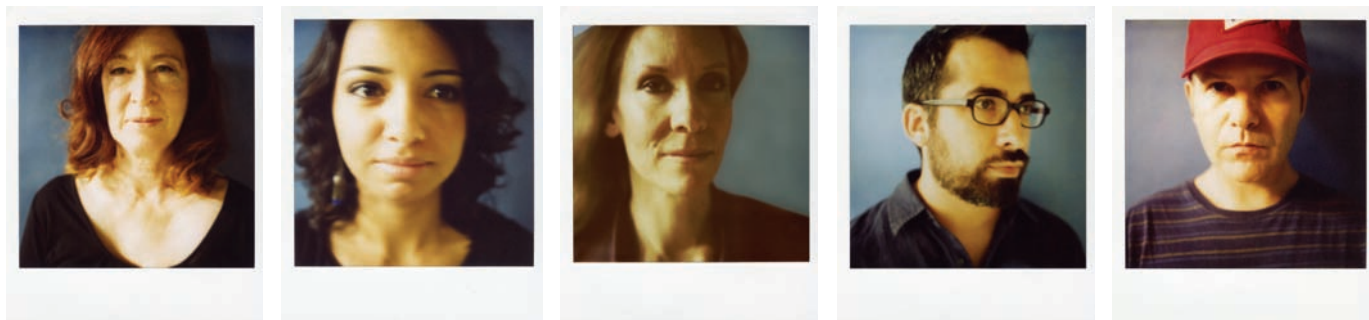


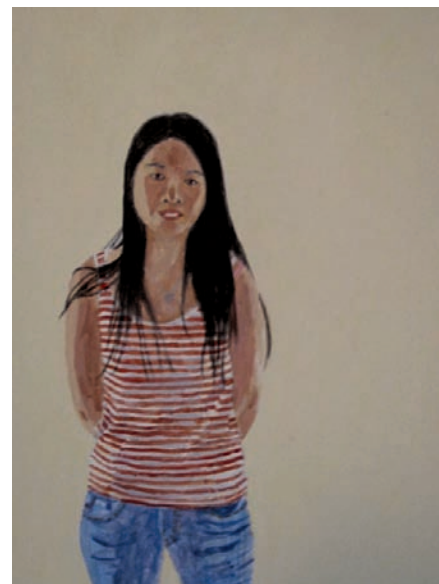
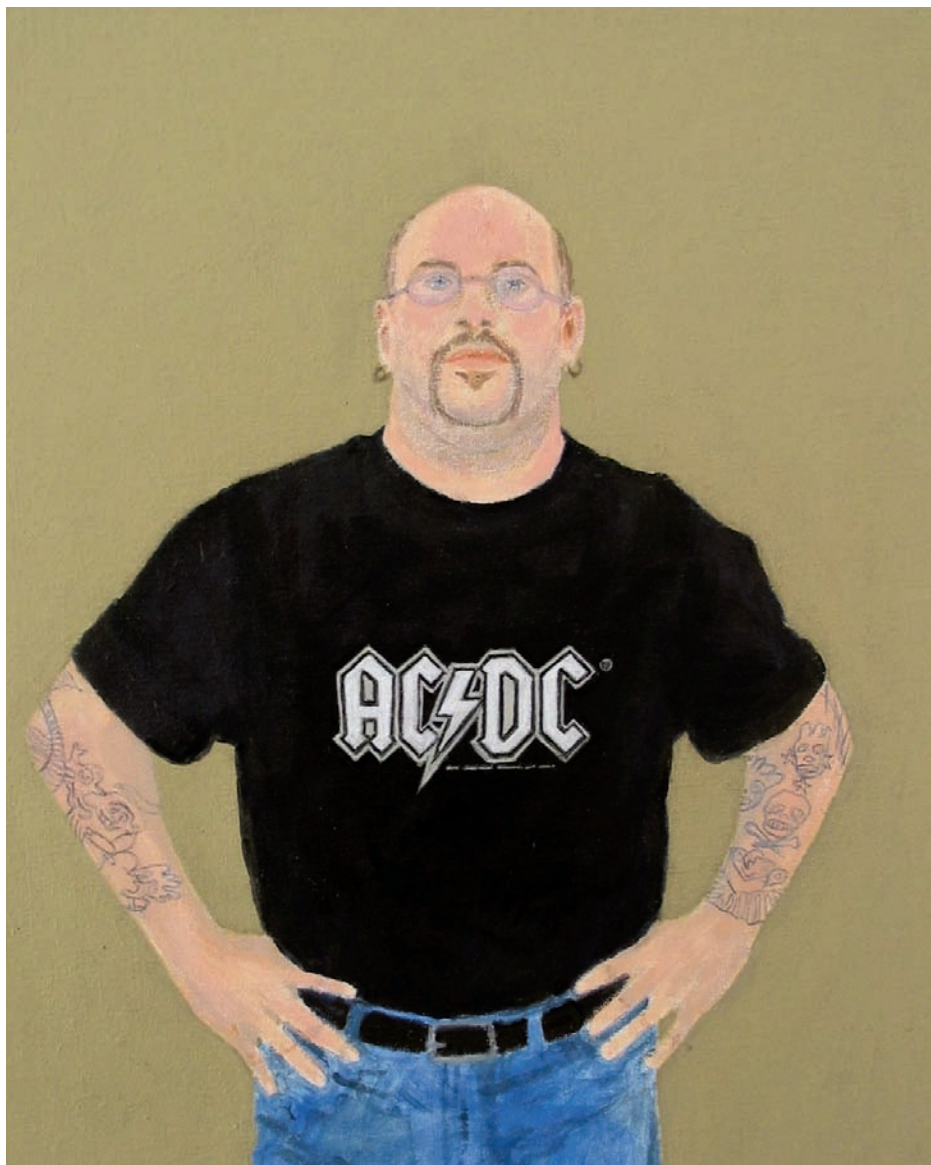
# ART STARS



