

This Month in the Arts

ART AND ART HISTORY DEPARTMENT AND
THE RICHARD L. NELSON GALLERY AND FINE ART COLLECTION

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

APRIL 2012

LOCAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Professor Diana Strazdes, *The Predicament of the Living Presence*

April 10, 2012
4:10 pm
Everson 157
UCD

Among American artists active in the earlier nineteenth century, Rembrandt Peale understood most astutely the criteria with which popular audiences judged and responded to art. In 1824, he devised a portrait of George Washington that he hoped to sell to Congress as one of the paintings to be installed in the U.S. Capitol building. That painting not only exploited Peale's knack for showmanship but placed him at the center of controversies over how the nation's first President should be remembered. Relying on his stature as the last artist to have painted Washington from life, Peale entered into a type of portraiture that offered a living image of its subject, whose power, for political reasons, also demanded to be repressed.



Design Museum, *Design-by-Design, Juried Student Design Competition*

April 10-May 5, 2012
Design Museum
Cruess Hall
UCD

This annual installation, timed to coincide with the university's Picnic Day, is a lively survey of student talent and creativity that reflects the multi-disciplinary breath of the Department of Design at UC Davis.

Design Museum will be open on Picnic Day, Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gina Werfel, Alex Bult Gallery

April 10-May 5, 2012
Alex Bult Gallery
Sacramento

Gina Werfel will have work exhibited at the Alex Bult Gallery in Sacramento.
Preview reception: Thursday, April 12
Opening reception: Saturday, April 14

Larry Rinder, Art Studio Lecture Series

April 19, 2012
4:30 pm
TCS Building

Lawrence Rinder is director of the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. He has held positions at the Museum of Modern Art, Walker Art Center, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, where he was chief curator of the 2002 *Biennial*. Among the other exhibitions he has organized are *In a Different Light* (curated with Nayland Blake), *BitStreams*, *The American Effect*, and *Tim Hawkinson*. He was the founding director of the Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts at California College of the Arts, San Francisco, where he also served as dean. His writing on art has appeared in *nest*, *Artforum*, *The Village Voice*, *Fillip*, *Atlantica*, and *Flash Art*. *Art Life*, a collection of his essays, was published by Gregory R. Miller in 2005. He has also published poetry, fiction, and a play, co-authored with Kevin Killian.

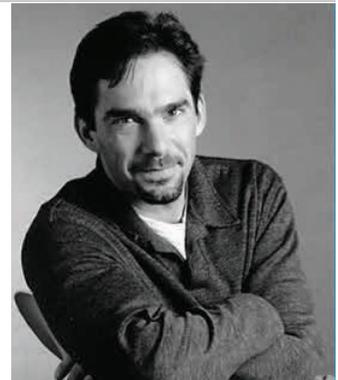


Photo by Bob Adler

Dr. Sylvester Ogechie, *Art Collections, Museums, and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Africa*

April 21, 2012
1:00-3:00 pm
Mariposa Hall 1000
CSUS

In his lecture *Art Collections, Museums, and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Africa*, Dr. Ogechie will investigate "the role of museums and art collectors in the preservation of cultural heritage in Africa using Nigeria as a case study. As the 21st Century unfolds, demands by various countries for repatriations of significant artworks and cultural objects have shaken up established ideas about the ownership and location of historical cultural objects. African countries involved in this debate argue for their right to ownership of African artworks looted from Africa during the colonial period, most of which are currently located in various Western museum and private collections. Western museums in turn argue that African countries are unable to provide appropriate care for these valuable artworks and therefore do not deserve to get them back. However, a growing number of African museums and private collectors are engaging in sophisticated practices of art and cultural heritage management that undermine this assumption." Dr. Ogechie will review "the state of art collecting and museum institutions in Nigeria in order to determine how these contribute to proper preservation of the country's vast cultural heritage."

