

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

OCTOBER 2009

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2009-2010 *This Month in the Arts*. For those of you new to our programs, we debuted the Newsletter in the hope of creating better communication and community among the programs of Art Studio, Art History, and Technocultural Studies. The Newsletter's goal is to showcase the many events and exhibitions occurring in the Department. We are also using the Newsletter as an opportunity to put names to faces and as a way of getting to know who we are and what we do. We hope you look forward to reading about the different people, students, faculty, and staff that make up our diverse community. For all of our alums who have moved on to new opportunities, we would love to hear from you. Please send us your updates to visualarts@ucdavis.edu. Best of luck in 2009-2010 and we look forward to working with you.

Our Program Chairs



Jesse Drew

Jesse Drew is Associate Professor and Director of Technocultural Studies. He is a media artist and writer whose work often centers on issues of technology, art and democracy. While planted firmly in the digital world, he often tends to favor the analog. He has spent many years developing systems of alternative media, working for social justice, and troubleshooting electronic circuits for Silicon Valley firms. This year he will be teaching Documentary Studies, Media Archaeology, and Electronics for Artists. He is currently finishing a book on a contemporary history of social media and co-producing a film on the politics of country music.

"Despite some economic constraints, this year should prove to be an exciting time for Technocultural Studies. In addition to our usual courses in interactive programming, video, sound, animation, theory and history of technoculture and digital arts, we will also be bringing in a

great number of visiting artists and host several social mixers for students. So stay tuned and stay up-to-date with our website."



D. Kern Holoman

D. Kern Holoman is Distinguished Professor of Music in the Department of Music, where he recently stepped down as conductor of the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra and Barbara K. Jackson Professor of Orchestral Conducting after more than three decades with the orchestra. He was chair of Music, interim chair of Dramatic Art (now Theatre and Dance), and founding dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts & Cultural Studies. Holoman writes about music of France in the 19th and 20th centuries. His biography of Charles Munch (1891–1968), conductor of the Paris Conservatory and Boston Symphony orchestras, is forthcoming.

"A hearty welcome to the 2009–10 academic year in Art Studio. We look forward to the annual events that anchor us at the center of campus life: the MFA exhibits in the Spring, the Visiting Artist Lecture Series, and showings the world over of the work of our faculty, alumni, and cur-

rent students. It's a year of substantial challenge, but substantial opportunity as well, with advances of venue, interaction with our partner programs, and infrastructure that should be exhilarating. I'm delighted to be part of it, and I invite your active collaboration in our march forward. "



Jeffrey Ruda

Jeff Ruda, back for his third round as Art History Director, has taught Renaissance art history at UCD since 1980. His main research area is late medieval and early Renaissance Italy (the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries), but he has published on art as late as the eighteenth century and has served on thesis committees across the program. He is very grateful that curricular updates and revisions were completed during Simon Sadler's term! All that work gives Art History a head start on adapting to the University's budget situation. The program is also very fortunate to share in teaching by a new faculty member, Prof. Christina Cogdell. She enhances a team of scholar-teachers who will give us a productive and enjoyable year despite the changing climate.

EVENTS

Kal Spelletich, *Live Interactive Robot Sculpture and Machine Art*

Thursday 10/1/2009
3:15-4:30
Wellman 1

Presented by the Program in Technocultural Studies as part of their lecture series,
On the Technocultural Edge: Fall '09 Visiting Artist Talks.
Free to All.

John Davis, *Experimental Film/Video with Live Sound Synthesis*

Tuesday 10/6/2009
3:15-4:30
Wellman 1

Presented by the Program in Technocultural Studies as part of their lecture series,
On the Technocultural Edge: Fall '09 Visiting Artist Talks.
Free to All.

Steve Rhodes, *Activism on the Social Networks*

Thursday 10/1/2009
3:15-4:30
Wellman 1

Presented by the Program in Technocultural Studies as part of their lecture series,
On the Technocultural Edge: Fall '09 Visiting Artist Talks.
Free to All.

