

Julie Hawkins Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to a novice?

I am a mixed media artist. I use my own hand and find materials to create something that wasn't there before.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

Seeing this last year through as a personal goal, knowing that I have the full support of my family, friends, and mentors.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

Of course!

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

Walking and guided visualization.

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

Manuscript Illumination - History and Techniques by Christopher de Hamel, read in late June.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

I doubt I would have pulled through without the challenge, encouragement, and acknowledgement of Dr. Halide Salam, Dr. Roann Barris, and Dr. Eloise Philpot. In their own way, they helped serve as a foundation to help me explore how I can best contribute to the world.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

The one thing I consistently mentioned during my first year was how frustrating it was discover my own voice through painting, bringing to the table a fresh new body of work to eventually present with a thesis.

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

No, as a painter I doubt I'd qualify to be on board.

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

My favorite comfort food is raw fruit pie. Made using several ingredients, you can indulge in the entire dish and not suffer the effects of sugar rush! I eat this dish on special occasions, such as when I'm on holiday or visiting family.

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I'd likely be staying out West, holding a steady job at an office and displaying my painting through local venues.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

December 2013