

5 degrees of inspiration

By Cate McQuaid, Globe Correspondent

Art schools are the breeding ground for tomorrow's hot new talents. Boston, home to three strong art schools -- Boston University, the Massachusetts College of Art, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts -- has been the launching pad for many brilliant careers. All three programs have MFA thesis shows up now. Here are five up-and-comers.



Boston Globe

May 6, 2005

RI ANDERSON,
35, PHOTOGRAPHER
MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF
ART

Anderson has been shooting and showing photos for more than a decade; her black-and-white images have had a film-noir edge and a persistent, bruised vulnerability. In her thesis show, she's moved into color to explore the depth and rawness of mother-daughter relationships, focusing on the women in her own family. The photos have a potent, fairytale mix of succor and threat.

"People said your work is going to change when you go to grad school," Anderson says. "I had a baby at the same time. Change isn't the word -- it was explosive. My work got more personal -- about the psychology of being a mother and a daughter, the archetypes of women. I was thinking about early Renaissance paintings of the Madonna and child, and moving into color photography. My father was a minister, so I was around these paintings growing up. Having a kid made me think of them again.

"A lot of this work is about vulnerability. It's so scary to be responsible for this child. There are so many more worries. The pictures have this weightlessness, a floating quality, a feeling like a dream. There's this sense of being separate, but being together."