Lynn Roller, *Orientation Session for Prospective Major and Minors in Art History*

Thursday 10/13/2009
4:00-5:30 PM
Art 210D

Attention all students! Are you interested in a major or minor in Art History? Are you interested in an internship in Art History? Are you interested in studying Art History in a foreign country? Professor **Lynn Roller** will be hosting this informational event for students interested in learning more about the Art History Program.

Attention all students
Are you interested in a major or minor in Art History?



Stop by ART 210D
Tuesday October 13th
between 4 and 5:30 PM
for an information session



Refreshments will be provided

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Bryan Boyce, *Digital-Video Collage Artist and Political Satirist*

Tuesday 10/13/2009
3:15-4:30
Wellman 1

Presented by the Program in Technocultural Studies as part of their lecture series,
On the Technocultural Edge: Fall '09 Visiting Artist Talks.
Free to All.

Gerry Fialka, *PixelVision Exponent of McLuhan's Law's of Media*

Thursday 10/15/2009
3:15-4:30
Wellman 1

Presented by the Program in Technocultural Studies as part of their lecture series,
On the Technocultural Edge: Fall '09 Visiting Artist Talks.
Free to All.

Diana Strazdes, *Some New American Donatello: Augustus Saint-Gaudens and the Farragut Monument*

Thursday 10/20/2009
4:00-6:00 PM
Art 210D

With his first, hard-won public commission in 1878, Augustus Saint-Gaudens overturned some of the most deeply rooted American sculptural conventions and set himself apart as new type of artist by invoking the example of the early Florentine Renaissance.

On its completion, the monument to Admiral David Farragut became an artistic landmark. It not only created the young sculptor's national reputation, it established new principles of Realism for American art.

Diana Strazdes is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of California, Davis. Her research interests in nineteenth-century American art extend from painting and sculpture to architecture and material culture.



Erik Davis, *Contemporary Cybercultural Author and Critic*

Tuesday 10/27/2009
3:15-4:30
Wellman 1

Presented by the Program in Technocultural Studies as part of their lecture series, *On the Technocultural Edge: Fall '09 Visiting Artist Talks*. Free to All.

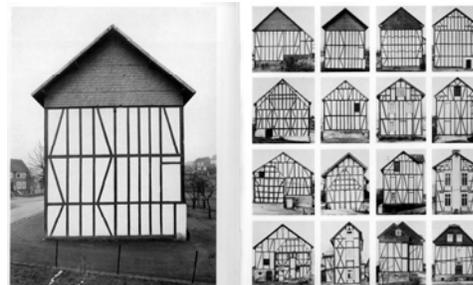
Blake Stimson, *Photography and Ontology*

Thursday 10/27/2009
4:00-6:00 PM
Art 210D

Photography has two distinctly appealing properties. On the one hand, it has mechanically-enhanced artistic powers: it can capture a moment, or orchestrate an intricate arrangement, or populate an empty frame with the blink of an eye. We might call this its vertical or qualitative axis, and plot any given photograph according to its degree of artistic success according to

whatever criteria we might

choose—exhibitions, say, or reviews, or individual judgment of its mastery. On the other hand, photography has mechanically and electronically-accelerated powers of distribution like computers and promises something like a factory in every pocket or handbag. We might refer to this as its horizontal, or quantitative axis, plotting the spread of photographization by the picture, say, or camera, or megapixel, or ISO sensitivity. Both of these properties makes its own claim to universality, to ontology, to the meaning of being, one idealist, the other materialist, one metaphorical, the other metonymical. Because of its uniquely ingrained connection with art and its broad appeal as non-art, photography's ontology is defined to an exceptional extent by a dynamic tension between the one and the all. This presentation will explore some of the sociopolitical effects and opportunities arising from that distinctive tension.



Blake Stimson is Professor of Art History at the University of California at Davis.

Ben Wood, *Digital-Video Intervention Artist*

Thursday 10/29/2009
3:15-4:30
Wellman 1

Presented by the Program in Technocultural Studies as part of their lecture series, *On the Technocultural Edge: Fall '09 Visiting Artist Talks*. Free to All.

EXHIBITIONS

Bruce Guttin (MFA 1972), *One-Person Show: Mary Louise Delonge*

Aug. 27-Dec. 6 2009
Buehler Alumni
Center
University of
California, Davis

Guest curator and UC Davis alum **Bruce Guttin** organizes a drawing exhibition by Davis artist Mary Delonge in recognition of October's National Disability Awareness Month.

