Julie Hawkins Interview:

**How would you describe your area of study to a novice?**

I am a mixed media artist. I use my own hand and find materials to create something that wasn't there before.

**What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?**

Seeing this last year through as a personal goal, knowing that I have the full support of my family, friends, and mentors.

**Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?**

Of course!

**What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?**

Walking and guided visualization.

**What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?**

*Manuscript Illumination - History and Techniques* by Christopher de Hamel, read in late June.

**Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.**

I doubt I would have pulled through without the challenge, encouragement, and acknowledgement of Dr. Halide Salam, Dr. Roann Barris, and Dr. Eloise Philpot. In their own way, they helped serve as a foundation to help me explore how I can best contribute to the world.

**What surprised you the most about graduate school?**

The one thing I consistently mentioned during my first year was how frustrating it was discover my own voice through painting, bringing to the table a fresh new body of work to eventually present with a thesis.

**If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?**

No, as a painter I doubt I'd qualify to be on board.

**What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?**

My favorite comfort food is raw fruit pie. Made using several ingredients, you can indulge in the entire dish and not suffer the effects of sugar rush! I eat this dish on special occasions, such as when I'm on holiday or visiting family.

**If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?**

I'd likely be staying out West, holding a steady job at an office and displaying my painting through local venues.

**When do you expect to complete your degree?**

December 2013