



Duke House Diaries

INSTITUTE of FINE ARTS

February 2012

From the Director

As a start to the year, I am thrilled to congratulate Professor Alexander Nagel, whose book *The Controversy of Renaissance Art* has been awarded this year's highly prestigious College Art Association Charles Rufus Morey prize. Further congratulations are due to Professor Jean-Louis Cohen on the recent publication of his masterly book, *The Future of Architecture. Since 1889*. In this celebratory mode, it is a pleasure to tell you that the 2012 American Institute of Archaeology Conservation and Heritage Management Award was presented to Emeritus Professor and Director Jim McCredie at this year's annual meeting in recognition of the excavations at Samothrace and that the 2012 Appraisers Association of America Award for Excellence in the Arts will be given to Professor Linda Nochlin.

The IFA is very pleased to welcome two new appointments to the Development Office: Christina Tripi will take up the position of Development Assistant for Special Events, overseeing IFA public and fundraising events. Some of you may already know Christina, as she was an intern at the IFA this past summer working for Jenni Rodda and Amy Lucker. She recently received her MA in art history from Queen's University in Canada, and was responsible for the exhibition of material from the Soper archive. Sarah Willburn joins us, part-time through August as a Development Assistant. Sarah received her Ph.D. in English from Duke University and comes to us from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where she was a visiting lecturer in English. It is a great fortune for the IFA to have such highly qualified appointments in these essential roles.

We are also delighted to welcome this year's Kirk Varnedoe Visiting Professor, Okwui Enwezor. Since last year, Director of the Haus der Kunst in Munich, Professor Enwezor is world renowned as a curator and critic and for his work on contemporary African art. At the IFA he is offering a seminar on Contemporary African Art, since 1980. The Varnedoe Lectures will be dedicated to Episodes in Contemporary African Art, and the first lecture on Tuesday, February 21 will be dedicated to Setting the Stage: Contemporary African Art from Postcolonial Utopia to Postcolonial Realism.

As many of you know, the IFA in-house symposium took place on Friday, January 27,

when we had the pleasure of hearing three excellent lectures: Robert Brennan, Modernism in the Age of Automation: David Smith in Italy; Lauren Jacobi, Money and Merit: the Monti di Pietà in Early Modern Italy, and Marci Kwon, "Just Free Yourselves": Robert Rauschenberg's ROCI China. With thanks to the Frick committee for their work and their undoubtedly difficult deliberations, Robert Brennan will represent the IFA at the Frick Symposium, which will take place at the Institute and at the Frick on April 20-21.

2012 is the anniversary of Duke House and we are planning lectures, a seminar, and a symposium to mark the occasion. We are also planning renovations. Thanks to a generous donation the pantry-kitchen will be refurbished and re-equipped. Building work will take place during spring break. Every effort will be made to minimize disruption, but your patience during the renovations will be much appreciated. The results will be very worthwhile!

Academic Office

Congratulations to Cindy Kang, who recently completed requirements for the Certificate in Curatorial Studies.

Computer Services

NYU ITS has completed the installation of a new Printing station on the 2nd floor of the Duke House next to the bookscanner. The ITS Print station uses your NYU Print Account and NYU ID Card to help you print documents from your laptop. More details can be found at <http://www.nyu.edu/its/print/>

Conservation Center

New Conservation Center [Newsgram!](#) Dianne Modestini Discusses the Treatment of Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi* with Jean Dommermuth '96
In the spring of 2005, art historian and art dealer Robert Simon brought a painting in need of conservation treatment to Dianne Modestini's Manhattan apartment. "It started as the treatment of any normal picture," Dianne remembers. "I had set up an easel there, thinking that it might be interesting for Mario to watch me working."

Visual Resources

Visual Resources and the Graduate Student Association recently co-sponsored a successful workshop, "Copyright and Publishing," led by Monica McCormick, NYU's Digital Scholarly Publishing officer; and Melissa A. Brown, Scholarly Communications officer. We have extra copies of the hand-outs, and Monica and Melissa have given their permission for us to distribute their Powerpoint file. If you would like either one, please contact Jenni Rodda.

We're very pleased to announce the opening of two new exhibits! In the New Mac and PC Labs, "Intaglio prints and paper remnants from *konstruktion, dekonstruktion, rekonstruktion* installation" features works on paper by IFA MA candidate Betty Hensellek. Information about the prints is available in the VRC office, and we thank Betty for sharing her work with us. In the cases between the Great Hall and the Library, "Treasures from the Photographic Archive," features a variety of archival materials

highlighting the breadth and depth of IFA's photo collections. Our thanks to Professor Priscilla Soucek and Amy Lucker for their assistance in preparing and selecting the works.