Reception: October 8, 2009, 4:00-5:30 pm

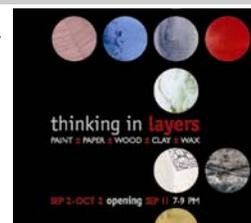


Image: **Mary Delonge**, *Roman Grapes*. 1995

Stacey Vetter (MFA 1995), *Thinking in Layers*

Sept. 2-Oct. 2 2009
Davis Arts Center
Davis, CA

Stacey Vetter will be exhibiting six new paintings in the group show, *Thinking in Layers*. The show is at the Davis Art Center.



Stella Ebner (Visiting Art Studio Faculty), *Folks, It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This!*

September 11, 2009-
October 17, 2009
Groveland Annex
25 Groveland Terrace
Minneapolis, MN

An exhibition of new work by printmaker **Stella Ebner** opens September 11th in the Annex at Groveland Gallery. This exhibition features a series of screenprints illustrating Ebner's continued fascination with everyday imagery and experiences that explore the perceived usualness of ordinary scenes and objects.



Combining whimsy, curiosity and color, Ebner's scenes are meant to be simultaneously inviting and slightly unsettling, contemplative and perhaps humorous. Her subjects include snapshots of quirky, everyday scenes: a cemetery with headstones showered by an energetic sprinkler system; a suburban garage with the remnants of a graduation party beneath its door; the interior of a Chinese restaurant as seen from a booth with a plate of wantons set before the viewer. Ebner finds inspiration in her Midwestern upbringing, exploring her own cultural narrative through images taken from personal experience.

Ebner, an Elk River, Minnesota native and 1998 graduate of the University of Minnesota, received her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Art in 2006. In 2000 she used a Minnesota State Arts Board grant to study paper and printmaking at a workshop in Helsinki, Finland. She also received an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Minnesota State Arts Board in 2003. Ebner currently lives in California where she teaches drawing and printmaking at UC Davis. (Sally Johnson, Director, Groveland Gallery)

Image: *Sprinklers*, 2008, screenprint on Japanese paper, 25 x 36"

Stella Ebner (Visiting Art Studio Faculty), *Drawings That Work*

Sept. 11-Oct. 25 2009
Boston Center for the
Arts
Mills Gallery

The exhibition, featuring work by **Stella Ebner**, examines how artists use drawings in the preliminary stages of the creative process to convey an idea. The 36 selected artists were chosen from a wide pool of applicants and include prints that demonstrate the preparatory phase of such mediums as sculpture, video, digital prints, collage and painted color studies.

Kenny Mencher (MA 1994), *Atelier*

Sept. 18-Oct. 29
Atelier School of
Classical Realism
4920 Telegraph Ave
Oakland, CA

Curated by **Kenny Mencher**, *Atelier* features paintings and drawings by instructors and students from the Atelier School of Classical Realism. Reception: Saturday, September 26th, 7:00-8:00 pm.

Image, "Still Life Studies" Destry Miller



Paintings from Abroad

Sept. 23-Oct. 3 2009
Education Abroad
Center
207 3rd Street
Suite 120

This exhibition features the work of student artists who participated in the Painting in Rome and Umbria Summer Abroad program instructed by **Gina Werfel** and **Hearne Pardee** and assisted by **Bryce Vinokurov** this past summer. Painted on location in Italy, the artwork highlights student's own responses to Italian art, culture, and everyday life.



African-American Quilts and Merch Art

Sept. 24-Dec. 13, 2009
Nelson Gallery
University of
California, Davis
Art 124

Merch Art is the premiere exhibition of artist multiples made for charitable and commercial purposes collected by San Franciscans Lawrence Banka and Judith Gordon. Work by Joseph Beuys, Alexander Calder, Damien Hirst, David Hockney, Jenny Holzer, Jeff Koons, Pablo Picasso, Robert Rauschenberg, Cindy Sherman, and many others are included. A catalogue is available with color illustrations and essays by Banka and Gordon, as well as Nelson Gallery director **Renny Pritikin** and UC Davis art historian **Blake Stimson**.

