

# 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

**NOVEMBER 2010**

## EVENTS

### Katharine Burnett, *Lin Fengmian's Legacy During the Cultural Revolution: The Case of Two Courageous Watercolors*

**Tuesday**  
**November 9, 2010**  
**4:10 pm**  
**Everson 157/159**

Lin Fengmian (1900-1991) is known for advocating the hybridization of European modernist techniques and aesthetics with Chinese forms and topics. His instruction and approaches were highly influential during the late 1920s through the 1940s, and again in the late 1970s-1980s. What has not been studied, however, is Lin's legacy during the Cultural Revolution. This paper aims to do just that through the examination of a pair of unrecorded and previously unpublished watercolor paintings that courageously

record an event from this tumultuous period.



### Katharine Burnett, *Copying and Originality in Contemporary Chinese and American Landscape Painting*

**Friday**  
**November 12, 2010**  
**Asian Art Museum**  
**San Francisco**

In this paper, Professor Burnett considers a set of landscape album leaves commissioned by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2004, and asks: Can classically trained Chinese artists produce art that is conceptually original within a tradition for which the copy and copying are conceived as foundational to expression? Can contemporary international artists from the West create conceptually original art within the same strictures, when we all "know" that innovation and originality are "traditional Western" values? What does it mean to copy? To be inspired by the work of another artist? To be conceptually original? How do artists and critics consider these issues for Chinese art? Even though postmodernist theory disavows originality as a value, it is nonetheless a recurrent motif of contemporary and conceptual art.

Presented as part of the *Asian Traditions: Connections and Innovations Lecture Series*, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, Nov. 12.



### Blake Stimson, *The Interior of Art*

**Tuesday**  
**November 16, 2010**  
**4:10 pm**  
**Everson 157/159**

This talk will consider the work of Vito Acconci in the context of a broad history of the container form that ranges from the art of the European Middle Ages up through the box art that was so prevalent in the 1960s. That history is marked by a progressive dissolution of the boundary between inside and outside culminating in, among other things, the strict constructivism of conceptual art. Acconci's art offers a

critical alternative by reinvigorating the surface tension that distinguishes inside from outside. This artistic effort is significant for the world we find ourselves in today, it will be argued, because it draws our attention to the feeble and evermore spectral divide that founds the experience of, and hence the possibility for, public life.

This presentation is part of a larger study with the working title "Guilt as Form" that considers five artists whose mature work emerged in the 1970s: Hans Haacke, Vito Acconci, Mary Kelly, Dan Graham, and Jeff Wall. A version of the chapter on Wall's work was published a couple of years ago in the *Oxford Art Journal* under the title "The Artiste."



## Wayne Thiebaud in Conversation with Kenneth Baker

**Tuesday  
November 18, 2010  
4:30 pm  
Buehler  
Alumni Center**

Wayne Thiebaud, UC Davis art professor emeritus, started out as a commercial artist in the 1930s. During the next eight decades, he established himself as one of the most important and honored artists of his generation. In 1994, he was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Clinton. California Governor Gray Davis presented him with the Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts in 1991. He is an elected member of the American Academy and

Institute of Arts and Letters, an academician of the National Academy of Design and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the recipient of the National Arts Club's Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award, the American Academy of Design's Lifetime Achievement Award for Art, and many other major awards, including four honorary degrees.

One of the best known art writers in the U.S., Kenneth Baker began his career at the *Boston Phoenix* and has been the resident art critic at the *San Francisco Chronicle* since 1983. He covers a wide range of contemporary and historical art exhibitions, writing on the Max Beckmann retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the "Illuminating the Renaissance" show of manuscripts at the Getty, along with art events of more local interest. He is the author of *Minimalism: Art of Circumstance* (Abbeville, 1989) as well as many catalog essays.

Event co-sponsored by the Art History and Design Departments, the Creative Writing Program and the Davis Humanities Institute

Image: *Two Meringues*, Wayne Thiebaud, not dated, hand-worked lithograph with watercolor and ink. Art © Wayne Thiebaud/Licensed by VAGA. New York, NY.



