Create. Connect.
Build your future.
In their junior year as Game Design majors Natilya Ratcliff and Helen Su spent the summer of 2014 interning at NASA Glenn Research Center, where they worked on 3D modeling, texturing, and other effects for educational games that NASA will present in a museum setting.

“I never thought I would be working at NASA,” said Helen. “It’s really incredible.”

Helen and Natilya gained professional experience that a student at a large university would envy. But coming from a small college, they were able to call their professor in the middle of the summer when they needed advice on a particularly tricky problem. And having already collaborated with computer science majors at Case Western Reserve University, they walked into their internship on the first day knowing how to communicate with the NASA programmers.
What do we mean by Cores+Connections?

CIA’s core values include:

- world-class faculty mentorship
- studio and academic rigor
- cutting-edge curriculum
- state-of-the-art facilities

CIA’s established network of 200+ connections engages students in:

- field-based hands-on learning
- real-world professional projects (for real-world clients)
- community-based practices in art and design

This powerful combination of Cores + Connections will help you build the skills and talents that fuel the best possible career outcomes.

Why wait until graduation?

Cleveland Institute of Art’s Cores + Connections will enable you to begin developing your professional career while you’re still an undergraduate.

Build your future now
Gain real-world experience

A successful creative future requires strong connections to real-world experience.

You’ll find those connections at CIA. Whether through courses, extracurricular projects, or internships, you’ll have opportunities to gain real-world professional experience.

Internships enable you to begin what employers call a “work history” and they can help you focus on what kind of career you want and what type of work environment is the best fit for you.

- Over 80% of CIA students serve at least one internship before they graduate.
- 100% of 2014 graduates in Biomedical Art, Ceramics, Graphic Design, Glass, Jewelry+ Metals, and Printmaking participated in internships.
- CIA’s Career Center staff members work with students one-on-one, and in small workshops, to improve their resumes and LinkedIn pages, practice interviewing for jobs, and find the right internships.
- 94% of CIA graduates are employed or enrolled in graduate school within six months of graduation.

Learn more about our Career Center at cia.edu/career-center

Here are a few of the employers that have hired CIA interns in recent years:
- American Greetings
- Chrysler
- Clear Channel
- Cleveland Botanical Garden
- Cleveland Clinic
- Cleveland Museum of Art
- Dell
- Disney
- Doner Advertising
- Farm Design
- Fisher Price
- Fitch
- Ford
- General Motors
- Hasbro
- Interdesign
- Lifetime Brands
- Little Tikes
- NASA
- National Geographic
- Newell Rubbermaid
- Nike
- Penland School of Arts + Crafts
- Reebok
- The Sculpture Center
- Sherwin Williams
- The Smithsonian
- Step 2
- Steve Madden Shoes
- Think Media Studios
- Vocon, Inc.
Beginning in your Foundation year, and throughout your time at CIA, your courses will challenge you to build on each of these skills, which in turn will build confidence in your art making, and prepare you for a new millennium career in art and design.

creativity
Your creativity brings you to CIA, and during your time here, the continued cultivation of innovative, inventive thinking will be a deciding factor in your professional success.

critical thinking
Our long-standing emphasis on problem solving will help you think critically about art making and real-world projects. And critical thinkers are always in demand.

communication
At CIA, you’ll get plenty of practice communicating your ideas and solutions, which will help you in professional interactions with clients, gallerists, community partners, and other members of your audience.

collaboration
Working together across disciplines toward a mutual goal is critically important to building a successful future in art and design in the 21st century.
Glass major Amanda Wilcox already had an impressive professional resume when she entered her senior year at CIA: winner in 2014 and finalist in 2015 for an international award from *Niche* magazine; student representative to the board of directors of the international Glass Art Society; studio assistant at the prestigious Penland School of Crafts; and teaching assistant at Case Western Reserve University’s think[box] high-tech fabrication facility.

That’s not all: at CIA, Amanda helped organize the 2014 Student Holiday Craft Sale; worked as a glass teaching assistant for continuing education courses and our Pre-College summer residential program; and served as a studio technical assistant in the Glass and Ceramics departments.

Amanda goes after opportunities for growth. And at CIA, she’s had diverse opportunities.

“One of the things I love most about being at CIA is that I have access to all of these different studios I’d never seen before,” she said. “I was all about glass when I first started at CIA. But my Foundation professors pushed me into working with multimedia.” She’s grateful for that push: her work now includes printmaking, ceramics, metals and time-based media.
Start with a solid foundation

At CIA, you’ll spend your first year in our Foundation program, a yearlong introduction to forms, methods, media, and concepts crucial to academic and professional success. You will emerge from the program in great shape to enter a major.

This foundation for success includes two “charettes”—seven-week courses that involve extensive creative brainstorming sessions aimed at developing multiple visual solutions on a short deadline.