Free and open to the public



Jed and Martin Perl, *A Conversation on Creativity, etc.*

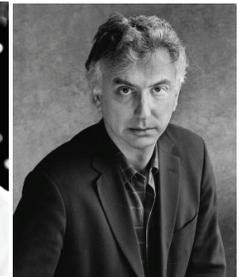
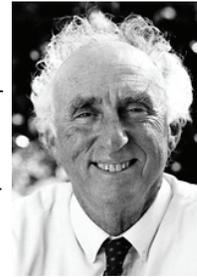
April 26, 2012
8:00 pm
UC Davis Conference
Center

Martin Perl is a Nobel Prize winning physicist as well as a professor at the University of Michigan and later at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC). In 1995, Mr. Perl received the Nobel Prize in physics "for the discovery of the tau lepton." He shared the award "for pioneering experimental contributions to lepton physics" with Freder-

ick Reines, who was cited "for the detection of the neutrino." (<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/news/pr/95/951011Arc5066.html>)

Jed Perl has been the art critic for *The New Republic* since 1994. His books include *Eyewitness: Reports from an Art World in Crisis*, *Antoine's Alphabet: Watteau and His World*, and *New Art City: Manhattan at Mid-Century*, which in 2005 was an *Atlantic Monthly* Best Book of the Year and a *New York Times* Notable Book. Mr. Perl is currently a Visiting Professor of Liberal Studies at The New School in New York City. He has written for many publications, includ-

ing *Harper's*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Salmagundi*, and *The Yale Review*, has lectured at museums and universities across the country, has spoken frequently on NPR, and has appeared on the "Charlie Rose" show. He is currently working on the first full-length biography of the American sculptor Alexander Calder, to be published by Knopf. (*The New Republic*, <http://www.tnr.com/users/jed-perl>)



This lecture is sponsored by the College of Letters and Science, Office of University Development, Department of Physics and the Art Studio Program at UC Davis.

Nelson Gallery, *Dreams of the Darkest Night*

March 29-May 27, 2012
Richard L. Nelson
Gallery
UCD

Two Northern California photographers are featured in the Spring exhibition at the Nelson Gallery: *Dreams of the Darkest Night*, with work by Vanessa Marsh and Sean McFarland. Both artists hold MFAs from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco and both practice exper-

imental forms of photography. Marsh makes photograms, which are images made on photo paper without the use of a lens. The earliest celebrated practitioner of the form was the emigre American surrealist, Man Ray, in the early 20th century. Marsh has reinvigorated the genre with large narrative images that have the illusion of depth, and employ grays as well as blacks and whites. McFarland's most recent body of work are large color images from nature that are very dark, almost all black, giving the viewer the feeling the he or she is glimpsing a dream in the depths of the darkest night.

Image: Vanessa Marsh, *Man Chopping Wood*, 2010, photogram



Nelson Gallery, *Bruce Guttin: Headwear Improvisations by a Sculptor*

March 29-May 27, 2012
Richard L. Nelson
Gallery
UCD

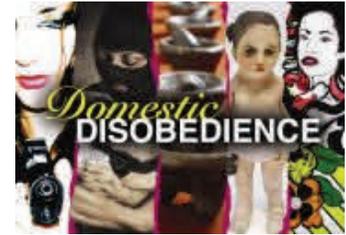
Bruce Guttin, a UC Davis MFA alumnus from the early 70s who lives in Davis, had an interest in headwear even when he was a sculptor working in wood in the 1970s. He now designs extremely simple, inexpensive and charming hats for his own use. The Nelson has commissioned Guttin to make a selection of these hats; also on view will be related drawings and a sculpture.



Claudia Alvarez (BA 1999), *Domestic Disobedience: Redefining the Feminine Space*

March 15, 2012-
April 19, 2012
San Diego Mesa
College Art Gallery
San Diego

This multi-disciplinary exhibit, curated by Nuvia Crisol Guerra, brings together visual artists that forge a new space of Latina domestic defiance. Spanning several generations, these artists employ a diffuse arsenal to resist patriarchal imposed stereotypes and shape a contemporary female consciousness. Some of the participating artists are Juana Alicia, Claudia Alvarez, Ana Teresa Fernández, Amalia Mesa-Bains, Delilah Montoya.



Pence Gallery, *Seeing Sound*

March 9, 2012-
April 15, 2012
Pence Gallery
Davis

The Pence Gallery's group exhibition will feature the work of **Robin Hill** and **Sam Nichols** (UCD Music professor). *Seeing Sound* delves into the realm of how visual artists incorporate ambient and instrumental sound into their work, exploring how what we hear is reflected in what we see. Artists Jiayi and Shih-Wen Young create installations in which sounds from vari-

ous sources are transformed into visual patterns, in both paintings and digital projections. Rachel Clarke and Stephen Blumberg develop animated videos probing the nature of technology, using musical compositions to amplify and enhance thematic considerations. Dean Moniz, painter and sculptor, structures his compositions to correspond to specific passages of jazz and rock music. Robin Hill and Sam Nichols will construct an installation in an office cubicle of antiquated office equipment, punctuated by recorded and looped related sounds, in which visitors activate and compose their own compositions. Many pieces on display are distinctly interactive, requiring visitors to play, mix, and listen, ultimately offering a space in which the line between sound and art is blurred.