African-American Quilts is guest curated by Felicenne Ramey with Renny Pritikin. The quilts are from the collections of Avis C. Robinson of Washington DC and Sandra McPherson of Davis. In association with a concurrent exhibition at 40 Acres Art Gallery in Sacramento. This exhibition is supported by a gift from the Nehemiah Corporation.

Reception: October 1, 5:30-7:30 pm



Image: Pablo Picasso, *Dove of Peace*, *Jigsaw Puzzle*. 1966. ink on cardboard 14.5"x 14.5"

Irman Arcibal (MFA 2007), *The Time it Takes: Art and the Elements of Time*

Sept. 18-Oct. 16 2009
Dorothy Herger
Gallery, Rm. 1304
Solano Community
College

This exhibition features the work of **Irman Arcibal**, Jimmie Beardsley, George Berticevich, Kari Brinck, Jared Tolla, Gregory Byard, Alma Chaney, Hedi Desuyo, and Brooke Holve.

Reception: Thursday, October 1st, 10:30 am-12:00 pm



GEO-MORPH: *New Currents in Geometric and Biomorphing Abstraction* curated by David Roth

Sept. 25-Nov. 15 2009
Pence Gallery
212 D Street
Davis, CA

GEO-MORPH: New Currents in Geometric and Biomorphing Abstraction is a works-on-paper show that draws from two contemporary trends. One, rooted in architecture, combines surrealism with drafting and illustration. The other, expanding on historical styles of non-objective abstraction, employs collage, geometry, gesture and pencil drawing to describe organic and otherworldly forms, using landscape, symbols, topography and mapping as jumping-off points for reformulations of pictorial and psychic space. The 13 artists on view include: Val Britton, Julia Couzens, Anna Fidler, Sid Garrison, **Robin Hill**, Jeff Konigsberg, Lisa Marasso, Joan Moment, **Hearne Pardee**, Leslie Shows, Ellen Van Fleet, Peter Voukos, and Darren Waterston.

Reception: October 9, 2009, 7:00-9:00 pm
Curator's Lecture: Friday, October 16, 2009, 7:00 pm



Hong Zhang (MFA 2004), *Locks in Translation*

Oct 7-Nov 1, 2009
A.I.R. Gallery II
Brooklyn, NY

Through *Locks in Translation*, a diverse group of artists explores the complex issue of hair. Curator JoAnne McFarland has chosen works that highlight the admiration and envy that flows between women resulting in a tangled intimacy at once deep and sustained. Each of the artists selected for the exhibition is a master at her craft, so much so that her style has become a physical attribute, like skin color or hair

texture.

In *Locks in Translation* these artists look deeply at each other, sometimes obliquely, sometimes directly, across disparate cultures, classes, ages, and dispositions. At the heart of their subversive exchange pulses the desire to unlock creative potential. Each explores hair as talisman, tease, and thorn with verve and vigor. The result is a provocative mix of observations. A sixteen-page special edition catalogue/brochure for the exhibition is available through A.I.R. gallery.

Participating Artists: poet Elizabeth Alexander and visual artists Emma Amos, Rachel Eliza Griffiths, Jee Hwang, Carolyn Martin, Ann Pachner, Annete Rusin, Barbara Siegel, Lorna Simpson, and **Hong Zhang**.



DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Faculty Publications

el eje del mundo
fotografía y nación

Blake Stimson



Blake Stimson's 2006 MIT Press book, *The Pivot of the World: Photography and Its Nation*, was published this summer in Spanish translation by Editorial Gustavo Gili, Barcelona, under the title *El eje del mundo: Fotografía y nación*. From the publisher: "El eje del mundo analiza un excepcional esfuerzo por encontrar una solución cultural a la tensión geopolítica del momento tal como se desarrolló en tres ambiciosos proyectos fotográficos: la exposición *The Family of Man*; el influyente libro de Robert Frank, *Los americanos*; y el registro tipológico de la arquitectura industrial de Bernd y Hilla Becher."



Diana Strazdes published "Catharine Beecher and the American Woman's Puritan Home in *The New England Quarterly* (Boston: New England Quarterly) September 2009 issue.