## FIVE OF ST. LOUIS' BUZZIEST VISUAL ARTISTS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR

BY PAUL HA, DIRECTOR, CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM ST. LOUIS  
ARTIST PORTRAITS BY TUAN LEE

WHEN ALIVE MAGAZINE CONTACTED ME TO DO A STORY ABOUT THE MOST RELEVANT LOCAL ARTISTS, OF COURSE I SAID YES. THEY HAVE THE PERFECT ART AUDIENCE—YOUNG, URBAN AND CULTURALLY AWARE. AND THIS BEING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONTEMPORARY BEING OPEN IN OUR NEW BUILDING, I THOUGHT I WOULD FOCUS ON THE FIVE ST. LOUIS ARTISTS THAT I THINK YOU SHOULD ABSOLUTELY KNOW ABOUT. THESE ARTISTS WORK IN ALL MEDIUMS—SCULPTURE, PAINTING, VIDEO, INSTALLATION ART. AND WHILE I HOPE YOU GET EXCITED ABOUT THEIR WORK AFTER READING THE ARTICLE, MY ULTIMATE HOPE IS THAT EVERYONE GETS MOTIVATED TO GO OUT AND SEE THEIR WORK IN PERSON. AFTER ALL, ART IS ALWAYS BETTER EXPERIENCED IN THE FLESH.



(left)  
**Huck**  
 16" x 20"  
 Acrylic on linen

(above)  
**Hanna**  
 11" x 14"  
 Acrylic on panel

**WHERE TO VIEW**  
**PHILIP SLEIN GALLERY**  
 1319 Washington Ave., Downtown  
 314.621.4634  
[philipsleingallery.com](http://philipsleingallery.com)

**PORTRAIT SOCIETY GALLERY**  
 207 E. Buffalo St., Ste. 526  
 Milwaukee, WI  
 414.870.9930  
[portraitsocietygallery.com](http://portraitsocietygallery.com)

#### THE HUMANIZER: BELINDA LEE

Portraiture is one of the oldest forms of art. By incorporating digital photography into her art-making process, Belinda Lee has given portraiture a fresh makeover and a look that is entirely her own. One of Lee's great influential moments happened while she was teaching painting in Italy. When she wasn't enriching young minds, she took full advantage of being in Italy by seeking the works of great artists like Giotto, Diego Velázquez and Pontormo. What stuck with her was the color, the glow and the light the great Italian masters produced in their work. When she returned to St. Louis, she began experimenting with a digital camera by photographing friends and colleagues. She liked the way she could flatten out the space (à la Giotto) in addition to the way she could "crop" and manipulate the space. She noted that "something" indefinable happens between the translations when the photograph becomes a painting. We are certainly glad of the legacy she is leaving of the characters and the people of St. Louis.

