



Professor of art receives MacDowell Colony Fellowship

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University Park, Pa. - **Bonnie Collura**, assistant professor of art at Penn State, is the recipient of a MacDowell Colony Fellowship, which will allow her to complete her project, "Seven," a series of silver helium-filled balloons that are seven feet tall and jointed to look like abstracted figures. Collura will live and work at the colony in Peterborough, N.H., from Feb. 23 to April 6.

The MacDowell Colony, founded in 1907, is the oldest artists' colony in the United States. Each year 250 fellowships, or residencies, are awarded to artists in seven disciplines (architecture, music composition, film and video, interdisciplinary art, theatre, visual art and literature). "It is a rich opportunity to exchange ideas and share dialogue with creative thinkers outside one's own craft," Collura said.

Collura's project, "Seven," will metaphorically demonstrate a life span. Each silver balloon will be painted on one side with an interwoven portrait representing one virtue, one vice and one dwarf from the story "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," such as diligence (virtue), sloth (vice) and Sleepy. The balloons, floating freely, will at first rise to the ceiling to reach the heat from the exhibition lights. Eventually, the "Seven" balloons will slowly fall, turning defined figures into abstracted folds on the floor.

Collura received her bachelor of fine arts from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1994 and her master of fine arts, concentrating in sculpture, from Yale University in 1996. She has been in numerous solo and group shows in New York, Germany, France and Italy. Her work has been reviewed in The New York Times, Art Forum, Art in America, Art News, Sculpture Magazine, BOMB magazine, Beautiful Decay, Time Out New York, and several other publications. Collura's current project, "The Prince Project," for which she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2005, is composed of four sections, titled "Dust," "Wicked," "Seven" and "White Light." Together, they interweave sculptures, animations, audio, installations and drawings representing the journey of a fictitious three-dimensional fused form going through various physical, fantastical and spiritual states.