

Cultural Perceptions: Latvian Exchange Program

Department of Art & Design

Kimberly Jean Roffers, Glenn Allen Terpstra, Lydia Gantert, Megan Ekenstedt and Rachel Jeanne Konsella
Faculty Mentor/Collaborators: Jyl A. Kelley and Wanrudee Buranakorn



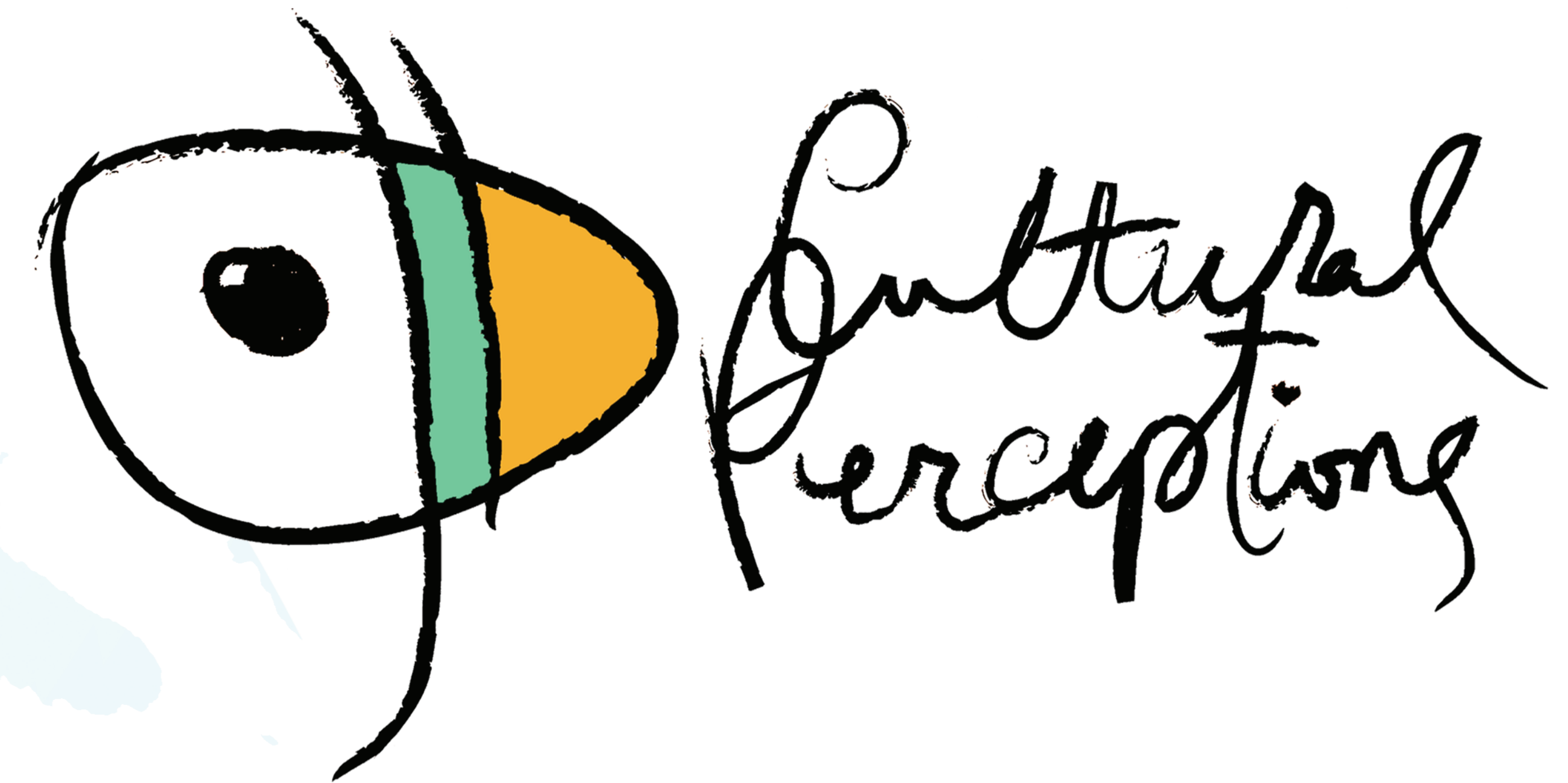
Eau Claire, Wisconsin University of Wisconsin--Eau Claire



Faculty Mentor/Collaborators:

Professors: Jyl Kelley, Wanrudee Buranakorn

Students: Megan Ekenstedt, Lydia Gantert, Andrew Immerman, Rachel Konsella, Milana Lasic, Kailey Mezera, Kimberly Roffers, Glenn Terpstra



Project:

The objective of our research was to stretch scholarly and professional boundaries of perception, photographic vision, and personal understanding within an international collaborative environment between faculty and students. In sharing and interpreting aural and visual culture between the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire and The Latvian Culture College in Riga, Latvia, our objective was realized through successful research presentations and exhibitions.

