

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Saya Woolfalk

Saya Woolfalk is a New York based multimedia artist known for her exploration of hybridity and science. Woolfalk uses science fiction and fantasy to reimagine the world in multiple dimensions. Woolfalk received a B.A. in Visual Art and Economics from Brown University in 2001 and earned her M.F.A. in Sculpture at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2004. Her work has been exhibited across Asia, Europe, and the United States and can be found in the collections of several major institutions including the Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; the Newark Museum, NJ; and the Seattle Art Museum, WA. Woolfalk has delivered numerous public lectures, including a recent TEDx Talk.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

James Brantley

Established in 2003, this award is presented annually by the Alumni Council to an alum who has demonstrated outstanding artistic achievement. Collectively, the recipients reflect the diversity and talent of the alumni body. James Brantley is a contemporary painter and life-long Philadelphian. Upon graduating from Simon Gratz High School in the Nicetown neighborhood of North Philadelphia in 1963, Brantley began studying art at the PAFA. After serving honorably in the United States Army and completing one tour of duty in Vietnam and Stateside, he completed PAFA's four-year Certificate Program in Painting in 1971. He then enrolled in the General Studies Program at The Philadelphia College of Art in 1971 and studied 19th and 20th Century Art History at the University of Pennsylvania in 1972. His works sit at the intersection of abstraction and figurative painting. He is both a master painter and a compelling storyteller, who continues to remain true to his artistic vision and personal identity as an artist.

## ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Michael Kowbuz

Established in 2015, this award is presented annually by the Alumni Council and recognizes alumni who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to their community. Originally from Canada, Michael Kowbuz holds an MFA from PAFA and an MA in Community College Teaching from Northern Michigan University. He makes drawings, paintings and prints and has exhibited both regionally and nationally. His work is about looking at filtered images of the world, whether via reflections, photographs or the fog of memory, articulating these visions and asking the question "What is real?" Mike is co-proprietor of Cerulean Arts Gallery and Studio in Philadelphia.

# COMMENCEMENT

May 12, 2023

**PAFA**  
Pennsylvania Academy  
*of the Fine Arts*

118-128 North Broad Street, Philadelphia  
pafa.edu | 215-972-7600

**2023 Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree Graduates in  
coordinations with the University of Pennsylvania**

**PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS**

Commencement

May 12, 2023

Grace Boyle  
Katherine Burgess  
Kathryn Dennison

Avery Givens Nardone  
Cosima Tiger Kohl  
Clare McCarthy\*

Zhengxin Ran  
Ruini Yu\*

**Completed PAFA Requirements for Penn BFA**

Clare Fitzgerald  
River Hennick

Nicole Meyer\*  
Abigail Villaquiran Avila\*

**2023 Fine Arts Foundations Certificate Program Graduates**

Robert James Cody\*

Sophonria Arianne Eckenrode

Maximillian Gurman

**2023 Studio Certificate Program Graduates**

Anna Jean Hoppel

Zhengxin Ran

**2023 Bachelor of Fine Arts Program Graduates**

Alexander Joseph Aubry  
Meeranjali Bhagwanji\*  
Nat Bombeke  
Frederick Bowden  
Tali Burry-Schnepp  
Tiarra Jacqueline Cooper  
Michaela Grace Driggers  
Fatima Celeste Espinosa  
Ashley Lauren Feldman  
Anastasia Flerova

Samantha Grace Kent\*  
John LaVoice  
Uyen Le  
Elizabeth Lippman  
Brooke McVeigh\*  
Grace Evangeline Meredith\*  
Milan Rodin Michaud  
James Grad Oliver\* Hannah  
Noelle Pacitti Yiannis  
Nikolaos Pasamihalis

Gina Pilaitis  
Maya Puyat  
William M. Rosati  
Victoria Angelina Silvestri\*  
Jessica Amy Stahl  
Eric J. Wagner  
Ruimiao (Amanda) Wang  
Jake Weiss\*  
Safiya Niara Ma'at Bornfree Wharton

**Academic Processional**

**Welcoming Remarks**

Anne E. McCollum  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Reginald M. Browne  
Chair, Board of Governors

**President's Remarks Commencement**

Eric C. Pryor  
President & Chief Executive Officer

**Speaker Introduction**

Dr. Anna O. Marley  
Chief of Curatorial Affairs

**Commencement Address**

Saya Woolfalk

**Award Presentation**

Clint Jukkala,  
Executive Dean of the College of Fine Arts

**Distinguished Alumni Award**

*Presented by:* Lydia Hamilton Brown  
Alumni Council President  
*Recipient:* James Brantley

**Mayor's Award**

*Presented by:* Kelly Lee,  
Chief Cultural Officer and Director, Office  
of Arts, Culture and the Creative  
Economy, Philadelphia

**Class Speaker, BFA program**

Safiya Wharton

**Candidates for the PAFA/Penn  
Degree and Studio Completion**

Clint Jukkala  
Executive Dean of the College of Fine Arts

**Candidates for the BFA and  
Certificate**

Jill Rupinski  
Chair of Fine Arts

Jessica Abel  
Chair of Illustration

**Conclusion**

Clint Jukkala

**\*December 2022 Graduate**