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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Drury, MSU and Art Museum help artists explore educational opportunities**

Local opportunities in post-baccalaureate art education will be the focus of an upcoming event co-sponsored by the art programs of Drury University and Missouri State University, and the Springfield Art Museum. The organizations will host "Flexible Art Worlds: Graduate Art Education in Springfield and Beyond" from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, at the Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr.

"Flexible Art Worlds" is a one-day symposium that combines a portfolio review, keynote lecture, panel discussion and informational reception. The event is geared toward artists exploring graduate degree options; helping them weigh the pros and cons of seeking such a degree in general, and highlighting local options in particular.

The event is free and open to the public, and promises to spark noteworthy conversation about the current state of art and education.

### Event Schedule

- **2 p.m.** Performative lecture and diagram, titled "Flexible Artworlds," by Adelheid Mers, a visual artist and Chair of the Arts Administration and Policy program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she also teaches courses in Art History & Criticism, Visual & Critical Studies, and Sculpture. (Mers' biography is attached.) Through an examination of the broader "art world," Mers' presentation and diagram will help contextualize, as she puts it, "what is available out there, and how to think about it in a more expansive way."
- **3 p.m.** Continuing the discussion, a panel on graduate art education will be moderated by Nick Nelson, director of the Springfield Art Museum. Panelists will include: Tom Parker, director, Summer Institute for Visual Arts at Drury University; Carolyn Cardenas, department head, Art + Design at Missouri State University; Todd Lowery, chair, department of Art and Art History at Drury University; Sage Dawson, MFA 2009, University of New Mexico; Joshua Albers, MFA 2013, University of Illinois at Chicago; and Jeff Broekhoven, MFA 2013, University of Wisconsin – Madison.
- **4:30 p.m.** The panel discussion will be followed by a light reception where interested participants may meet representatives from each of the local programs and have their portfolios reviewed on site for advice and/or to begin the graduate application process.

The Springfield Art Museum is free of charge and the museum is accessible to all visitors. Visit [springfieldmo.gov/art](http://springfieldmo.gov/art) for hours of operation and other information.

For more information contact: Tom Parker, director of Drury's Summer Institute for the Visual Arts, at [mart-siva@drury.edu](mailto:mart-siva@drury.edu) or Nick Nelson, director of the Springfield Art Museum, 417-837-5700.