Initially, students from both schools selected music and audio from their respective country that would assist with photographic interpretations from the other participating school. The project encouraged joint research and integrated learning via internet technology, online correspondence with participating students, and live streaming video. Cross-cultural awareness of history, art and music was integral to the exhibits, attendance, and success.

Results:

After presenting exhibitions with live video feeds between Eau Claire Wisconsin and Riga, Latvia in Spring 2010, students from both schools were invited to present their artworks and scholarly research at the Embassy of the Latvian Republic in Washington DC in October, 2010. Students, faculty and administrators from both countries traveled to Washington DC to present public lectures hosted by Latvian Ambassador Andrejs Pildegovičs. Student lectures at the embassy highlighted individual scholarly research from the Cultural Perceptions project.

Sources:

The Office of Multicultural Affairs, The Department of Art & Design
 The College of Arts and Sciences, The Embassy of Latvia, and Andrejs Pildegovicz, Washington D.C.
 The Foster Gallery, The Latvian Culture College, Riga Latvia, Paulis and Irene Lazda, Liene Indrade, Eva Ikstena, Dace Jaundalder

DIVAS VALSTIS, DIVI SKATIJUMI UNIKĀLS PROJEKTS
 Cultural Perceptions
 UNIQUE PROJECT
 TWO COUNTRIES, TWO PERCEPTIONS
 LATVIA, RIGA PLKST. 19:30
 USA EAU CLAIRE AT 11:30 PM
 15. APRILĪ LATVIJAS KULTŪRAS KOLEDŽA
 APRIL 15TH UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE
[HTTP://UWEC-LKK.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://uwec-lkk.blogspot.com)



Riga, Latvia Cultural College



Faculty Mentor/Collaborators:

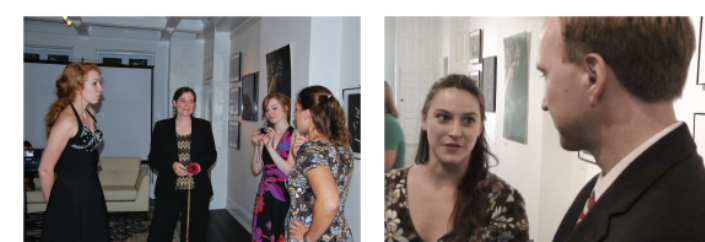
Professors: Gunta Andersone, Deputy Director and Lecturer
 Baiba Stille-Dubkevica

Students: Sandra Arina, Ieva Broka, Madara Eglite, Aivars Ivbulis, Sandra Kanepe, Rudolfs Rancans, Davis Valbaks, Janis Viksna

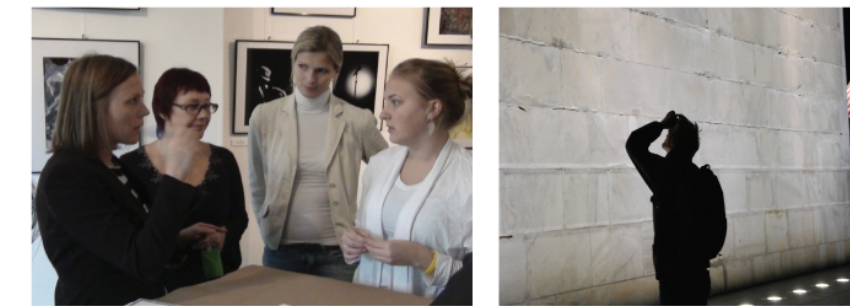
Washington D.C. Latvian Embassy



Latvian students and those from the University of Wisconsin--Eau Claire communicate via web cam.



UWEC students in Washington D.C. Rachel Konsella, Megan Ekenstedt, Lydia Gantert, Kimberly Roffers, and Glenn Terpstra (left to right)



Representation from both countries convened through the installation of Cultural Perceptions in the Latvian Embassy gallery; followed by the opening reception and public explanation of both the project and some of the resulting artwork. The presentation was well received and allowed for the experience of two cultures coming together within a global community



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