

# This Month in the Arts

ART, ART HISTORY, TECHNOCULTURAL STUDIES, AND THE  
RICHARD L. NELSON GALLERY AND FINE ART COLLECTION

**UC DAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

**JUNE 2009**

## EXHIBITIONS

### 2009 MFA Exhibition

May 29-June 19 2009  
Nelson Gallery

Congratulations Grads! It's that time of year again — the annual MFA show. This year our five graduating UC Davis MFA students – **Julia Elsas, Crystal Haueter, Cynthia Horn, Evie Leder,** and **Josh Short** will present video, installation, sculpture and paintings at the Richard L. Nelson Gallery on the UC Davis campus. For more information and the artist statements go to [nelsongallery.ucdavis.edu](http://nelsongallery.ucdavis.edu)



### Jamie Banes (MFA 2008), "Below Kingdom Above Class"

June 8-July 2, 2009  
Canessa Gallery  
San Francisco

"Below Kingdom Above Class" is the inaugural group art exhibition of PHYLUM, a San Francisco based artist collective comprised of dedicated emerging artists. The artistic mediums, investigations, and expressions of the members—many of who attended art school together at UC Davis—run the gamete from painting to installation, sculpture to photography, ceramics to design. The mission of PHYLUM is to communally seek out opportunities to exhibit art in San Francisco and surrounding communities, provide critical discourse and support for one another, and engage in dialogue with others as a way to discuss, grow, and reflect upon the ideas and intentions of our creative endeavors. **Reception Saturday, June 13, 7-11 PM**

### Steve Lambert (MFA 2006), "Everything You Want, Right Now"

April 25– June 6, 2009  
Charlie James Gallery  
Los Angeles

In "Everything You Want, Right Now", Lambert takes on the vernacular of commercial signage, with a regional emphasis unique to Los Angeles. Visually, he is interested in what makes certain styles of signage feel so innately familiar, and in the methods that signage employs to grab our attention. Lambert will investigate the numerous

emotional promises that are inherent in commercial advertising, promises that may excite or reassure us, while remaining ultimately undelivered. The business of fine art and the relevance of the white cube gallery will also come under the scrutiny of Mr. Lambert. Under his direction, the Charlie James Gallery will be transformed into something reminiscent of a Circuit City or another over-eager appliance store during the 6 week run of his show. The gallery will be festooned with pennants inside and out, the windows painted over with garish promises of "Slashed Prices!" while the interior pulses away with lighted signage, all promising wild levels of deliverance to the viewer.



Steve Lambert is the founder of the Anti-Advertising Agency and the lead developer of Add-Art (a Firefox add-on that replaces online advertising with curated art images). He has collaborated with numerous artists including the Graffiti Research Lab, Packard Jennings, and the Yes Men. Steve's projects and art works have won awards from Lower East Side Print Shop, Rhizome/The New Museum, Turbulence, the Creative Work Fund, Adbusters Media Foundation, the California Arts Council, and others. His work has been shown at various galleries, art spaces, and museums both nationally and internationally, and was recently collected by the Library of Congress. Lambert has appeared live on NPR, the BBC, and CNN, with reportage of his exploits captured in multiple outlets including the Associated Press, the New York Times, the Guardian, Harper's, The Believer, Good, Dwell, ARTnews, Punk Planet, and Newsweek. He is a Senior Fellow at the Eyebeam Center for Art and Technology in New York, and teaches at Parsons/The New School and Hunter College. Steve studied sociology and film before receiving a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2000 and a MFA at UC Davis in 2006.

## Hedwig Brouckaert (MFA 2005 ), "Mass Storage"

May 7 -June 14 2009  
Margalef & Gipponi  
Gallery  
Antwerp

Hedwig Brouckaert is exhibiting in a solo show, "Mass Storage", in Antwerp. The show will run from May 7, 2009-June 14, 2009. the opening reception will be on Thursday May 7th, from 6-10 pm. She will also be exhibiting in a group show, "Cabin Fever", in Bornem. "Cabin Fever" runs from May 16, 2009 through September 15, 2009.



