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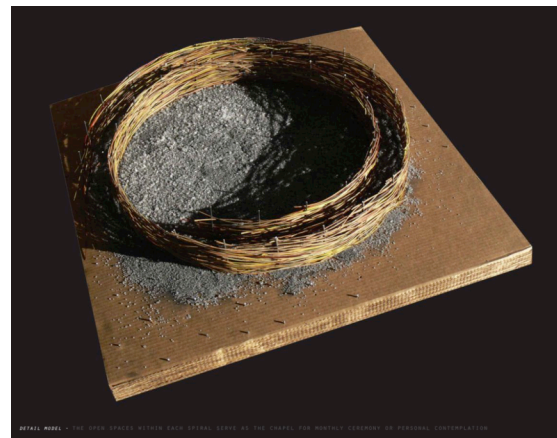
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**THE ART INSTITUTE PRESENTS 2011 SCHIFF FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS TO
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND NORTHWESTERN STUDENTS
Eric Cheng and Brynn Hatton Receive Prestigious Architecture and Design Award**

The Art Institute of Chicago's Architecture and Design Department has announced the winners of the **2011 Schiff Foundation Fellowships**. **Eric Cheng**, a 2011 graduate of the Bachelor of Architecture program at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), has been named the recipient of the **\$15,000 Schiff Foundation Fellowship for Architecture**. **Brynn Hatton**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Art History at Northwestern University, was chosen as the recipient of the **\$5,000 Schiff Foundation Fellowship for Critical Architectural Writing**. This is the 22nd year that the Department of Architecture and Design at the Art Institute of Chicago has administered the Architecture Award and the sixth year of the Critical Architectural Writing Award.



Eric Cheng's winning project, "Nesting: Cemetery for the Unclaimed" was produced in an advanced studio course taught by architect John Ronan. Cheng's project proposes a new twist on memorial architecture with a series of temporary woven structures for gatherings or personal contemplation to honor unknown members of society. His constructions poetically transform fallen sticks and other found materials into large sculptural structures that would be destroyed in the winter and rebuilt each spring, echoing natural cycles of death and renewal. The jury was

impressed with Cheng's concept and his elegant presentation that fuses photographs of study models expressing the material qualities of the project with renderings illustrating the progressions of the memorial cycle. Although this project remains highly experimental in form, Cheng offers the outline of a new type of ritual space that would give visibility to issues of death and social identity that are often unacknowledged in American culture, echoing funerary and memorial traditions around the globe.

Cheng received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology in May 2011. During his years of study he has worked at Tim Brown Architects and participated in the design of a Master Plan for the Penn Center Historic District in St. Helena Island, South Carolina, and a project with IIT IPRO program for interactive kiosks in Chicago commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1966 march through Marquette Park. Cheng's work has been recognized in several competitions and featured in the IIT annual Student Work Exhibition from 2008–2010. He has traveled extensively in Europe and Asia and intends to return to Japan to complete an architecture internship related to disaster relief efforts.

Brynn Hatton was awarded the 2011 Schiff Foundation Fellowship for Critical Architectural Writing for her essay titled, "Silent Shout | Iran, Women, and the Rooftop: 1953, 1979, 2009," written in a graduate seminar taught by Northwestern professor Hannah Feldman. Hatton's paper explores photographic representations of the built environment of Tehran to propose the space of the rooftop as a site of political agency for women during key moments of protest in the history of Iran. Drawing on Michel Foucault's theory of heterotopia, she challenges the traditional distinctions between private and public space, through representations that oscillate between fiction and documentary, transgression and repression. The jury was impressed with the sophistication of Hatton's research and her ability to create a powerful argument about the role of architecture in our time.

Hatton is a second year student in the Ph.D. program in Art History at Northwestern University, specializing in modern and contemporary art, theory, and criticism. She has held curatorial internships and positions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, several galleries and a film archive, and teaching assistantships at Northwestern University and University of California, Berkeley. Hatton's interview with Rem Koolhaas was published in *Bridge* magazine in 2004, and she was an editor for the 2005 MCA catalog *Universal Experience: Art, Life, and the Tourist's*

Eye. Hatton plans to use her fellowship to complete fieldwork and research in Vietnam for her dissertation.

The distinguished members of the 2011 Schiff Foundation Fellowship jury include Zurich Esposito, Executive Vice President of the American Institute of Architects, Chicago Chapter; Brian Lee, Design Partner at SOM Chicago; Susanne Schnell, Executive Director of Archeworks, Chicago; and Alice Twemlow, Chair of the Design Criticism Program at the School of Visual Arts, New York.

The Schiff Foundation Fellowship is one of the largest fellowships of its kind in the country. Each year upper-level undergraduate and graduate students from architecture schools at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Illinois Institute of Technology are chosen by their faculty members to participate in the Schiff Foundation Fellowship for Architecture. Students from a wide range of graduate programs in Chicago-area universities are invited to submit essays for the Schiff Foundation Fellowship for Critical Architectural Writing.

About the Schiff Foundation Fellowship

The Schiff Foundation Fellowship for Architecture was founded in 1988 with a generous endowment from Harold Schiff for the purpose of supporting young architects. The fellowship, first granted in 1989 and administered by the Department of Architecture and Design at the Art Institute of Chicago, is given annually to one student from the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Illinois Institute of Technology, or the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The winning student's competition entry becomes part of the permanent collection of architectural drawings housed within the Department of Architecture and Design at the Art Institute. The Schiff Foundation Fellowship for Critical Architectural Writing was established in 2005 to promote critical writing about architecture and the urban environment and to encourage interdisciplinary graduate courses in Chicago-area universities. The four- or five-person independent jury for the Schiff Foundation Fellowships changes every year. Students have used fellowship money to travel, complete internships at architectural firms around the world, pay for college expenses, prepare for state licensing exams, and purchase necessary professional equipment.

Harold Schiff is a retired founding partner of the construction firm of Schal Associates—the firm responsible for the construction of such skyscrapers as the Chicago Board of Options Exchange by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (1981) and 200 South Wacker Drive by Harry Weese and Associates (1981). Mr. Schiff was born and raised in New York, where he earned a civil engineering degree from Columbia University in 1950 and worked at the construction firm Morse Diesel into the 1970s. Work with this firm led him to Chicago, where he founded Schal Associates with Richard Halpern in 1976. In a generous gesture to support young architects and give back to the city where Mr. Schiff established his successful career in construction management, he gave a substantial gift to the Department of Architecture at the Art Institute of Chicago to endow the Schiff Foundation Fellowship for Architecture.

IMAGE: Eric Cheng, *Nesting* (detail model), 2011.

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MUSEUM HOURS

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 am–8:00 pm Thursday

10:30 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

FAMILY FREE WEDNESDAYS BEGIN JUNE 1, 2011. The museum is free to all the first and second Wednesdays of every month.

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION

Adults \$18.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Children 14 and over, students, and seniors \$12.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Chicago residents receive a \$2.00 discount with proof of residency

Children under 14 always free

Members always free

Free Evenings are free to all. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.