

2008/09 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

Anonymous Award



QUYNH VANTU
Architecture
Graduate student
Cranbrook Academy of Art

I enthusiastically apply to the Worldstudio AIGA Scholarship program. I value the mission set forth to utilize art and architecture as catalysts to encourage social and environmental responsibilities and cultural awareness. My influences and experiences as an Asian American female in the profession of architecture has affected the work I create and brings me to a quest for that voice to be heard.

Since graduating Virginia Tech in 2001, I have been learning the real life scenarios of the profession of architecture, working in offices specializing in exhibit design, historic preservation, and educational design. Throughout this time I have been conscious and active in pursuing my own research and interests in the studies of sculpture and the making and choreographing of the built environment. I felt it necessary to continue my explorations in studio practice by attending several artist residency programs, challenging the conventions of architectural practice. My work has developed to become full-scale installations that reflect my sensibilities as an architect, as well as my experimental interests with different spatial conditions at a scale that is enveloping.



QUYNH VANTU

Architecture



While keeping my activity as an artist vital, I was committed to attaining my professional architecture license. Becoming licensed in June 2007 marked a milestone in my life and career as an architect. Since gaining my professional architecture license, I also became a LEED-accredited professional in August 2007. With both of these credentials completed, I am able to further challenge my education and development of practice through attending graduate school at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. Cranbrook's interdisciplinary integration of the fine arts, design, and architecture will open me to many more challenges in my contemplations of architecture and art and how it may address social change and critique.

Currently, my body of work explores our physical relationship to the built environment, incorporating ideas of eliciting "virtue in architecture." I am proposing a thesis of study of full-scale installations deployed in our environment and space.

Having gained my professional architecture license prior to graduate school, I can truly commit my focus to critical studies and questions of architecture and art and my role in it, as a female minority in a historically male-dominated profession. I continue to encourage my female colleagues to do the same by participating in professional organizations such as the AIA, to influence intern development as well as the importance of attaining their professional credentials. I am active in assisting with intern development and exam preparation to several of my colleagues so that the female voice in architecture can be heard. My participation as a guest critic to several educational architectural reviews reinforces my desire to continue my involvement in the education of architecture, design and art. I will continue to do work that promotes female participation in architecture and be involved in organizations and communities that focus on furthering their advancement in this field. I intend to pursue my own practice of architecture, utilizing graduate school as a new beginning for my own career as an architect. The future is rich and the sky is the limit!