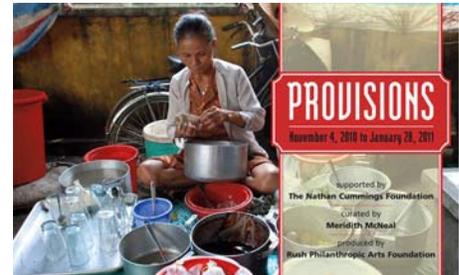
## EXHIBITIONS

### Claudia Alvarez (MFA 1999), *Provisions*

**November 4, 2010-  
January 28, 2011  
Nathan Cunningham  
Foundation  
New York**

The Nathan Cunningham Foundation presents "Provisions," an exhibition that explores the social implications of food.

Opening reception: Thursday, November 4, 2010 from 6-8 pm.



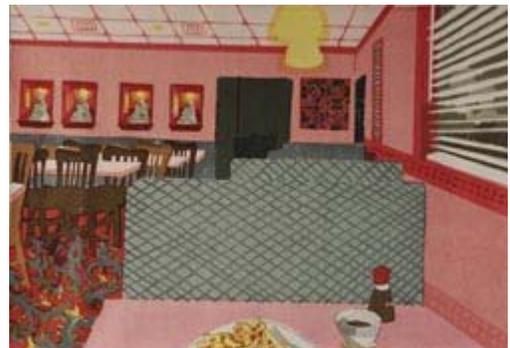
### Stella Ebner, SFMOMA Artists Gallery

**November 11-  
December 22, 2010  
SFMOMA  
Artists Gallery  
Fort Mason Center**

Stella Ebner uses the medium of serigraphy in painterly ways to convey complex views of where she came from: small town Midwest America. Developing a technique that allows her to create screen prints that look like watercolors, she subverts its often-polished appearance in promoting commercialism - and by doing so alters what a screen print can mean. Layering transparent colors, she uses silkscreen impressionistically, which allows her to create images pointing to a spirituality that she believes is hidden in daily life. Her simple pictorial style enhances the feeling of a cultural innocence that seems to be fading.

Opening reception: Thursday November 11, 5:30-7:30 pm

Image: *Chinese Restaurant*, 2010, Screenprint on Japanese paper

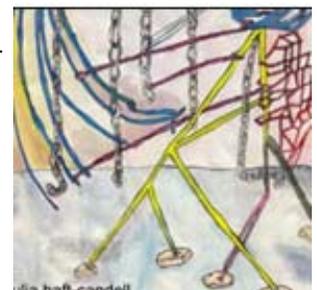


### Julia Haft-Candell (Art Studio, 2005), *Point of Departure/ Nine Sculptors*

**October 18 2010-  
November 11, 2010  
Fine Arts Building  
Texas Woman's  
University**

"Point of Departure" brings together nine artists originally known for their work in clay but whose sculptural works have transitioned into various multi-media formats. Artists include: Shannon Goff, **Julia Haft-Candell**, Melissa Mytty, Toril Redalen, Debbie Reichard, Julie Schustack, Madeline Still well, Elenor Wilson, and Jen Woodin.

**Julia Haft-Candell's** objective is to make delicate and precarious sculptural works that are abstract yet detailed mappings of the interior unknowns of the body. Beyond the figural reference in my work I suspect that there is a larger theme emerging that attempts to speak about the delicate and tenuous interconnectedness of all things.



## Heather Brubaker (MFA 2004), *Purview Per View*

October 14–November 14,  
DGSF Gallery  
San Francisco

Curated by Heather Brubaker, "Purview Per View" is an exhibition featuring five contemporary artists whose work focuses on ideas of energy, space and inter-connectivity. *Purview* refers to a range of vision or understanding. "Purview Per View" examines each artist's unique perspective considering the world through paintings that delve into inner structures, unexpected architecture and micro/macro-cosmic imaginings.