Collaboration + Community  The students and instructor work collaboratively to define and explore “community” as local place and learning environment. Through materials exploration, making processes, and critique, this charette forges links with the visual, tactile, and manual skill sets taught in other Foundation classes.

Self + Other Voices  As an exploration of one’s self in relation to culture and society, this charette facilitates increased self-knowledge and helps students uncover their views of “other.” You’ll explore “other voices,” cultivate connections with those other voices, and develop creative responses.
Extend your classroom

At CIA, your studio classroom experiences will definitely extend beyond the walls of the college.

Class assignments can take you to some of the top museums, universities, and hospitals in the country—all within walking distance. Every year, you will have options to collaborate with students from other majors—or other colleges—on community-based projects that will earn a spot on your resume.

We know you’ll visit and sketch in the world-class Cleveland Museum of Art. And depending on your interests, you may also: show your own artwork at local galleries, have your work purchased by a hospital or corporation headquartered in Cleveland, teach a workshop at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, create design concepts for a major manufacturer, collaborate at one of the largest university-based maker spaces in the world, or partner with a community group addressing a social problem.

Farther afield, you may explore New York City museums and galleries, spend an alternative spring break in service to post-Katrina New Orleans, or spend a semester abroad.
In their Foundation charrette, Self + Other Voices, Meghan Sweeney and her classmates were each paired with residents of a nearby senior high rise to learn about one meaningful object in the life of their project partner and create artwork in response to it. Meghan was paired with a man whose most meaningful possession was his late sister’s obituary. “It really forced me to think about the concepts of loss and acceptance in a really abstract way, trying to figure out how to represent them,” Meghan said. Challenging, but fun. She and her project partner both enjoyed the dialogue, the artistic challenge, and the final artwork. “It’s been fun to play around, experiment, and see what you come up with.”

Read more about this project at: cia.edu/abington
Meet creative leaders

Even when your class work doesn’t extend beyond the walls of CIA, the world comes in. Regularly, and from all over the globe.

Every year, dozens of visiting artists, designers, curators, and scholars come to CIA to share their work and their perspectives. In fact, you’ll have a standing lunch date with thought leaders through our Lunch On Fridays (LOF) lecture series. A different speaker every Friday, some from beyond CIA, some from CIA’s own esteemed faculty. All LOF lectures come with free pizza.

Many visiting artists demonstrate their craft or approach in small-group sessions. Some also meet students one-on-one, critique their work, and provide valuable feedback and career insight. Talk about connections.

Watch videos featuring a few of our recent visiting artists at cia.edu/visitingartists.

Just a few of CIA’s recent visiting artists, designers, curators and scholars:

Chi-Yu Liao (Taiwan)
James Nares
Nicky Nodjoumi (Iran)
Dave Cole
Caroline Woolard
Susan Jahoda
Dor Guez (Israel)
R. Roger Remington
Renato Miracco (Italy)
Judith Schaechter
Stephen Vetter
Beat Zoderer
Molly Hatch
Trenton Doyle Hancock
John Waters
Maj Hasager (Denmark)
Jenny Mendes
Shannon Jackson
Jen Delos Reyes
Jenny Mendes
Carter Foster
Kevin Beasley
Dave Lait
Nick Cave
Michael Bierut
Filmmaker John Waters

Glass artist Judith Schaechter

Marvel Comics mastermind Brian Michael Bendis' 91
At CIA, you’ll have numerous opportunities to create work for clients and earn college credit at the same time. Design Center Learning is a great example. This design elective each semester brings in a new client and a new design challenge for students to tackle. Moen, Nestle, Diebold Systems, and Nissan have all sponsored Design Center projects and, in turn, were all treated to fresh concepts and new perspectives from CIA’s aspiring designers. The latest client: medical device manufacturer Stryker, which came to CIA looking for new ideas on the ergonomics of surgical tools. Students viewed joint replacement surgeries at Cleveland Clinic and traveled to Michigan to consult with surgeons at Stryker.
“We drew countless sketches, made nearly 30 form models out of foam, and continually tested and revised our work until each student group was able to develop a final concept to propose to Stryker,” said Alex Price ’15.

Stryker’s Aaron Johnson described the collaboration with CIA as a great success. “In the end, the high talent and fresh perspective from this student group was evident and showed through with their impressive new concepts and form factors for power tools.”

Read more at cia.edu/stryker
CIA is committed to helping students connect their considerable art + design knowledge with on-the-ground skills in partnering with others to solve real-world problems. In the process, you’ll engage with the communities in which we all live, learn, work and grow.

**interdisciplinary exploration**
CIA faculty encourage you to develop a wider perspective by experimenting with media outside your major through interdisciplinary study, and through collaborations with project partners outside of the school. Recent projects include collaborations with dialysis patients at the Cleveland Clinic, and a project to map resources for the homeless in Northeast Ohio.

**business + professional practices**
We’ve developed a rigorous mandatory Business + Professional Practices curriculum that all CIA students complete. In addition to the core course and the small-group seminars, you’ll take a professional writing course and travel out into the field to see artists and designers at work.

