



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SCAD LACOSTE**  
20TH ANNIVERSARY

The university fêtes two decades of enrichment and enlightenment in southern France with year-round festivities.

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**LACOSTE, FRANCE** — The Savannah College of Art and Design has cultivated creativity and innovation in resplendent Provence for 20 years, immersing students in world history and culture as they hone their talents toward international professions. Exquisitely conserved by SCAD for contemporary exploration, the university's Lacoste location is the premier global destination for art and design education. SCAD celebrates this milestone 20th anniversary with year-round festivities that include enthralling signature events, acclaimed exhibitions, and illuminating cultural experiences for students, visitors, and the Lacoste community.

A medieval village once home to the revolutionary Marquis de Sade, Lacoste's majestic setting and purity of light have long inspired creative visionaries such as Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, and Pablo Picasso. A globally recognized leader in preservation and adaptive reuse, SCAD has been heralded for infusing the ancient village with new life and purpose, preserving more than 30 centuries-old structures. The university's expert team of preservationists, led by SCAD President and Founder Paula Wallace, restored the treasured village and historically significant

archaeological site, transforming former dwellings and medieval caves into cutting-edge contemporary instructional spaces with high-end resources, including a digitally connected library, studios and lecture classrooms, galleries, theaters, and residences.

Noteworthy restored SCAD properties on the site include the Residence du SCAD, the university's guest housing, dating to the 16th century; the Boulangerie, a former bakery and now the social center of SCAD Lacoste; shopSCAD, the former studio of American painter Bernard Pfriem, founder of the first art conservatory in Lacoste, and now a curated gallery boutique offering unique artwork and curiosities by SCAD's vast network of creatives; Acorn Cottage, a rustic lodge and home to the SCAD Alumni Atelier artist residency; and La Maison Basse, a 16th-century farmhouse with an illustrious history as the once gambling den of the Marquis de Sade. In recognition of this extraordinary transformation, President Wallace was appointed a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, one of the oldest civilian honors for distinguished academics and service bestowed by the French Republic.

**SCAD**

The University for Creative Careers



The inaugural SCAD FASH Lacoste exhibition, *Isabel Toledo: A Love Letter* celebrates the designer's expertise in techniques, textiles, form, and color, complemented by a large-scale installation by her husband, famed illustrator Ruben Toledo.

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Set high on a plateau overlooking the Luberon Valley, France's best-kept secret, SCAD Lacoste, is soon to turn 20. For the past two decades, SCAD Bees, artists, and creatives have basked in the idyllic beauty of SCAD Lacoste – our medieval oasis tucked amidst rolling hills of lavender and golden rays of sunshine. These past 20 years have been magic, and SCAD has attracted internationally renowned luminaries to Provence as speakers, performers, and exhibiting artists. To celebrate, 2022 will be a year in which we continue to enhance this site and build upon SCAD's legacy as the foremost university for creative professions.

**PAULA WALLACE**  
SCAD President and Founder

Over the past 20 years, SCAD Lacoste has served as the university's flagship European residential study abroad program, offering a premier educational experience with state-of-the-art resources to SCAD students from an array of top-ranked degree programs including architecture, art history, interior design, painting, film, illustration, dramatic writing, animation, fashion, advertising, fibers, sound design, luxury and brand management, and more. SCAD Lacoste is also home to two of the university's immersion programs: Pre-Bee, a weeklong excursion through the region for newly enrolled students, and Après SCAD, the exclusive five-day professional networking retreat featuring immersive cultural experiences for SCAD alumni and special guests.

Additionally, SCAD Lacoste hosts the prestigious SCAD Alumni Atelier, an elite artist residency program that offers visionary graduates the time, space, and resources to thrive creatively and professionally – a testament to the university's lifelong commitment to the SCAD community. For two decades, SCAD Lacoste has welcomed world-renowned artists, designers, and other creatives such as Pierre Cardin, Carrie Mae Weems, Alfredo Jaar, Bill Viola, Ghada Amer, Ju-Yeon Kim, Bibhu Mohapatra, John Malkovich, Hervé Half, Patrick Blanc, Maja Godlewska, Ilse Crawford, Hugo Dalton, Sandy Skoglund, Benny Andrews, Nene Humphrey, and Geoffrey Fletcher to inspire students through talks, master classes, and mentorships, and to rejuvenate their own craft.



At the SCAD Alumni Atelier residency in Lacoste, Kenya Jones-Lowell (B.F.A., interior design, 2013) is developing her brand Kenya + Kith, a curated collection of custom patterned rugs, handstitched pillows, wall coverings, and adornments honoring the heritage and histories of the African diaspora.

**The year-round festivities and programming to celebrate SCAD Lacoste’s monumental 20th year include:**

The return of SCAD Alumni Atelier ambassadors and associates, who refresh, reset, and create new, innovative work during their residency at SCAD Lacoste. Artists work and exhibit in SCAD Lacoste’s medieval caves, and showcase their creative practice for the enlightenment and enrichment of students, fellow alumni, and visitors.

**April 8–Sept. 5**

*Isabel Toledo: A Love Letter*, the inaugural exhibition of the newly established museum SCAD FASH Lacoste. Curated in close collaboration with the legendary designer’s husband, Ruben, *A Love Letter* is Toledo’s first posthumous exhibition and an homage to the emotional power inherent in her designs. Complemented by Ruben’s installation, *A Love Letter* is a heartfelt tribute to the enduring influence of the designer’s passion, elegance, and ingenuity.

**April 12–June 10**

SCAD AnimationFest Lacoste, a four-week celebration of the art of animation in French cinema with exclusive screenings, special presentations, and industry luminaries.