Catharine Beecher's publications on household management, published between 1841 and 1869, offered architectural designs with a surprisingly consistent feature: they promoted the long-forgotten center-chimney New England house plan. For Beecher, that remnant of the Puritan era promised a radically new lifestyle, one that profoundly undercut the domestic social rituals of her time.



Blake Stimson and co-editor Alexander Alberro will publish *Institutional Critique: An Anthology of Artist's Writings* this month with MIT Press. Helen Molesworth, Head of Modern and Contemporary Art, Harvard Art Museums, describes the book's subject: "these artists and critics have rejoiced in anti-authoritarian strategies, and, with a profound sense of love and possibility, have bravely suggested that the idea of art, far from being timeless, demands and deserves to be renewed and reimagined over time and space." Claire Bishop, leading international critic, says: "This will be essential reading for, and generative of further criticism by, artists, curators, and art historians invested in the legacy of this practice."

Graduate Honors

Natalie Mann MA Candidate

Natalie Mann is interning in the education department at the de Young Museum. She works with the Museum Ambassadors who are San Francisco public high school students who are trained to give classroom presentations and museum tours to elementary school students. Interns train and supervise the Museum Ambassadors, who are selected to mirror the ethnic make-up of San Francisco. Established in 1982, the Museum Ambassador Program is receiving national attention as an exemplary training program for teenagers and as an outreach program for their audiences. Museum Ambassadors are high school students from San Francisco public schools who are trained by interns to give a 45 minute presentations to various elementary school classrooms in the city. This year the Museum Ambassadors will be talking about the King Tut exhibit, which runs through March at the Museum.

Melanie Ross MA Candidate

This summer M.A. candidate, **Melanie Ross** participated in a 13 week internship program with the SF MOMA. During her time there she worked at the SF MOMA's artist gallery, an annex of the museum located at the Fort Mason Center located on the Bay. Her duties included helping clients with the sales and rental portion of the gallery as well as creating a digital archive of artists work soon to be added to the website. One of the most valuable parts of the program included the Thursday lunch and lecture series at the main museum where Melanie got a chance to network with the other 30 interns working in various departments. Every week the interns were presented with a lecture from a different department within the museum including curatorial, conservation, collections, development and design. Her favorite perk was a sneak view of the installation progress of the Richard Avedon exhibition.

Julia Elsas MFA 2009 Kristina Schlosser MA Candidate

Julia Elsas's work was featured this summer in the show, *Fresh Young Things: New Talent From Northern California* at the Jay Jay Gallery in Sacramento. The Exhibition was co-curated by **Kristina Schlosser** (MA Candidate) Kristina's mission in curating this exhibition, was to exhibit the fine and prophetic work being produced in graduate programs at several Northern California schools including the San Francisco Art Institute, Stanford University, California College of the Arts, Mills College, University of California at Davis, and CSU Sacramento. I wanted to share the eleven artist's triumphs with the community at large and offer a glimpse into potential future trends. Their artwork, immense in diversity, medium, style, and conception, did just that.

Laura Hutchison MA Candidate

Laura Hutchison has published "From Cult Image to Object of Desire: Hellenistic Modes of Viewing the Aphrodite of Knidos" in the *Oregon Art Review*.

ALUMNI NEWS

Gabriella Soraci, MFA 2007

The University of Oregon has given **Gabriella Soraci** a one year contract as an adjunct instructor to teach drawing and painting, starting this fall. She has been teaching night classes each term for the last two years at the University of Oregon's Craft Center (drawing and painting), and will continue those classes along with the courses in the art department.

ELSEWHERE ON CAMPUS

Design Museum
Oct. 4-Dec. 6, 2009

Typographic Exploration in Hangul: Work by Hyunju Lee and Phil Choo

This exhibition presents the work of two designers whose typographic roots began in Hangul, the native script of Korea.

Gorman Museum
Oct. 2-Dec.6, 2009

Diversity: in the C.N. Gorman Museum Collections. Featuring Salvador Dali and Florentino Laime Mantilla.
Opening reception: Friday, October 2, 4:00-6:00 pm

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 November's Newsletter is
26 October 2009