*When Lee's not in her studio, you can find her directing the gallery for the visual arts program at the fantastic Creative Center for the Arts in The Loop. She is also scheduled to do a project with the Portrait Society in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*



*Belinda Lee*





*Relation-Chute*  
 Web site and public gatherings  
<http://relationchute.aa.uic.edu>

**WHERE TO VIEW**  
**BOOTS CONTEMPORARY**  
**ART SPACE**  
 2307 Cherokee St., South City  
 314.772.2668  
[bootsart.com](http://bootsart.com)

**GALLERY 400**  
 University of Illinois at Chicago  
 400 S. Peoria St.  
 Chicago, IL  
 312.996.6114  
[uic.edu/aa/college/gallery400](http://uic.edu/aa/college/gallery400)



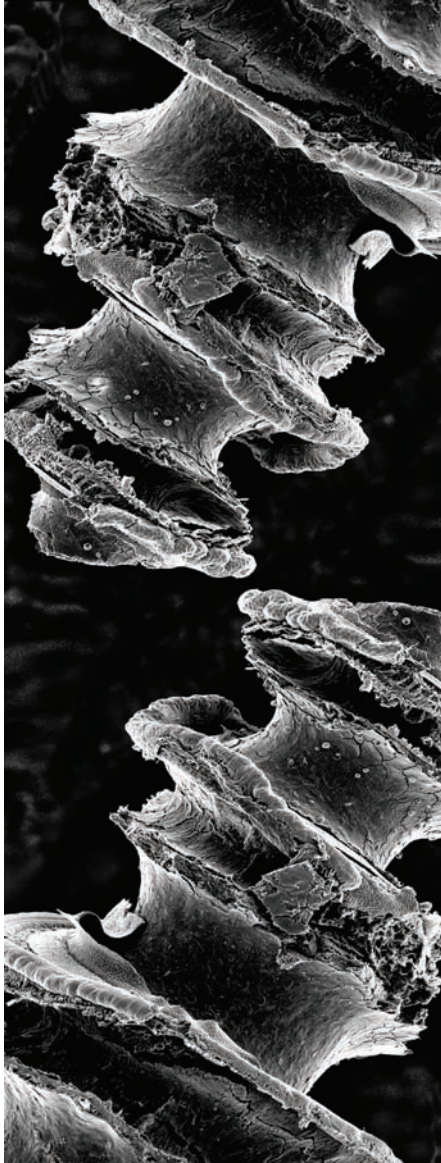
#### THE WEB MASTER: ASMA KAZMI

You don't have to visit the studio of an artist or walk into a gallery or museum to observe art. To underscore the point, some artists are making their work only available online. Case in point: Asma Kazmi. A recent transplant to St. Louis after receiving her MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago, Kazmi is a performance artist and sculptor. Her most recent work is a touching and poignant performance and video piece called *Translation of a Conversation with My Mother* (2007). In the piece, Kazmi reveals the difficulty of language and generation gaps as her and two others translate the artist's Pakistani mother in real time.

A heads-up to the readers when visiting the artist's Web site: There is one piece where the artist documents herself training at an Islamic slaughterhouse. As anyone who grew up on a farm can tell you, preparing an animal for consumption isn't pretty—and that's part of the point. Kazmi states, "This is an attempt to close the ever-growing distance between consumption of meat, religious observance and the reality of death."

*Kazmi has performed and exhibited in Boston, New York, Chicago and Puerto Rico. She has been a part of the Boston Underground Film Festival, Balagan Experimental Film & Video Series, Women in Film & Video/New England and the MassArt Film Society. Kazmi will be exhibiting at Boots Contemporary Art Space this fall ([asmakazmi.com](http://asmakazmi.com)).*





*(left)*  
Cenesthesia: Sound  
44" x 120"  
prints on Chinese silk

*(middle)*  
Cenesthesia: Taste  
44" x 120"

*(right close-up)*  
Cenesthesia: Sight  
44" x 120"

**WHERE TO VIEW**  
BRUNO DAVID GALLERY  
3721 Washington Blvd., Grand Center  
314.531.3030  
brunodavidgallery.com

THE CROW COLLECTION  
2010 Flora St.  
Dallas, TX  
214.979.6430  
crowcollection.org

### THE EDUCATOR: PATRICIA OLYNYK

As the recently appointed Director of the Graduate School of Art at Washington University in St. Louis, Patricia Olynyk holds an important position—and her hands are full. But in the midst of all this responsibility, this recent transplant from Michigan keeps a busy studio practice, which should be an inspiration and model for her students. Her work investigates the relationship between human culture, science and the environment. Also in her work, Olynyk often employs microscopy and biomedical imaging technologies to explore how art and the life sciences overlap. Having lived in Japan from 1989-1993, she was heavily impressed and influenced by the practice of martial arts (Kendo) and meditative training. This led to her interest in phenomenology of response—as in how people expand their awareness of the world they inhabit. In one installation, she dramatically slows down a Buddhist monk's chant, which then astonishingly becomes the sound of a heartbeat.

*Olynyk has exhibited in various art and cultural institutions, most recently at the National Academy of Sciences, the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York and the Weil Art Museum at Texas A&M University. You can also see Olynyk's work at the Bruno David Gallery in St. Louis.*