**career center**
It is never too early to think about internships, resumes, and your career. Opportunities for using your talents are widely available locally and nationally and the Career Center has the resources, strategies and connections to help you find them.

Engage with your future
There are so many examples of CIA students extending the classroom experience for professional, resume-building engagement before graduation. Here’s just one recent example for each of our 15 majors:
Biomedical Art

**Embryon.**
Students collaborated with Case Western Reserve University computer scientists to create interactive 3D illustrations for a study app to help medical students learn embryology.

cia.edu/embryon
Animation

**360° of Sight + Sound: The Planetarium Project.**
CIA students created animations, Cleveland Institute of Music composed the scores, all projected on the dome of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History’s planetarium.

cia.edu/planetarium

Ceramics

**The Wood Kiln Project.**
Ceramics majors and faculty designed and built an off-site, rural, wood-burning kiln, so they could create glazing effects that can’t be achieved with any other kind of kiln.

cia.edu/academics/kiln
Game Design

Designing Workable Games.
Teams of CIA designers pair up annually with computer science students from Case Western Reserve University to develop actual, playable games, which are critiqued by industry experts at the end of the semester.

cia.edu/games
Drawing

Art Spot.
Drawing majors (and other Visual Arts students) compete quarterly to have their work included in a juried public exhibition at Art Spot, a local gallery.

cia.edu/artspot

Glass

Glass Gathering.
Glass artists from the U.S. and Canada, including CIA glass majors, converge for a full day of talks, demonstrations, a student show, the “Glass Olympics,” an auction, and lots of networking.

cia.edu/glassgathering
Graphic Design

Cuyahoga County Seal.
Leaders of the Ohio county that includes Cleveland came to CIA looking for a new seal, or logo. It became a class assignment, with lots of input from the county, and the county chose a design by a CIA student for its new seal.

cia.edu/seal
Illustration

ArtBox.
Illustration students created artwork that now covers 22 utility boxes in CIA’s immediate University Circle neighborhood. The series depicts the University Circle between 1920 and 1960. Now other Cleveland neighborhoods are jumping on the bandwagon, engaging students to design customized solutions in their areas.

cia.edu/artbox

Industrial Design

Annual furniture project.
The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Cleveland turned to CIA when it needed lounge furniture as sophisticated as its gleaming new facility. Now Industrial Design students compete annually to have their furniture designs chosen by the museum.

cia.edu/furniture
Interior Architecture

Victory Project.
Interior Architecture students proposed dynamic and inviting yet practical designs to help convert a former factory space in downtown Cleveland into a co-working space for entrepreneurs and freelancers.

cia.edu/victory
Jewelry+Metals

**Runway Show.**
Coordinated and led by Jewelry+Metals majors, this annual public show is open to all students interested in wearables in the form of fashion, design and conceptual art.

cia.edu/runway

Painting

**Community dialogue.**
As part of the Artist as Producer course, Painting majors (and other Visual Arts students) annually organize a public art event, like this national teleconference. CIA students discussed art ideas with students from other U.S. colleges before a live audience at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland.

cia.edu/teleconference
Printmaking

Fluxus.
Printmaking students transformed dry statistics about the economic benefits of the arts into engaging and provocative materials sent to Ohio political leaders when they participated in this project with a local community printmaking studio.

cia.edu/fluxus
Photography + Video

**Flashes of Hope.**
Each year, Photography + Video students take photographs on location for Flashes of Hope, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating powerful, uplifting portraits of children fighting cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

cia.edu/flashes

Sculpture + Expanded Media

**Art and technology.**
Sculpture + Expanded Media majors have many opportunities to work across disciplines, including outside of CIA. The course Art, Environment, and Engaged Practice meets way outside of CIA, in a lodge in the wooded Cleveland Metroparks, where students create installations like this one.

cia.edu/environment
Take a closer look:
Connecting to galleries

Student Independent Exhibition, Spring Design Show, Student Summer Show, the freshman Mail Art Project, quarterly exhibitions at the ArtSpot gallery—as a CIA student, you’ll have no shortage of opportunities to show your work in professionally mounted, public gallery exhibitions. Most years, CIA students also submit to have their work purchased for a corporate collection. Eaton, Avery Dennison, University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University and Dealer Tire all boast CIA student artwork on their walls.

Halfway through her senior year, Sculpture + Expanded Media major Annmarie Suglio added to that list by curating her own exhibition at a local arts center. The show featured 10 CIA students and recent graduates and was the result of a connection Suglio made while working part time at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland. There, she got to meet the executive director of the Beachwood Arts Council, and made a good impression. Suglio plans to pursue a career in curating, and hopes one day to host shows in her own gallery/studio.
Don’t take our word for it

Go to cia.edu/alumni and hear from our alumni directly. We’ve talked with several alums about their path to success and current work.

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