

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

Candidate for the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Coordination with the University of Pennsylvania			PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS	
			Commencement May 12, 2023	
Grace Boyle	Avery Givens Nardone	Zhengxin Ran	Academic Processional	
Katherine Burgess	Cosima Tiger Kohl	Ruini Yu*	Welcoming Remarks	Anne E. McCollum Chair, Board of Trustees
Kathryn Dennison	Clare McCarthy*			Reginald M. Browne Chair, Board of Governors
Completing PAFA Requirements for BFA in coordination with the University of Pennsylvania			President’s Remarks	Eric C. Pryor President & Chief Executive Officer
Clare Fitzgerald	Nicole Meyer*			Dr. Anna O. Marley Chief of Curatorial Affairs
River Hennick	Abigail Villaquiran Avila*		Commencement Speaker Introduction	
2023 Fine Arts Foundations Certificate			Commencement Address	Saya Woolfalk
Robert James Cody*	Sophronia Arianne Eckenrode	Maximillian Gurman	Awards Presentation	Clint Jukkala Executive Dean of the College of Fine Arts
	2023 Studio Certificate			
Anna Jean Hoppel	Zhengxin Ran		Distinguished Alumni Award	<i>Presented by:</i> Lydia Hamilton Brown Alumni Council President <i>Recipient:</i> James Brantley
2023 Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree			Mayor’s Award	<i>Presented by:</i> Kelly Lee Chief Cultural Officer and Director Culture and the Creative Economy
Alexander Joseph Aubry	Samantha Grace Kent*	Gina Pilaitis	Class Speaker, BFA program	Safiya Wharton
Meeranjali Bhagwanji*	John LaVoice	Maya Puyat		
Nat Bombeke	Uyen Le	William M. Rosati	Candidates for the PAFA/Penn Degree and Studio Completion	Clint Jukkala
Frederick Bowden	Elizabeth Lippman	Victoria Angelina Silvestri*		Jill Rupinski Chair of Fine Arts
Tali Burry-Schnepp	Brooke McVeigh*	Jessica Amy Stahl	Candidates for the BFA and Certificate	Jessica Abel Chair of Illustration
Tiairra Jacqueline Cooper	Grace Evangeline Meredith*	Eric J. Wagner		
Michaela Grace Driggers	Milan Rodin Michaud	Ruimiao (Amanda) Wang	Conclusion	Clint Jukkala
Fatima Celeste Espinosa	James Grad Oliver*	Jake Weiss*		
Ashley Lauren Feldman	Hannah Noelle Pacitti	Safiya Niara Ma’at Bornfree Wharton		
Anastasia Flerova	Yiannis Nikolaos Pasamihalis			
*December 2022 Graduate				