

Fine Artists Times Two

Judy Moonelis, Professor of Fine Arts, College at Florham
George Cochrane, Associate Professor of Art, College at Florham



SHE IS A PROMINENT EXHIBITING sculptor who has earned two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships. He is a renowned painter with many exhibitions to his credit. Together, they bring a dynamic range of artistic styles to Fairleigh Dickinson's bachelor of arts in fine arts' studio arts concentration.

Curriculum Vitae: Judy Moonelis

Title

Professor of Art

How Long at FDU

Thirteen years

New York City Experience

Self-employed artist for more than 20 years

Path to FDU

Came to FDU as an artist-in-residence before becoming a permanent faculty member and a full professor in 2011

What You Didn't Know

Painted before taking a ceramic sculpture class with Rudy Staffel of Philadelphia's Tyler School of Arts

FDU Legacy

Created the class Ceramic Character Sculpture

Judy Moonelis and George Cochrane work in very different genres, but they see eye-to-eye on the direction of the academic program. "What makes the studio arts concentration unique is the interdisciplinary approach we take in our own art and how we encourage that," says Moonelis.

Several courses explore related themes and each deals with art that is near and dear to the hearts of the instructors. With substantial art careers before coming to academia, Moonelis and Cochrane have a lot to offer.

After his undergraduate work and spending time abroad, Cochrane moved to New York City with the intention of being a professional artist. He was an artist's assistant, worked at professional galleries and moved and installed artwork as a handler.

"I did that for a little less than 10 years, and there came a point when I felt that I had exhausted what there was for me to learn," he says. "And, I felt that I had a practice and a demonstrable professional profile such that I could envision teaching."

Moonelis relates, "I have been a self-employed artist for more than 20 years, and I continue to actively exhibit. At a certain point, I



MOONELIS' ART IS FOCUSED

on the human body and its various systems. Top of page, clockwise, "Head with Chroma Neurons," Moonelis with "Touch Portrait (Molly)," and "Inversion," based on the bronchial tree inverted to represent its botanical form.



GEORGE COCHRANE WITH, at left, the cover of *Long Time Gone* Issue 1 of 24, published in May 2009 and exhibited at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art and, at right, a self portrait in graphic novel style.



began to appreciate that there was something wonderful about working with students."

Both artists originally trained as painters before coming to their current disciplines, hers in ceramic sculpture and installation and his in mixed media on paper. An FDU student turned Cochrane's attention to graphic novels, asking him to teach an independent study in the medium. A ceramic sculpture class with Philadelphia's Tyler School of Arts' Rudy Staffel changed the way Moonelis looked at her art.

"I have been working on a graphic novel since 2008," says Cochrane. "It's a tremendous departure from what I had done." His *Long Time Gone* takes inspiration from Homer's *Odyssey* and James Joyce's *Ulysses*, chronicling one 24-hour period in the artist's life.

Moonelis states, "The human body provides the conceptual focus for my artistic practice." She now emphasizes large-scale installations at historic sites. "I'm really interested in the way contemporary art can interact with history, and the dialogue that is created."

Moonelis recently created site installations at the historic Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, Pa. Described by John Perreault, a former art critic for the *Village Voice* and *Soho News*, who curated the exhibit, "Moonelis' 'Brain Cells' was inspired by Charles Dickens, who visited Eastern State Penitentiary in 1842. Her hanging forms are imaginary models of the neural injury caused by solitary confinement."

Regardless of the type of artwork, Moonelis and Cochrane agree on what they are trying to accomplish at FDU. "We are trying to impart what we've learned," says Cochrane, "so that our students can be doing as much of what they want as possible, and not forget their dreams." — S.G.

Curriculum Vitae: George Cochrane

Title

Associate Professor of Art

How Long at FDU

Eight Years

New York City Experience

Was an artist's assistant, worked at professional galleries and moved and installed artwork as a handler

Path to FDU

Took a one-year teaching position at FDU before moving into a tenure track

What You Didn't Know

An FDU student turned his attention to graphic novels

FDU Legacy

Created the class Art of the Graphic Novel