

Recent master's grad earns international sculpture achievement award

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Work from Rachel Wong's
MFA show, 2009

Rachael Wong, who graduated last month from Alfred University with a master of fine arts degree in sculpture, is one of 11 artists to receive the International Sculpture Center's (ISC) Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award for 2009. Wong and the work of the 10 other recipients will be on display in the Grounds For Sculpture's Fall/Winter Exhibition, from Oct. 10, 2009-Jan. 10, 2010, in Hamilton, NJ, adjacent to the ISC New Jersey headquarters; ISC also has headquarters in Washington, DC. Grounds for Sculpture is a 35-acre sculpture park and museum. Each artist's work will also be presented in Grounds For Sculpture's 2009 Fall/Winter Exhibitions Catalog, featured in the October 2009 issue of the International Sculpture Center's award-winning publication, *Sculpture* magazine, and be included on the ISC award-winning Web site at www.sculpture.org. Their work will also be featured in the first annual traveling exhibition to be on view at arts organizations across the country. ISC advances the creation and understanding of sculpture and its unique, vital contribution to society. This year's student achievement program had a record number of participating institutions, including more than 170 universities, colleges, and art school sculpture programs from 16 countries, for a nominated total of 441 students. The jurors for the 2009 award included Jeanne Jaffe, professor and chairman of fine arts at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA; Willie Cole, artist from New Jersey; and David McFadden, curator at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York City. Wong earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Alberta (Calgary, Alberta, Canada) College of Art and Design. While there she was a resident in the Glass Studio at Harbourfront Centre. Wong has lived in Scotland, England, and in various Canadian cities. Wong works primarily in installation with blown glass elements involving play, communication, and experience. She says: "A moment may be small and infinite in its complex simplicity. In daydreams, the mind wanders, in drawing, the hand wanders simultaneously, memory, thought, and action inseparable. Catching chance and spontaneity. Possibility. Meaning is flexible and ever changing, falling away and then resurfacing, repeating, revealing." Founded in 1836, Alfred University became the first coeducational institution in New York State and the second in the nation. About 2,000 full-time undergraduate and 400 graduate students work and live in 52 buildings on a scenic 232-acre hillside campus adjoining the village of Alfred. The nonsectarian University is comprised of the privately endowed AACSB-accredited (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) College of Business and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as well as the NYS College of Ceramics (Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering and the School of Art and Design). AU's art school is ranked number one in the nation for ceramic art, and second in the nation for glass art. The University awards bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.