## Nelson Gallery, *Wonderers*

October 7– December  
12, 2010  
Art Building  
Nelson Gallery

"Wonderers" are individuals traveling via train-hopping or mobile home, living in utopian communities, gathering at outdoor festivals, dwelling in communal housing projects and forming fellowships over brief and extended periods of time. They are driven by an urge to explore and experience the wonders of the world outside of the mainstream culture. We can observe this in the photographs included in this exhibition, which are filled with a sense of adventure, risk, freedom and raw creativity and beauty. We encounter collectives, tribes and bands of outsiders. We are invited to meet these wanderers to catch a glimpse of their unconventional lifestyles and countercultural values. They may give us pause to re-envision and re-imagine our own lives, families and communities. Artists in this exhibition are Abby Banks, Cutter Collective, Richard Gilles, Justine Kurland, Joel Sternfeld and Kyer Wiltshire.  
Guest Curator: Matthias Geiger



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

*Image:* Joel Sternfeld, "Queen of the Prom, the Range Night Club, Slab City California, March 2005"

## Gina Werfel, *Bay Area Abstract Art: A Contrast in Styles*

September 23–  
November 5, 2010  
Chroma Art Design  
San Francisco

Chroma Art Design presents "Bay Area Abstract Art: A Contrast in Styles." This exhibition features the work of **Gina Werfel**, April Hankins, Takeshi Nakayoshi, Mi Jung Penzien, and John Smiddy.

## Gina Werfel and Hearne Pardee, *On the Go*

September 16, 2010–  
January 3, 2011  
Sacramento International  
Airport  
Terminal B

The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission and Sacramento County Airport System presents: "On the Go: The Traveling Sketchbooks of Artists, Architects and Poets." Artists include: **Gina Werfel**, **Hearne Pardee**, Gregory Kondos, Stephanie Taylor, Theo Samuels, Jay Golik, and Julia Connor. The show will be on display at the Sacramento International Airport in Terminal B from September 16, 2010 to January 3, 2011



## Mathew Zefeldt (MFA candidate), *An Alternate Fantastic Reality*

September 11, 2010–  
November 6, 2010  
Skinner Howard  
Contemporary Art  
Sacramento

Skinner Howard Contemporary Art Gallery presents "An Alternate Fantastic Reality" featuring recent paintings by **Mathew Zefeldt**.

*Image:* "How I Learned to be a Machine", 84 x 63 inches, Acrylic on Canvas, 2009



## Deborah Hamon, (MFA 2002), *Body, Mind, and Hair*

October 11-November 13,  
2010  
Rowan University Art  
Gallery, New Jersey

"Body Mind and Hair" includes the work of 10 woman artists examining the theme of the contemporary female experience through video, sculpture, painting, works on paper and photography. These works utilize historical references from art and literature – with contemporary imagery and perspectives – that at times challenge accepted views and at other times are in harmony with them. It is a reflection of the constant flux in which current societal notions of female beauty, identity, and purpose are considered

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## ALUMNI NEWS

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**Tony Natsoulas**  
MFA 1985

Tony Natsoulas will have a piece in the permanent collection at the Crocker Art Museum and in their show "Promised Gifts"

**Michael Miller**  
MFA 1986

Michael Miller's had a feature in July's edition of Houston Magazine.

**Gabriella Soraci**  
MFA

Gabriella will be teaching a drawing workshop this November at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (University of Oregon). Some of her upcoming exhibitions that are upcoming for 2011: Paint Snob Third Annual Exhibition, January/February 2011, Fine Arts Center Gallery, University of Arkansas, Jonesboro; Spring 2011, First International Painting Annual, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH; and she will be the featured artist in the East Gallery in the Lux Center of the Arts, Lincoln NE for the months of November and December

### 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](mailto:visualarts@ucdavis.edu)**

Submission deadline for November's Newsletter is  
22 November 2010