## Visual Sovereignty: International Indigenous Photography

April 3, 2009 –  
September  
C.N.Gorman Museum  
5:00 PM

Join us in welcoming the participating artists to UC Davis and the launch of the conference with **The Exhibition** opening for "Visual Sovereignty". The exhibition brings together the work of 34 Native American, First Nations, Inuit, Aboriginal and Maori photographers to explore the concept of visual sovereignty. Created by elder, established and emerging artists the works are mostly contemporary. Images by historical photographers from as

early as 1899 are also included. In this collaborative exhibition, the artworks range across the genres of portraiture, studio, digital collage, and landscape. The dance group Sho-Ka-Wah-Ke from Hopland will be featured and the Native American Student Union will be serving Indian Tacos.

**The Gathering** will be held on April 4-5th, 2009 in the Science Lecture Hall. In artist panel sessions, Native American, First Nations, Inuit, Aboriginal and Maori photographers will speak about their artwork and experiences within the field of Indigenous photography. Sat. 9-4 and Sun. 10-2. Please see the museum website for a detailed schedule. This event is free and open to the public. [www.gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu](http://www.gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu)



## REVIEWS

### Victoria Sheridan, "Men of Virtue, Men of Vanity: The Self as Ornament to the City in Early Modern Venice" , May 5, 2009

Victoria Sheridan, former UC Davis Master's student and current PhD candidate at the University of Toronto, came back to the Art building on May 5th to give a lecture related to a chapter of her thesis. The lecture was titled, "Men of Virtue, Men of Vanity: The Self as Ornament to the City in Early Modern Venice." Her engaging talk revolved around the exterior and interior ornamentation of Venetian buildings in the Baroque period.

Sheridan argued that the external ornamentation on buildings including Santa Maria del Giglio and San Moise mark a unique phenomenon of seicento Venice in which dynamic looking non-secular figures were placed on the facades of public buildings. She also discussed the transition of figures on funerary monuments at this time, from static reclining figures who were very much dead to active standing bodies that contain life and flesh.

She used Ruskin's account of Baroque Venetian buildings, which he called "the last degradation of the Renaissance," as an organizing element, and a way to show how these buildings are generally looked at as aesthetic atrocities blighting the city of Venice. Her use of Ruskin, with a detailed account of his eating habits, not only allowed for interesting insights into his fear of "flesh" and life, but also led to her main thesis. Through an analysis of Venetian Baroque ornamentation as well as Ruskin's attitude toward it, Sheridan came to the conclusion that these monuments can be seen as markers of the attitude of Venetians at the time, an attitude suggesting that they were accepting of the demise of their formerly thriving city. In addition, she argued that this type of ornamentation was not a response to, but instead a manifestation of the fall of Venice. There was a lively Q & A session that showed that as Sheridan had promised, there was something in her lecture for everyone.—Natalie Mann (M.A. Candidate, Art History Program)

### ArtStor Workshop, May 12, 2009

Daniel Goldstein introduced the newest features of the recently upgraded Artstor database, which allows you to find, access, and save images, artwork, and photographs from different historical periods and from a variety of different artists. While Artstor has always had login features, the database now allows the creation of "image groups" which enable you to organize and store your own personalized sets of images online. These "image groups" also allow other students and faculty viewing access, the ability to add their own images, or to add comments. This feature can be potentially useful for teachers, teaching assistants, and students who can communicate through the Artstor website for their classes. Perhaps the most useful feature of the new Artstor is its proprietary, off-site, slide show software. This is software, similar to Microsoft Powerpoint, but with a variety of advantages. The new slide show software allows you to have access to Artstor's highest resolution images. This is especially helpful for displaying artworks in the classroom, which typically have low resolution and poor coloration. The new software also allows intuitive zooming features that can be used on the fly. However, the disadvantage to this new software is that the images are time-stamped, only allowing access for a set period. In addition, another issue was raised concerning faculty and students who move to a different university, and the difficulties in accessing their saved "image groups" on the website. Overall, the new features are exciting and provide new possibilities to enhance learning and interactivity in the classroom for both students and faculty.

— Edward Vanderploeg (M.A. Candidate, Art History Program)

## SUMMER SESSION I

### ***AHI 186, Art After Modernism, Blake Stimson***

**Monday-Thursday**  
**12:10-1:50**  
**Art 217**

Art After Modernism examines the social, cultural, aesthetic, and theoretical developments for artists and their audiences in the context of such larger issues as McCarthyism, the New Left, free love, feminism, Reaganomics, globalization, etc., and a critical-theoretical inquiry into questions of neoavantgardism, post-modernism, and postmodernity.

