

Hite Art Institute

The Department of Fine Arts at the University of Louisville was founded in 1937. In 1946, the Department was endowed as the Hite Art Institute in recognition of the bequest of Allen R. and Marcia S. Hite. The Hite Endowment provides support for academic programs, library acquisitions, scholarships, faculty and student research, visiting artists and scholars, and exhibitions that enrich the experience of students within the Institute.

Preparing its graduates to function at the forefront of the art world, the Hite Art Institute offers a curriculum that promotes critical thinking, incorporates diverse perspectives, and reflects current scholarship in art history, theory, studio art, and curatorial practices. Fine Arts majors can earn the BA, BFA, MA, MAT, or PhD by specializing in art history, art education, painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, sculpture, fibers, glass, ceramics, communication arts and design, interior architecture or critical and curatorial studies. The Institute currently has twenty-five full-time faculty members responsible for the instruction of 500 undergraduate majors and 50 graduate students.

The Hite Art Institute maintains six art galleries which feature rotating exhibitions by nationally and internationally renowned artists and designers, as well as students and faculty of the Institute. Schneider Hall, on the Belknap campus of the University of Louisville, is home to the Morris B. Belknap Gallery, Dario A. Covi Gallery, and Gallery X, as well as a library dedicated to fine arts scholarship.

The Cressman Center for Visual Arts, located in the heart of the downtown arts district, houses the John B. and Bonnie Seidman Roth Gallery, Leonard and Adele Leight Gallery, and the Alice S. and Irvin F. Etscorn Gallery for ongoing exhibitions, and provides the public with an opportunity to observe the daily operations of the glass studio.

The 2012 Nora Iasigi Bullitt Memorial Lecture

Hite Art Institute • University of Louisville

Ann Hamilton



Ann Hamilton, *Stylus*, 2010

Thursday, April 5, 2012 • 6 pm
J. B. Speed Art Museum Auditorium

Nora lasigi Bullitt

In 1798, eight citizens of Jefferson County in the newly formed state of Kentucky joined together to incorporate an institution of higher learning, the Jefferson Seminary, that was the predecessor of today's University of Louisville. One of those visionary founders was Alexander Bullitt, the first Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In 1913, Alexander's great grandson, William Marshall Bullitt married a civic-minded artist from Boston, Nora lasigi.

Nora lasigi was born in Swampscott, Massachusetts in 1881, the daughter of Oscar lasigi who had served as the Consul General to the United States on behalf of the Ottoman Empire. As a young woman, Nora was interested in politics and philanthropy as well as art. In 1912 she debated William Brown, a well-known socialist lecturer. She also opened her summer home in Stockbridge, Massachusetts each year, free of charge, to working women whose salaries were not sufficient to allow them to leave the city during the heat of the summer.

She was also a talented artist who studied sculpture with Daniel Chester French, best known for his statue of Abraham Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial. She worked in both marble and bronze, following in the figurative tradition. Surviving pieces include the life-size bronze of her son which sits on the grounds of Bullitt farm at Oxmoor.

After her marriage to William Marshall Bullitt, Nora moved to Kentucky with her new husband who was selected to run as the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate in 1914. Bullitt had stepped down as Solicitor General of the United States at the end of the Taft administration the year before. During his legal career he argued more than fifty cases before the United States Supreme Court.

Nora was active in civic and art organizations, serving as president of the Louisville Art Association. She was also a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and after the death of her husband in 1957 she donated his library of rare books and documents on mathematics to the University of Louisville, a collection which included first-edition works by Isaac Newton and pamphlets by Albert Einstein. Nora was also an author, publishing recollections of travels to the Soviet Union, *Three Weeks in Russia* in 1936. Nora Bullitt died on July 26, 1976.

Ann Hamilton

Ann Hamilton is a visual artist internationally recognized for the sensory surrounds of her large-scale multi-media installations. Noted for a dense accumulation of materials, her liminal environments create immersive experiences that poetically respond to the architectural presence and social history of their sites.

Born in Lima, Ohio in 1956, Hamilton received a BFA in textile design from the University of Kansas in 1979 and an MFA in Sculpture from the Yale University School of Art in 1985. Among her many honors, she has been a recipient of the Heinz Award, MacArthur Fellowship, Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, NEA Visual Arts Fellowship, United States Artists Fellowship and was chosen to represent the United States at the 48th Venice Biennale. In 1992, she established her home and practice in Columbus, Ohio. Presently, she is a Distinguished Professor of Art at The Ohio State University.

