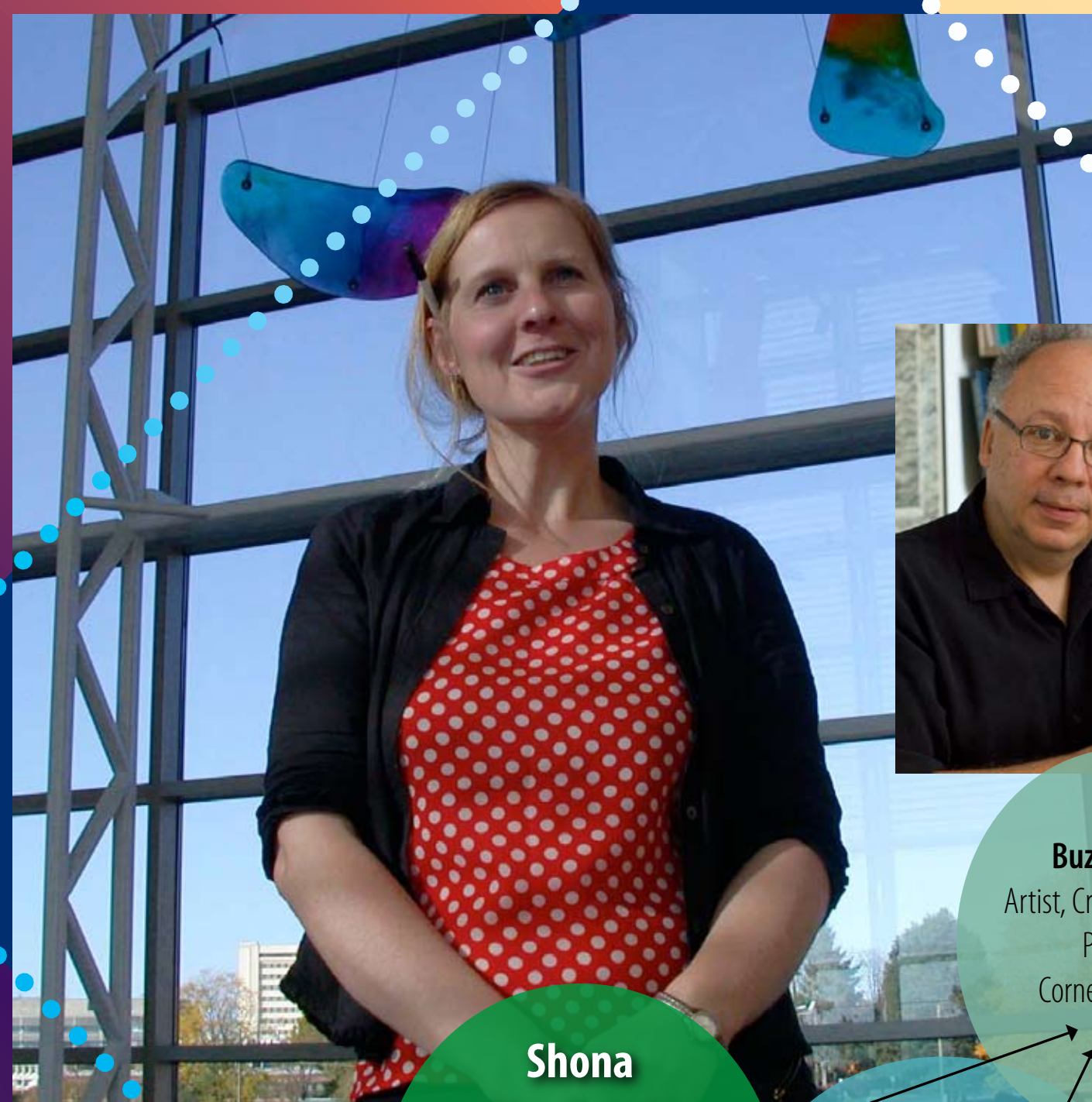


Mentoring For Multiple Talents

For Shona Macdonald, a contemporary painter and Assistant Professor of Art, Architecture & Art History at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, working with a mentor who is equally accomplished as a teacher and as an artist is essential. To foster these two sides of her career, Macdonald used her Mellon Mutual Mentoring Micro-Grant to build upon her mentoring partnership with Buzz Spector, an internationally acclaimed artist, critic, curator, and professor at Cornell University.



Landings #1
Acrylic, Oil on Canvas, 2005
Shona Macdonald



Shona Macdonald
Assistant Professor
Department of Art,
Architecture & Art History
UMass Amherst



Buzz Spector
Artist, Critic, Curator and
Professor
Cornell University

Students and Faculty
Department of Art,
Architecture & Art History
UMass Amherst

As part of her mentoring plan, Macdonald brought Spector to UMass Amherst, where he met with Macdonald and her colleagues, provided studio critiques to her students, and gave a talk on contemporary book arts to coincide with an exhibition at the University Gallery. According to Macdonald, Spector's versatility as a teacher, scholar, and artist makes him an ideal mentor for both faculty and students. "He can talk about any kind of work, whether it's painting, sculpture, photos, conceptual, formal, anything. He's really, really impressive."



"He's probably the best artist and educator I've ever talked to in terms of communicating ideas to students."

The mentoring partnership continues far beyond Spector's visit to UMass Amherst. He often attends Macdonald's painting exhibitions, communicates regularly with her about teaching and arts funding opportunities, and plans to meet with Macdonald at the upcoming College Art Association Conference in Los Angeles.

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