Professor Stimson's research focuses on 20th Century and Contemporary Art, the History of Photography, and Critical Theory.



### ***AHI 1E, Islamic Art and Architecture, Melanie Michailidis***

**Monday-Thursday**  
**2:10-3:50**  
**Art 217**

This course surveys the art and architecture of societies where Muslims were dominant or where they formed significant minorities from the 7th through the 20th centuries. It examines the form and function of architecture and works of art as well as the social, historical and cultural contexts, patterns of use, and evolving meanings attributed to art by the users. The course follows a chronological order, where selected visual materials are treated along chosen themes. Themes include the creation of a distinctive visual culture in the emerging Islamic polity; the development of urban institutions; key architectural types such as the mosque, madrasa, caravanserai, dervish lodge and mausoleum; art objects and the arts of the illustrated book; self-representation; cultural interconnections along trade and pilgrimage routes; westernization and modernization in art and architecture.

Dr. Melanie Michailidis is a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow currently teaching at Carleton College.



### ***ART 125D, Printmaking, Serigraphy, Stella Ebner***

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**9:00-12:00,**  
**1:00-3:00**  
**Art 309**

This course is an introduction to the techniques, processes and history of screenprinting. Screenprinting has commonly been used commercially for printing posters and signage, but is also a versatile and significant medium for artists. Screenprinting is valued for its ease, speed, and the variety of materials it can print

onto and for its integration of hand-drawn, photographic and digital images. Assignments will be made for the purpose of creating both a dialogue and to explore how we can use the medium of screen printing. We will investigate using screenprinting to make prints, books and printed installations.

Stella Ebner received her MFA from Rhode Island School of Design. She is currently an Artist in Residence at Kala Art Institute in Berkeley.



### ***ART 12, Beginning Video, Evelyn Leder and Robert Graham***

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**9:00-12:00,**  
**1:00-3:00**  
**Art 51**

This course is an introduction to video as a medium for making art. Students will learn specific techniques of working with video including basic skills of shooting, editing and lighting video. Assignments will be made for the purpose of helping each student understand the tools of video and how those tools can be used to create art. We will explore both the inherent qualities of video as well as engage conceptually. Students will be exposed to experimental, performance and narrative videos throughout the session for the purpose of learning how to discuss and

### ***ART 002 Introduction to Drawing, Julia Elsas and Johanna Barron***

**Monday & Wednesday**  
**9:00-12:00,**  
**1:00-3:00**  
**Art 229**

This introductory studio course will focus on the fundamentals of drawing. Beginning with mark making and direct observation, we will explore a variety of media, techniques, and subject matter both in and out of the classroom. Using traditional and experimental approaches to drawing, our assignments will emphasize developing the skills and understanding of proportion, form, space, line, and gesture. Through class discussion, critique, and presentations, we will develop the verbal and analytical skill necessary to critically examine our work.

Johanna Barron is finishing up her first year as a MFA graduate student at UC Davis. Barron is from Portland, Oregon; her medium of interest is painting.

Julia Elsas is a second year MFA graduate at UC Davis. She received a BA in studio art from Carleton College. Her current body of work explores sculpture, embroidery, and installation.

## **ART 008 Beginning Ceramic Sculpture, Mo Chu and Aleksander Bohnak**

**Monday & Wednesday**  
9:00-12:00,  
1:00-3:00  
TB 9

This course will take a comprehensive approach to creating ceramic sculpture. Along with building techniques, we will investigate clay/glaze composition and firing techniques. Projects will be largely self directed and centered around a common theme. Slide presentations of contemporary and historical ceramic sculpture will supplement your studio practice.

Mo Chu and Aleksander Bohnak are MFA candidates in the Art Studio Program.

### **Additional Classes, Summer Session I**

ART 2 Beginning Drawing: Stella Ebner

Art 7 Beginning Painting: Crystal Haueter & Cynthia Horn

Art 9 Beginning Photo: Matthias Geiger

Art 110B Intermediate Photography, Digital: Matthias Geiger

## **SUMMER SESSION I I**

### **AHI 164, The Arts of Japan, Hannah Sigur**

**Mondays & Wednesdays**  
2:10-4:40  
Art 217

Survey of Japanese Art explores the traditional visual culture of Japan from its prehistoric origins through the end of the Tokugawa period in the 19th century, against the backdrop of its historical and spiritual foundations. The enormous impact of this tradition beyond Japan will be an ongoing secondary thread, beginning with the two opening reader selections, and if time permits, a closing lecture on the impact of Japanese art on the West upon the opening of Japan in the 19th century.

