

Renowned designer selects four works from Alfred University for exhibition in Italy

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Graphic designer Armando Milani (second from right) spoke to students of Judy Livingston (right)

ALFRED, NY – Internationally renowned graphic designer Armando Milani recently announced four poster designs, originating from Alfred University, will be included in his forthcoming “Ubuntu Project” exhibition in Milan, Italy, in October.

One poster, in the professional category, was designed by Judy Livingston, associate professor of design at Alfred University’s School of Art and Design. The other three, designed for the student category of the exhibition, were created by Alfred University fine arts majors: Maddison Brietze and Imani Graves, who earned B.F.A. degrees in 2018, and senior Tiffany Gannon. All three were students in the Design for Social Justice class, co-taught by Livingston and Dan Napolitano, assistant dean, School of Art and Design, in which the Ubuntu Project was introduced.

In April, Livingston organized a visit by Milani to speak at Alfred University, critique students’ works-in-progress,

and encourage their submissions for the international exhibition.

The Ubuntu Project exhibition opens at the Rotondo della Besana in Milan, Italy in October. “Ubuntu”, Livingston explained, is a South African philosophy linked to loyalty and solidarity; it is an Nguni Bantu term meaning “humanity toward others.”

Livingston’s own poster illustration is inspired by the double helix structure of DNA. “The fact that all human beings share more than 99 percent of their DNA is testimony to the reality of our global community and the insignificance of our differences,” Livingston said.

Milani, whose design clients have included the United Nations, created the Ubuntu Project as yet another effort to use art to promote peace. He has travelled to Cairo, Paris, London, Mexico City, Alfred, and throughout Italy conducting workshops and inviting designers to communicate the meaning of “Ubuntu.” The exhibition showcases artwork from 23 countries, including 50 professional designers and 50 students.

Alfred University is home to the New York State College of Ceramics, which includes the School of Art and Design, where the division of expanded media is one of six divisions. Expanded media includes printmaking, design, digital interactive arts, video art and sonic art studios.