**April 15–May 7**

The site-specific installation *Mars Grotte* by acclaimed multidisciplinary artist Marcus Kenney (SCAD M.F.A., photography, 1998), which engages the history of the Venus Grotto, an experiential 1877 work by Fidelis Schabet. Technicolor neon lights trace the histories of the medieval caves at SCAD Lacoste, outlining each majestic crack and crevice of the historic environs. The numinous

spaces are strewn with flowers crafted of vintage maps, boat sails, and metal entwined with rope and netting, and accoutered with Rococo elements that bespeak the work’s wondrous, monumental reference. **June 25–Sept. 5**

SCAD FASH Lacoste presents *Azzedine Alaïa: L’Art de la Mode*, a rigorously curated selection of creations by the iconic Tunisian-born designer and master of Parisian haute couture. Organized in close collaboration with Fondation Azzedine Alaïa, Paris, and curator Olivier Saillard, the exhibition honors Alaïa’s artistic triumphs as a virtuoso of cut and proportion and his gift of construction, featuring 20 career-defining gowns, sleek suits, and other exquisitely tailored garments that remain unrivaled in accentuating the female form.

**June 27–Oct. 29**

*SCAD Lacoste Les Nocturnes*, a mesmerizing light show along the cobblestone Rue Saint-Trophime, illuminating the streets of Lacoste on Friday and Saturday evenings from 10 p.m. to midnight.

**June 25–Sept. 24**

SCAD Lacoste Film Festival, presented by SCADFILM, a four-day festival featuring exclusive film screenings, industry insights, a special tribute to filmmaker Agnès Varda (1928–2019), who hailed from the Luberon Valley, and the presentation of the SCAD Etoile for Lifetime Achievement in Cinema to honored guest, actor Jeremy Irons.

**July 1–4**

Pre-Bee: Tour de Lacoste, the exclusive weeklong immersion program for newly enrolled SCAD students featuring cultural excursions and workshops introducing them to university life. **Aug. 25–31**

Après SCAD, the five-day professional networking retreat for SCAD alumni, friends, and distinguished guests where participants live and learn among the fabled Provençal landscape of SCAD Lacoste. The exclusive experience allows guests to rekindle their creative practice while exploring the cultural attractions of the region. **Sept. 1–5**

The dedication of the new SCAD Lacoste Promenade de Sculptures on the occasion of SCAD Lacoste’s 20th anniversary, featuring 10 permanent outdoor installations and works by a curated selection of alumni, students, faculty, from SCAD’s vast network of creatives. **Oct. 16**

A live theatrical performance in the SCAD Lacoste theater by students from the university’s top-ranked performing arts degree program, to delight and entertain theater enthusiasts in the Luberon Valley.

**Fridays–Sundays, Sept. 30–Oct. 16**



Above clockwise:  
The 100-seat Theatre du SCAD in Maison Basse's eighth-century barn; works created in fully equipped artist studios; the stone terraces of the medieval village

In 2022, SCAD is also thrilled to welcome back students from an array of degree programs in the university's immersive study abroad experience, reinvigorating the beloved village with a resurgence of energy and creativity. The university's gallery boutique shopSCAD, located along the Rue Saint-Trophime, will also welcome visitors to peruse an expertly curated selection of artwork, textiles, collectibles, and other artisanal goods and gifts for sale by SCAD students, alumni, and faculty.

SCAD is honored to celebrate the rich majesty of the region and welcome visitors from around the world to experience the magic of SCAD Lacoste in 2022.





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## SCAD LACOSTE

SCAD Lacoste is a residential study-abroad location in France, offering immersion in the history and culture of Provence. Course offerings each quarter are varied to apply to all SCAD areas of study and are taught by SCAD professors. Lacoste is a beautifully preserved medieval village and historic destination for artists, known for its extraordinary light and exquisite pastoral setting. SCAD Lacoste structures dating from the ninth to the 19th centuries feature cutting-edge contemporary amenities. SCAD Lacoste resources include a library, a gallery, a dining hall, and housing, as well as teaching studios dedicated to painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, and digital imaging. Students interact with visiting artists, take field trips to museums and historic sites in the area, and have an opportunity to exhibit their work at a local vernissage.

Celebrated artists and designers visit with SCAD Lacoste students throughout the year. Notable guests have included actor and designer John Malkovich; designer Bibhu Mohapatra; social media influencer, photographer, and inventor of the cinemagraph Jamie Beck of Ann Street Studio; interior designer and television host Genevieve Gorder; installation artist Hugo Dalton; design legend Ilse Crawford; chief creative officer of Shimoda Design Group Joey Shimoda; Vogue contributing editor Lynn Yaeger; and CFDA Fashion Award-winning designers Shane Gabier and Christopher Peters of Creatures of the Wind.

## SCAD: THE UNIVERSITY FOR CREATIVE CAREERS

SCAD is a private, nonprofit, accredited university, offering more than 100 graduate and undergraduate degree programs across locations in Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia; Lacoste, France; and online via SCADnow.

SCAD enrolls more than 15,700 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 120 countries. The future-minded SCAD curriculum engages professional-level technology and myriad advanced learning resources, affording students opportunities for internships, professional certifications, and real-world assignments with corporate partners through SCADpro, the university's renowned research lab and prototype generator. SCAD is No. 1 in the U.S., according to Art & Object's 2021 Best Art Schools ranking, with additional top rankings for degree programs in interior design, architecture, film, fashion, digital media, and more. Career success is woven into every fiber of the university, resulting in a superior alumni employment rate. For the past four years, 99% of SCAD graduates were employed, pursuing further education, or both within 10 months of graduation. SCAD provides students and alumni with ongoing career support through personal coaching, alumni programs, a professional presentation studio, and more. Visit [scad.edu](http://scad.edu).