Artist Talks: Dean Moniz (Apr. 1, 1:30 PM); Jiayi and Shih-Wen Young (Apr. 1, 2:15 PM); Robin Hill and Sam Nichols (Apr. 13, 6-6:30 PM)

Jesse Drew, *[Winter in America; 1974-1975]*

March 9, 2012-
April 21, 2012
SF Camera work
1011 Market Street
San Francisco

Jesse Drew, on *Winter in America: 1974-1975*: "Gil Scott Heron's song 'Winter in America' became a theme for me in 1974-75 and crystallized what America meant for many in the years when the euphoria of the 1960s lay crashed and burned, as the U.S. lost its supremacy in the world and the nation was wracked by unemployment, an oil and gas shortage, urban decay, and defeat in Vietnam. In the mid-1970s, I set out to see if

there was still a utopian pulse to be found in America. The resulting photographs resonate eerily with our current time in many ways."



Bryce Vinokurov

March 6, 2012-
April 7, 2012
Alex Bult Gallery
Sacramento

Bryce Vinokurov's show features work from his *Foodies in Exile series*, which comes from his inspiration of the Northern California landscape and the emergent national fixation with the sustainable food industry. These largely abstract works depict foodies who are not set in a specific time or space—they are nomads with grills banished to a life of locavore eating.

These satirical pieces include groups of individuals on bikes, around grills, donning chef hats or handling other accessories but with other comforts of the modern world unspecified. Vinokurov enjoys the idea of these foodies exiled to an idyllic place-cooking on grills, fighting over recipes and arguing over who is the best chef. His characters battle each other with pizza peels and chef's knives, hold petty grudges over recipes and fight over truffle pigs. They wage war over food poisoning and have been exiled to a land that looks like Umbria, Tuscany or Napa. The inspiration for the landscape these foodies in exile often find themselves and the composition of these groups are heavily influenced by the painters Giotto, Piero della Francesca, and Lorenzetti. The show will include large oil paintings and small collages from this series.



OTHER EVENTS

Katharine Burnett
Art History

***The Missing Catalogue and Diaries of Pang Yuanji.* April 24, 2012. Radisson Plaza Xingguo Hotel, Shanghai. For the Royal Asiatic Society, Shanghai.**

Pang Yuanji (1864-1949) is well known for the important catalogues of his ancient painting collection that he compiled between 1909 and 1925, especially the *Xuzhai minghua lu*. Less recognized is his patronage of over 20 artists who lived and worked in his home. Less known still are his undertakings in transforming China's public sphere. Despite Pang's passion for collecting the Six Orthodox Masters, his own paintings in the literati mode, and his memberships in seemingly conservative painting societies, his activities with political, social, and arts reformers indicate a modernist sensibility. By examining the Pang's activities and network of associations, this lecture will attempt to provide a better understanding of Pang's contributions toward modernizing China and its art.

Valerie George
MFA 2003

***Outside/In.* March 12, 2012-April-June 10, 2012. Norton Museum, Florida**

Valerie's work is included in the *Inside/Out* Exhibition at the Morton Museum of Art curated by Time Wride.

Hedwig Brouckaert
MFA 2005

Still Spot. February 23 -March 30, 2012. Skylight Gallery. New York
Still Spot is an international group show of thirteen artists, who offer works that are quiet at first look, but upon closer inspection will reveal intensity of either technique, material, or affect. These diverse practices include labor-intensive precise cuts in paper, hundreds of magazine eyes behind a translucent vellum veil, rock-hard slate that has been filed down meticulously against its nature, and tiny five-inch square drawings that are so intricate that they are at the very limits of our ability to see. At the other extreme is a room-size installation where we stand in the midst of hundreds of nine-foot high skinny strips of paper, so we become lost in the white quietude. This totality of works is assembled to bring the gallery visitor into a "still spot" in the midst of dynamic Manhattan, a momentary oasis in the center of our busy lives.



Julia Elsas
MFA 2009

Corporealities: An Exhibition on Embodiment. February 17, 2012-April, 2012. CUNY Graduate Center. New York

Embodiment refers to the fact that living things, such as human beings, are not merely thinking things but also have bodies. Within the humanities and social sciences, there has been an embodied turn, with researchers interested in how bodies are manipulated, transformed, and implicated in behavior. In support of this trend, the Committee on Interdisciplinary Science Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center has organized a faculty seminar on this theme, with researchers from cognitive science, disability studies, feminism, urban planning, fashion, dance theory and other fields.

