

Freshman art lecture series Oct. 5 to feature contemporary sculptor

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"STUDIO Visits," a series of lectures with a talk-show format hosted by M. Michelle Illuminato, assistant professor in the Alfred University School of Art & Design's Freshman Foundation program, continues at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, in Nevins Theater at Powell Campus Center. The series is held weekly on from 9-11:15 a.m. Wednesdays, and is open to the campus community and the public, free of charge. This week's guest will be Bill Cravis of Minneapolis, Minn., whose topic will be "Ceramic and Mixed Material Sculpture." Cravis is a contemporary sculptor, potter and installation artist. He holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in ceramics from California College of the Arts and a master of fine arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University. His education also includes a variety of nontraditional apprenticeships and experiences, such as touring ancient kiln sites and working alongside potters in Japan and an apprenticeship to a natural foods chef in Harvard Square. Cravis employs a variety of materials and methods in his work, emphasizing "on the job" learning in working with unfamiliar materials. Some of his recent works include "Printing to the Sky," a 65-foot tower of cardboard boxes that was exhibited at Carnegie Mellon University, and "Overlook," an installation piece of platforms and viewfinders that allow visitors to view miniature sculptures. Cravis has earned numerous awards and titles for his work in mixed materials. His distinctions include full fellowships to the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2006 and to the Vermont Studio Center in 2010. He is also the recipient of the 2006 \$10,000 Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant. For more information about the STUDIO Visits series or the Alfred University School of Art and Design, visit <http://art.alfred.edu>. For more about Cravis, visit www.williamcravis.com.