

## NAEA Curriculum Slam, Presenter Bios

**Lucas DuClos** has worked as a teacher in the U.S., Italy and Spain, and at all levels from primary to post-secondary. He currently works as an experience designer, student adviser and consultant to organizations and education companies. His interests are in personalized learning, technology integration and documentation design. As founder at Curation Interactive, DuClos designs and directs programs that help students and educators curate learning content across disciplines, platforms, place and time. He has an EdM in *Arts in Education* from Harvard University, and a BA in *English* from The University of Rhode Island.

**Elisabeth Gambino**, MFA, APC, RYT-500, is an interdisciplinary art educator with 8 years' experience in the Baltimore City Public Schools. Ms. Gambino has been recognized as both Baltimore City New Elementary Art Educator of the Year and Career High School Art Educator of the Year. Ms. Gambino maintains an interdisciplinary teaching and studio practice, and has been recognized by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, VSA Arts and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan as an outstanding artist-educator. She is an accomplished curriculum writer and has contracted for work with Baltimore City Public Schools, Arts Everyday, the Black Male Identity Project, MSDE, and Pearsons/Connections Academy. Ms. Gambino has been granted research grants from the Earthwatch Foundation and the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund, the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, and Fulbright-Hays. She is completing a residency this summer at the East Coast Artist's Residency in Kuantan, Malaysia.

A Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, **Olivia Gude** is the Founding Director of Spiral Workshop, a youth art program and research project, developing curriculum based on contemporary art practices. She has published many articles and book chapters proposing new paradigms for 21st century art education. Professor Gude is an artist who has created award-winning collaborative mural and mosaic projects. Her current artmaking explores the social practice of art education. A recipient of the National Art Education Association's Manuel Barkan "article of the year" award and the NAEA's 2009 Viktor Lowenfeld Award for significant contributions to the field of art education, Professor Gude frequently gives presentations and works at universities, museums, school districts and art education conferences in the U.S. as well as in Canada, Denmark, Korea, Vietnam and Singapore.

**Vanessa López** holds a Masters in Art Education from Maryland Institute College of Art, and has over ten years of experience in urban and diverse settings. She presently serves as a member of the Professional Peer Review Committee for Baltimore City Schools and as a member of the Visual Arts Writing Team for the National Coalition of Core Arts Standards. Ms. López has served as the Maryland Art Education Association Middle School Division Director and as a Leadership Educator in the Arts Discipline (L.E.A.D.) Teacher for Baltimore City Public School System. She has presented at both the national and state level and most recently acted as the 2010 NAEA National Convention Program Coordinator. Ms. López has been published in the Art Education Journal and the newly published book, *Culture as Commons*. Under her tenure, her school, Roland Park Elementary Middle, has been awarded the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts National Schools of Distinction in Arts Education Award (National level 2010 - 2011). Additionally, she was recently awarded the MAEA Middle School Art Educator of the Year award as well as the NAEA Eastern Region Middle Level Art Educator.

**Raja Schaar** teaches engineering design for the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME) at Georgia Tech and Emory University. **Catherine Muller** teaches design in the Common First Year Program in Georgia Tech's College of Architecture. Schaar is a Georgia Tech alumna who earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Design in 2001. She returned to Tech in 2004 to lead design studio courses in the College of Architecture after obtaining her Master's degree in Art

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Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Catherine is an architectural and community designer with a background ranging from software/interface design to community development, project management and communications. She holds a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Texas at Austin and is also a certified yoga instructor. Both Schaar and Muller have taught Design to the talented high school students in the Georgia Governor's Honors Program.

**Blake Smith** is a third year doctoral student in Curriculum Studies and Art Education within the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at The University of British Columbia. She is a Liu Scholar at the Liu Institute for Global Issues, a photographer, and currently works as a Faculty Advisor supervising Art Education teacher candidates. Her current research and artistic inquiries involve memory, archiving the self, and tracing loss through photography. She also works as a Graduate Research Assistant at UBC for the Borderless Higher Education for Refugee Project (BHER) associated with bringing higher education to the Dadaab Refugee Camps in Kenya. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, her professional experience includes ten years as a public high school photography and visual arts teacher in Arizona and North Carolina. She holds a MA in Art Education from Arizona State University (2008) and a BFA from the University of Georgia (2002).

**Anne Thulson** teaches and researches art education at the Metropolitan State University of Denver and at The School of the Poetic City. She has taught art in elementary grades at an Expeditionary Learning School in Denver Public Schools for 12 years. She has an MFA in painting from Cranbrook Academy of Art and makes social practice art in and about the city of Denver.

Growing up an artist on the Southwest side of Chicago isn't easy. There isn't much exposure to the arts down there. **Valerie Xanos** became a teacher in the public school system to be an agent of change for young artists. Valerie grew up and still lives where she teaches, sharing a connection to her students through community. A 17-year veteran of CPS, her BFA and teaching certificate were earned at The School of The Art Institute of Chicago and The Glasgow School of Art. As an artist, she works in the media of paint, collage, and photography. Interested in the Guerrilla Art movement, she uses this to influence her curriculum. It is a wonderful genre to affect social change through art in the community. She teaches two Guerrilla Art classes at Curie High School; you can see their art on student blogs: [Guerrillaart4.blogspot.com](http://Guerrillaart4.blogspot.com) and [Guerrillaart5.blogspot.com](http://Guerrillaart5.blogspot.com). She is also a mother of four amazing, willful, active young adults. They are often an inspiration to Valerie as a teacher.