



# Duke House Diaries

INSTITUTE of FINE ARTS

October 2011

## From the Director

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There can be fortune in misfortune: by what must be called a happy accident. Research Conservator, Melanie Gifford, was on the corner of Madison Ave. and 78th St. at the very moment when Professor Colin Eisler was hit by a car on Friday, October 7. She stayed with Colin and accompanied him to Lenox Hill Hospital; while on the way there, with characteristic aplomb and concern for his students, Colin called the Metropolitan Museum to say that he would be missing a class scheduled to be held there that morning. The accident damaged his knee and he had surgery on Monday. The surgery went well, and we all wish Colin a rapid and successful recovery, and thank Melanie for her part in helping him.

The other news of the month, is that of classes and committees, as we settle into the semester. The Mellon Research Review Project Committee held its first "summit" planning meeting on Sept 30 - Oct 1, where we confirmed the program of workshops for this academic year and outlined broad themes of ontology, translation and mediation, and value as the overarching topics for the workshops and symposia in coming years. We also planned a series of student bursaries and projects as program affiliates. I will write more about the project and its schedule separately, but want to alert you to the first workshop, "Presentism," coordinated by Jim Coddington of MoMA, which will be held on Saturday, November 5. For details, please contact Yaelle Amir ([yaelle.amir@nyu.edu](mailto:yaelle.amir@nyu.edu)).

On October 3, there was a second meeting of the Conservation Center Advisory Committee, an international group convened to discuss what fields should be taught and the Conservation Center, to evaluate emerging trends and to consider how the changing roles of conservators should be reflected in our curriculum.

In anticipation of the centenary of Duke House, we have created an ad hoc committee – Professors Baer, Brown, and Cohen – to help plan events around the architecture, urban context, and academic history represented by our four very glamorous walls. Among other things, in the autumn of 2012, Professor Cohen will co-teach a seminar on Duke House in its context, with Charlotte Vignon, Curator of Decorative Arts at the

Frick. There will be a symposium and other public events attached to the centenary. Of great consequence is the creation of a liaison committee – including myself, Professors Crow, Marconi, and Sullivan – to work with colleagues in the Department of Art History on increased collaboration between our faculties and our programs. The work of this committee is part of a number of conversations and strategic planning efforts concerned with the future of the Institute.

That future depends in great measure on the success of our fundraising, which is absolutely essential to guarantee the means to support and enhance our programs. With that in mind, we are pleased to welcome two new appointments to the Development Office: Andrea Cirelli who comes from the NYU Development Office. Andrea will take up the position of Development Officer and will focus on alumni relations and the annual fund. Stewart Hendricks joins us from the Corcoran Gallery in Washington as the Development Assistant for Research and Writing. While we were sad to say goodbye to Marc Cincone, who did valiant service for our fundraising and who has now gone to the Development Office in the Steinhardt School, we are delighted to welcome these new colleagues to our staff.

## Academic Office

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We are very proud to announce that eight IFA students have been selected to present at sessions during the CAA Annual Conference in February 2012. Those students are: Anna Brodbeck, Lauren Cannady, Claire Davies, Laura Leaper, Matthew Levy, Niria Leyva-Gutiérrez, William Smith and Shannon Wearing.

We are also happy to announce that Michael Waters is the recipient of the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa and the American Academy in Rome Exchange Fellowship for Spring 2012.

We were saddened earlier this year when distinguished writer, professor and IFA alumnus, Leo Steinberg (Ph.D. 1960), passed away on March 13. In the May issue of *Art in America*, Linda Nochlin reflected on Steinberg's contribution to the field of art history, as well as her relationship with him as a classmate at the IFA. Her essay can be read [here](#).

## Building Services

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We would like everyone to welcome our new CBS employee Arturo Martinez. Arturo is a fantastic addition to our staff and a great worker. Arturo and Andy have been working together to keep our buildings clean and are doing a wonderful job. We all thank them. Wil Manzo also wants to thank everyone for their use of the Work Order system. The building staff appreciate how smoothly the transition to Work Orders has been, please keep up the good work and they will keep up their good work.

## Visual Resources

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The Visual Resources staff is teaming up with the Graduate Student Association to present the first in a series of workshops for students, to be held on Tuesday, October 25th, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., in the Duke House seminar room. This first workshop will cover best presentation practices with PowerPoint and the Offline Image Viewer. For more information, please contact Jenni Rodda ([jenni.rodde@nyu.edu](mailto:jenni.rodde@nyu.edu)) for more information. Registration is not required, but seating is limited.

*To submit an announcement to the Duke House Diaries, contact [sarah.johnson@nyu.edu](mailto:sarah.johnson@nyu.edu)*