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**MCAD students score 33 awards in national illustration competition**  
*Eighteen students honored in MCAD's best showing to date*

MINNEAPOLIS—Eighteen Minneapolis College of Art and Design students took home 33 awards in the annual illustration competition held by the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles (SILA), the largest and most influential of its kind outside of New York.

This is the highest placement MCAD has ever received in the competition, said Tom Garrett, professor and chair of MCAD's Design Department. The winning works were chosen from approximately 1,000 entries in the student category.

In another MCAD first, two of SILA's top three student awards went to MCAD students: senior Lyndsey Lesh received the competition's Silver Award, and senior Erik Krenz received the Bronze Award. Both awards are paired with scholarships.

"We're tremendously excited about this," Professor Garrett said. "This is the best we've ever seen our students do, and the level of competition was especially high this year. The amount of awards our students received, including both the Silver and Bronze awards, really speaks to the caliber of our students' talent."

"While MCAD's students have traditionally done well in this prestigious competition, this is an unprecedented achievement," said MCAD President Michael O'Keefe. "This recognition from SILA speaks first to the strength of our students' work and talent, as well as to the high quality of our academic program and faculty."

Lyndsey Lesh and Erik Krenz both received a total of four awards. MCAD's other winners are Aaron Bickner, Pam Kirton and Emma Trithart (three awards each); Molly Butterfoss, Bill Ferenc and Jolene Schulz (two awards each); and Sarah Hedlund, Anna Kaiser, Katie Lombardo, David Lundlin, Whitney Mattilla, Kirsten Sevig, Andy Shannon, Lucy Swerdfeger, Maiyer Thao and Katie Wilson (one award each).

Some of the students' work will be displayed at Junc Gallery in Los Angeles in March. SILA will also publish many of the works in a gallery on its Web site ([www.si-la.org](http://www.si-la.org)) and in its next annual book, *Illustration West 46*.

A gallery of the winning work will be available on MCAD's Web site ([www.mcad.edu](http://www.mcad.edu)) in early December.

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The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) has been creating art on the cutting edge since 1886. Recognized nationally and internationally for its innovative approaches, MCAD is home to more than 800 students pursuing Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science and Master of Fine Arts degrees. The College offers majors in Advertising, Animation, Comic Art, Drawing, Filmmaking, Fine Arts Studio, Furniture Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, Painting, Photography, Print Paper Book, Sculpture and Web and Multimedia Environments. MCAD also offers continuing studies courses, online education and youth programs, as well as free exhibitions and lectures.

MCAD is located at 2501 Stevens Ave. in south Minneapolis, adjacent to The Children's Theatre Company and The Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

**[www.mcad.edu](http://www.mcad.edu)**