Daneil Glendening
BA 2005

Temptations: Part 1. February 15 -April 6, 2012. Extra Extra. Philadelphia

Julia Elsas
MFA 2009

Current Trends in Print. February 6, 2012-April 10, 2012. Isabella Cannon Gallery. Elon University, NC

The annual juried exhibition, *Current Trends in Print*, focuses on the diverse medium of printmaking and includes representational, non-representational and abstract art from across the country.

Hong Zhang
MFA 2004

Portraiture Now, Asian in America: Portraits of Encounters. August 12, 2011-October 14, 2012. National Portrait Gallery. Washington DC

The National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program have collaborated on an exhibition that is the Smithsonian's first major showcase of contemporary Asian American portraiture. Through the groundbreaking work of seven talented artists from across the country and around the world, the exhibition offers provocative renditions of the Asian American experience. Their portraits of encounter offer representations against and beyond the stereotypes that have long obscured the complexity of being Asian in America.

Hong Zhang will be showing five large hair drawings in the upcoming exhibition *Portraiture Now, Asian in America: Portraits of Encounter* at The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery from August 12, 2011 to October 14, 2012. The exhibition runs for a year.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Jayme Yahr (MA 2007)

Jayme Yahr (MA, Art History 2007) received her PhD from the University of Washington in winter 2012. Titled, *The Art of "The Century": Richard Watson Gilder, the Gilder Circle and the Rise of American Modernism*, Jayme's dissertation examined the ways in which *The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine* promoted the careers of prominent American artists during the latter decades of the 19th century.

Professor Diana Strazdes (Art History)

On March 24, 2012, Professor Diana Strazdes delivered a paper, "Communicating the Unseen in Washington Allston's Paintings of the 1830s," at the 33rd Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference in Asheville, North Carolina. The topic of the conference was "Spiritual Matters/Matters of the Spirit."

Daniel Glendening (BA 2005)

Daniel is pleased to announce two recent publications featuring his work. The first, *Panhandler*, published in physical and digital form by the University of West Florida, features a project I completed specifically for publication: *An Attempted Partial Taxonomy of Rocks*. The magazine can be viewed online at Panhandler Issue 6, where it is also available as a series of downloadable pdfs.

The second project is *Historic National Monument Preservation Society*, a book of black and white collage works by Michael Welsh, published in a limited edition by Social Malpractice Publishing, to which Daniel contributed the foreword, *The Last Highway*.

Youngsuk Suh (Art Studio)

Youngsuk Suh was a part of the special exhibition section of the Korean Art Show Fair in New York this past March. Six pieces from his new "Let Burn" series were a part of the main exhibition along with six other Korean artists.

Deborah Hamon (MFA 2002)

Deborah's image, *Pinnacle*, was selected for inclusion in the 2011 Photo Review Competition issue. She has also been invited to participate in The Arctic Circle residency in the fall of 2013.

Professor Katharine Burnett (Art History)

At the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference held in Toronto in March, Katharine Burnett chaired and co-organized the panel, "So How Bad Was It? Comparative Decadence between the Jiajing and Wanli Eras," sponsored by the Society for Ming Studies. For the Society for Ming Studies, she organized the roundtable discussion: "Perspectives on Decadence in the Jiajing and Wanli Eras," and contributed a paper, "Decadence Disrupted: Arguing Against Decadence in Late Ming Art History." While at the conference, she also served as a discussant for the panel, "Rhetorics of Eroticism in Chinese Art and Literature, Song to the Ming."

In April, Professor Burnett will be a Study Leader on a Smithsonian Institution tour, lecturing while traveling to Beijing, Xian, Chongqing and the Yangzi River, and Shanghai. After the SI tour, she will present a lecture on her research on the Shanghai collector Pang Yuanji to the Royal Asiatic Society,

Patrick Hector (MA 2008)

Patrick was admitted to Teacher's College of Columbia University as a Peace Corps Fellow. He will begin a summer intensive in May to prepare for teaching full time at a high-needs school in September.

PLEASE WRITE!

To let us know about upcoming Departmental events or shows, to let us know about your recent accomplishments, or to be added to our mailing list contact us at:

visualarts@ucdavis.edu

Submission deadline for May's Newsletter is
23 April 2012