.

Continued growth of our Summer Teen Program and our network of high school art teachers and other referral sources.

The development of partnerships with community organizations.

Our collaboration with the Phillips Collection during their featured exhibitions continues — this summer we will focus on the William Merritt Chase show. We are also collaborating with Dupont Circle Main Streets, the D.C. Commission on Arts & the Humanities, Sheridan-Kalorama Historic Preservation Association, Friends of Mitchell Park, and the University of the District of Columbia. And we are working to establish relationships, including D.C. Rotary, Humanities Council of D.C., Van Ness Main Streets and others.

Careful and focused stewardship of funds

raised in our successful 2013 – 2014 *Lights! Action! Art!* campaign. With these funds, we planned and installed new classroom lighting, purchased new easels and other equipment, and built a new kitchen for faculty, students and visitors.

Robust attendance at

15

free lectures and other educational events we hosted for the community.

- Gallery talks by exhibiting artists
- Visiting artist lectures (Janice Nowinski, Chet Hausken, Catherine Kehoe)
- Panel discussions: One with Janice Nowinski, Kyle Staver and Deborah Kahn; and one discussing the work of Lani Irwin and Alan Feltus during their WSS-curated show
- Open discussion about Janice Nowinski's work (led by Jill Phillips and Jo Weiss)
- Student show juror's talk (Carolyn Reece-Tomlin)
- 3rd annual "Big Draw"
- Art All Night

▼
Curated
10

exhibitions in our main gallery and library space, which include the annual student show, annual faculty show, atelier show, solo faculty shows, solo student show and invited outside artist exhibitions.

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The financial stability to

- Pay a stipend to the Head of Faculty
- Increase faculty compensation
- Increase model compensation
- Hire an assistant to the Head of Faculty to, among other things, build and administer our prestigious Certificate Program
- Create and fill a part time marketing position
- Hire a business manager to oversee financial and business operations

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Received a grant by The Rotary Club of Washington, DC and the Rotary Foundation for improvements to our website.

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The celebraton of our 30th Birthday!

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The recreation of a WSS Advisory Board

which will allow us to reach out to artists and arts organization professionals across the country to support WSS' unique artistic vision and programming.

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The adoption of a 5 year strategic plan to achieve 7 specific goals by 2020:

- Management of WSS by a team of professionals;
- Excellent classes that continue to foster community and diversity;
- Continued stewardship of our dedicated group of donors and community funders;
- Recognition of WSS as a thought leader throughout our region;
- Leadership by a dynamic board of directors;
- Increased financial stability; and
- Housing our school in a welcoming, affordable space that supports our programming.

Milena Spasic, WSS faculty



▲
Mitsuko Tsuchiya, Student

Board of Directors

Barbara Kraft, President
Suzanne Shwetz, Treasurer
Carol Rubin, Secretary
Jackie Greenbaum
Laila Abdul-Hadi Jadallah
Sarah Kurfis
Sally Levie
Karen Loehr
Jill Phillips, Head of Faculty
Phyllis Ruffer

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FY 2015



REVENUES

TUITION	\$	250,682	67%
ATELIER		62,925	17%
OPEN SESSIONS		12,306	3%
CONTRIBUTIONS		46,883	13%
OTHER		2,257	1%
Total	\$	375,053	100%

EXPENSES

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	\$	147,305	41%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		55,173	15%
RENT, EQUIPMENT, REPAIRS		109,999	30%
GENERAL BUSINESS, OTHER		49,873	14%
Total	\$	362,350	100%

WE THANK

Our donors, without whom the good work of the school would be impossible:

Trisha Adams
Jessica Bartlett
Jill Bateman
Rachel Bishop
Leslie Ann Blackmon
Carol Blum
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Katherine Stifel
Susan and Bascom Talley
Mitsuko Tsuchiya
Thomas J. Vallin
Lynne and Gary Van Dyke
Katherine Van Sickle
Gerald Wartofsky
Jo Weiss
Marian Willinger
Jessica Wilson
Jane Winer
Alice Winkler



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