Hannah Sigur (Institute of Fine Arts, NYC, ABD) is an adjunct professor at San Francisco State University and UC Davis, and a lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley Extension. She recently published *The Influence of Japanese Art on Design* (2008, Gibbs Smith).



### **ART 002, Beginning Drawing, Bryce Vinokurov**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
9:00-12:00,  
1:00-3:00  
Art 229

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the drawing process and to a new way of seeing. Students will gain familiarity with many forms of drawing techniques. We will explore the visual elements and technical approaches to drawing through the study of line, form, space, composition, tone, and texture.

Although art is a personal pursuit, it is also a form of communication. Students will be working primarily independently, but through in-class critiques, slide discussions, and several group projects, I hope to make the discussions part of the learning process. The goal of this course is to encourage you to expand your artistic expression by taking greater risks in your own work in order to explore various approaches to the drawing process.

Bryce Vinokurov received his MFA from Boston University. He has been teaching at UCD since 2005.



### **Art 5, Beginning Sculpture, Traci Horgen and Mo Chu**

In this class, students will be exposed to the limitless possibilities of sculpture as a means of self-expression through individual and group assignments. This class provides an introduction to basic sculpture concepts, techniques and a variety of materials such as found objects, cardboard, wood and plaster. Students will develop their skills through intensive studio practice as well as through group and individual discussion. Traci Horgen and Mo Chu are currently first year MFA candidates .

### **Additional Classes, Summer Session II**

Art 7, Beginning Painting, Cornelia Schulz

Art 102C, Advanced Painting, Hearne Pardee

## SUMMER SESSION, SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### **ART 121, Reinterpreting Landscape, Gina Werfel**

**August 10, 12, 20-23, 27-30, 31 and September 2  
Monday & Wednesday  
9:00-12:00, 1:00-3:00  
Art 331**

Course Description: This course will explore direct painting from landscape and its relevance to contemporary concerns about landscape. When possible, work will be done outdoors and students will explore the Davis and Bodega Bay areas for motifs, with the goal of integrating art into an ongoing relationship to the local environment. Sustained individual projects will

help students develop a sense of place as a basis for their personal artistic visions. There will be assigned readings in art history and criticism. Slide presentations will provide historical background and present a variety of approaches to landscape as a subject. Emphasis will be on developing a relationship to the local, everyday landscape. This will involve recording the specific qualities of light and space characteristic of each subject - each student's personal response to being there.

Students will meet for class in Davis and the surrounding area from August 10 and Sept 12, except for when the class will travel to Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory and Reserve for two sets of three days to work intensively from the coastal landscape, August 20-22 and September 3-5. On these two weeks, the Davis sessions will not meet.

The Bodega Bay session will meet 9:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00pm - 4:00pm.



## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### **2009 MA Oral Presentations**

Congratulations to Lucinda White Frachtenberg, Lindsay Riordan, Russell Gullette, and Micki McCoy the Art History program's five graduating MA students. Last Friday, May 29th each candidate presented and defended their thesis.

**Lucinda White Frachtenberg**, "Ruptures in Truth: The Photography of Thomas Eakins and the Pictorialist Vision"

**Lindsay Riordan**, "Signifying the Other, Signifying Itself: The Apophatic Art Criticism of Pavel Florensky and Clement Greenberg"

**Russell Gullette**, "Consumer Labor: Thomas Hirschhorn and the Dialectic of Utopia"

**Micki McCoy**, "In the Name of the Body: Identity, Subjectivity, and Global Nation in He Chengyao's Performance Art"

### **Honors and Awards**

**Tracy Cosgriff  
Art History  
BA**

Congratulations to Tracy Cosgriff who received the University Medal. The University Medal is given to the most outstanding graduating senior who demonstrates academic excellence and achievement at all levels of university life.

**Johanna Barron  
MFA Candidate**

Johanna Barron has been awarded the David Robertson Graduate Residential Fellowship in the Arts. The David Robertson Graduate Residential Fellowship in the Arts provides an honorarium of \$600 and one to two weeks lodging/residency at the McLaughlin Reserve (located at the intersection of Napa, Lake, and Yolo counties) for two graduate students in the creative arts (art, creative writing, music composition, theater and dance). It provides funding, time, and a serene location for a graduate student to focus on a creative project.

