

MFA grad awarded Fulbright to study natural dye extraction in urban Tromsø, Norway

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Timothy Gonchoroff, a recent graduate of the master of fine arts program in the School of Art and Design at Alfred University (AU), is the recipient of a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to Norway.

The United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced that Gonchoroff will research and document the natural dyes extracted from alien plant species growing within the urban environment of Tromsø, Norway. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential.

Gonchoroff concentrated in sculpture/dimensional studies at AU. He explained his recent thesis exhibition, “New Ecologies Materials Laboratory” as depicting locations “that are the result of our material culture interacting with the natural world. The Laboratory has investigated, extracted, and cataloged a variety of materials found in a nearby landfill and will be presenting its research to the Alfred community.”

Gonchoroff, from Faber, VA, is one of over 1,900 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2015-16 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. He is a son of Victor and Toni Gonchoroff of Faber and a graduate of Nelson County High School, Lovingson, VA.

He earned a bachelor of art degree in art history from the College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA and has a post-baccalaureate degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support. The Program operates in over 160 countries worldwide.

Since its establishment in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright Program has given approximately 360,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Fulbright alumni have achieved distinction in government, science, the arts, business, philanthropy, education, and many other fields. Fifty-three Fulbright alumni from 12 countries have been awarded the Nobel Prize, and 82 alumni have received Pulitzer Prizes. Prominent Fulbright alumni include: Muhammad Yunus, founder, Grameen Bank, and

2006 Nobel Peace Prize recipient; Juan Manuel Santos, President of Colombia; John Hope Franklin, noted American historian and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient; **Riccardo Giacconi**, physicist and 2002 Nobel Laureate; Amar Gopal Bose, founder, Bose Corporation; Renée Fleming, soprano; Jonathan Franzen, writer; and Daniel Libeskind, architect.