

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff

**From:** Elizabeth Garrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Date:** August 28, 2013

**Subject:** USC International Artist Fellowship program (IAF)



The Strategic Vision: *Matching Deeds to Ambitions* highlights the special prominence of the arts at USC, with six world-class arts schools that nourish and are nourished by the global metropolis of Los Angeles. It envisions our “bringing the best international artists from the Pacific Rim, South Asia and Latin America to our campus for study to form a cadre of creative leaders, whose work will influence USC, Los Angeles and the world.” In pursuit of this vision, the International Artist Fellowship program was created to form a world arts community that celebrates diverse perspectives, artistic exchange and academic values.

Today, I am delighted to introduce you to our inaugural class of International Artist Fellows. I had the pleasure of welcoming these four exceptional young artists to USC last week. Below are brief sketches of our four artist fellows and their work:

- The work of film and video artist **Jacinto Astiazaran** from Mexico has been exhibited in cities around the world, from Austin, Texas to Istanbul. He will pursue his MFA in Fine Arts at the Roski School of Fine Arts.
- **Frederico Fernandez** from Brazil is a distinguished artist whose painting, illustrations, graffiti art, and animation create hybrid blends of digital media and exhibition formats. He joins the John C. Hench Division of Animation & Digital Arts at the School of Cinematic Arts.
- Internationally acclaimed and award winning guitarist **Vladimir Gorbach** has captivated audiences across the world and in his home country of Russia. He joins the Classical Guitar program at the Thornton School of Music.
- **Fei Kayser** from China is an international dramatist who writes about the ways that Chinese people both collide against and celebrate their rapidly changing country and the world. She will pursue her MFA in Dramatic Writing at the School of Dramatic Arts.

I hope you will have a chance to meet these four remarkable student artists and welcome them to Los Angeles and to the Trojan Family. More details can be found in the attached profiles.

cc: C. L. Max Nikias  
Robert Abeles  
Al Checcio  
Todd Dickey  
Thomas Jackiewicz  
Michael Quick  
Thomas S. Sayles  
Robin Romans

# 2013 USC International Artist Fellowship Program

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## Jacinto Astiazaran

Mexico 

VISUAL ARTS



The work of film and video artist Jacinto Astiazaran has been exhibited internationally, from Austin, Texas to Istanbul. He has shown in a number of significant institutions including the Walker Art Center, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Tate Modern, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Miami.

Astiazaran often works collaboratively across disciplines such as video, dance, and performance. His practice is largely documentary in nature, with a focus on evidence of adaptation on a cultural or personal level. Representation and translation are also common themes in his work, with instances of cultural exchange between the U.S. and Mexico as a typical starting point for these investigations.

Jacinto grew up in Tijuana and currently lives in Mexico City. In the Fall of 2013 he will be enrolled in the USC Roski School of Fine Arts' MFA Program where he joins the inaugural class of International Artist Fellows of USC.

# 2013 USC International Artist Fellowship Program

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## Frederico Fernandez

Brazil 

ANIMATION & DIGITAL ARTS



Frederico Fernandez is a distinguished artist whose painting, illustrations, graffiti art, and animation create hybrid blends of digital media and exhibition formats. Born in Bahia, Brazil, Fernandez received his Bachelor's degree in Advertising/Communication from the University of São Paulo. To further build on his artistic training, Fernandez left Brazil to study Fine Arts and Animation at École Émile Cohl, in the city of Lyon, France. After living and exhibiting art for more than two and a half years between Paris and Lyon, he moved back to his native country of Brazil. During this period, Fernandez worked with projects in animation, illustration and design as well as independent fine art projects and exhibitions of his own. His endeavors include working on the feature film *Ritos de Passagem* as an animator and background artist and showcasing his first illustration exhibit in conjunction with Sinlogo Studio.

Fernandez's diverse subject matters range from political and social commentary to purely illustrative vivid depictions of everyday life in São Paulo. His passion and innovation utilizing animated graffiti street art projected onto buildings as well as his work being streamed live across the internet, reflects the mobility and reach of indigenous art forms to a broader global audience. Much of this art is created to convey our individual and collective needs for coexistence and his hope to bring social awareness to the environmental consequences of unchecked human development.

Fernandez is trilingual, with language fluency in Portuguese, French, and English. As a USC International Artist Fellow, he will begin his Master of Fine Arts degree in the USC School of Cinematic Arts' John C. Hench Division of Animation and Digital Arts.

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## Vladimir Gorbach

Russia 

GUITAR



Internationally acclaimed guitarist Vladimir Gorbach has captivated audiences across the world and in his native country of Russia. He has been a featured performer for some of the most highly regarded concert organizations, festivals and musical institutions in the world, performing on the Moscow Philharmonic Concert Series, at the Koblenz International Guitar Festival in Germany, and for the Sydney Crow's Nest Concert Cycle in Australia. He has also been a soloist with orchestras such as the Orchestra de Las Beiras and Orchestra de Aveiro in Portugal as well as the Russian Academic Chamber Orchestra "Musica Viva" at the famed Tchaikovsky Hall.

A first place winner of more than ten of the most important international competitions, his most recent win at the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America's International Concert Artist Competition earned him a 50-city concert tour of the U.S., (including his Carnegie Hall debut in February 2013) Mexico, and Canada with appearances in Brazil and China. Broadcasts of Gorbach's live and recorded performances have aired in Eastern and Western Europe. He recently recorded a solo CD with Naxos, the world's largest classical label, and is due to record with the same label as a member of Duo Cologne along with Goran Krivokapic, the 2005 first prize-winner of the Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition.

Gorbach grew up in Siberia and graduated with honors from the Music College of Novosibirsk, the city where he was born. At a young age he received recognition for his accomplishments, and he later received scholarships from such prestigious sources as the Russian Ministry of Culture. He left Russia to complete his Bachelor and Masters degrees at the Conservatory for Music and Dance in Cologne, Germany under the tutelage of internationally renowned concert artists and pedagogues Roberto Aussel and Carlo Marchione. He begins his doctoral studies in classical guitar at the USC Thornton School of Music where he joins the inaugural class of USC International Artist Fellows.

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**Fei Kayser**

China 



**DRAMATIC WRITING**

Fei Kayser is an international dramatist who writes about the ways that Chinese people both collide against and celebrate their rapidly changing country and the world. Tradition and history-laden culture are matched against a newer, faster society and its evolving expectations. There is excitement in this drama that plays out in the new China – in its challenges and triumphs - which form the narratives and fabric of Kayser’s work.

Kayser was born in Xi’an, Shaanxi, and lived in China, America, Canada, and the United Kingdom, before settling in Beijing. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University with distinction in her major of theater studies, with a concentration in playwriting. Her writing has been honored with a number of awards, prizes, and fellowships, including the Elga Ruth Wasserman Award in Women's and Gender Studies, the Henry S. McNeil Fellowship, and a Hedgebrook Writing Residency, among other distinctions.

In addition to writing drama for the stage, Kayser has written for China Central Television, China Daily, and interactive media. She is a sought after collaborator on screenplays, with credits on projects spanning the genres of deep science fiction, Chinese fantasy, and historical drama. She has advised Chinese film companies both small and established, and she was a founding member of the screenwriting program at Naga Film, Beijing, serving as the senior consultant to its board.

Kayser will begin her Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing at the USC School of Dramatic Arts in the fall of 2013. She will join the inaugural class of USC International Artist Fellows.