**Christopher Woodcock  
MFA Candidate**

Christopher Woodcock has been awarded the David Robertson Graduate Residential Fellowship in the Arts. The David Robertson Graduate Residential Fellowship in the Arts provides an honorarium of \$600 and one to two weeks lodging/residency at the McLaughlin Reserve (located at the intersection of Napa, Lake, and Yolo counties) for two graduate students in the creative arts (art, creative writing, music composition, theater and dance). It provides funding, time, and a serene location for a graduate student to focus on a creative project.

**Joshua Short  
MFA**

Joshua Short is one of the Joan Mitchell Foundation's fifteen recipients of the 2009 MFA Grant Program. The Annual MFA Grant Program was created to help MFA painters and sculptors in furthering their artistic careers and to aid in the transition from academic to professional studio work upon graduation. Each recipient will receive an MFA Grant in the amount of \$15,000.  
Josh has also been awarded the Headland Residency. The Headlands provides emerging and established artists with the valuable resources of time and space for open-ended investigation, experimentation and collaboration. By not requiring artists to showcase their work at the end of their residencies, Headlands gives artists the opportunity to push the boundaries of their own practice - free from the usual imperative to create a finished product. .

## June's Featured Staff



### Mike Simmons

Mike Simmons, M.A. in Interactive Media, Florida State at Tallahassee, 1902. Mike makes short films as a hobby, and he prefers to take scripts that have already been written so all that remains is the production, and creative directing. He has worked as a production assistant on feature length movie sets including "States of Grace" (2005), and "Think Tank" (2006). He plans to apply for the M.F.A. Film Producing program at the University of Southern California, and as an alternate he has chosen Chapman University at Orange, California. After he has earned his M.F.A., he will continue his career as a film producer in comedy. Mike plays the guitar, and is able to impersonate Neil Diamond to entertain his wife, and 3 young children ages 8yrs, 2yrs, and 10 months. Mike has been with the department of Art & Art History for 3.5 years as the Digital Lab Computer Expert, and will be moving to Utah to be closer to his extended family. His last day with the department will be June 12, 2009. We wish him much luck. He has enjoyed working with the students most along with faculty. He can be contacted at, [seemones@yahoo.com](mailto:seemones@yahoo.com).

*Biography compiled and written by Jesse Avitia (Lead Bookkeeper)*



### Angus Chang

Angus Chang, BA in Sociology, UC Davis, 1996. Angus has helped to organize various departmental potlucks, (and baking competitions in which he has won first place on numerous occasions). He has been complimented on his culinary skills to which Angus responds with, "I don't like to bake, I prefer to cook," "That's my first time making that." and "My secret ingredient is bacon." He commutes from Sacramento, the City of Trees, where he prefers to live. Angus and his wife of 14 years have one son and one daughter. Angus is an infielder for his softball team. He has been with the department since 2004 in charge of personnel, payroll, merits, and promotions. Beginning June 26, 2009, Angus will begin employment with the department of Entomology in personnel & payroll. His previous employment was as an armed guard for an armored courier service. During his entire undergraduate days, he served as a Unitrans student bus driver for the ASUCD/City of Davis. Contact him at, [aychang@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aychang@ucdavis.edu).

*Biography compiled and written by Jesse Avitia (Lead Bookkeeper)*

## Alumni News

### Gabriella Soraci MFA 2007

Gabriella Soraci (**Gabriella Lerner**) will be a resident at the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico this winter for a three month long artists residency! The foundation is located in Taos, New Mexico, and was founded in 1954. There are 11 private casitas, each with studio space. Residents are a mix of visual artists, poets, playwrights, composers, film makers, novelist, etc, all in different stages of their career.

### Caroline Cloak MFA 2008

Caroline Cloak received the 2008-2009 Headland Residency Award. The Headland Residency provides emerging and established artists with the valuable resources of time and space for open-ended investigation, experimentation and collaboration.

**The Art, Art History, and Technocultural Studies Department wishes everyone a wonderful summer  
The Newsletter will resume publication next Fall quarter**

To be added to our mailing list or if you wish to have your name removed please  
contact Leah Theis

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