



Duke House Diaries

INSTITUTE of FINE ARTS

September 2012

From the Director

This is the back-to-school issue of the Duke House Diary. With Labor Day behind us, Duke House is bustling with the energy of the start of the academic year, and we have been pleased to welcome our new and returning students. The staff worked throughout the summer to prepare for the coming year, and I thank all of the departments – Building, IT, Academic Office, Library, Development and Digital Media Services – for the work that put our building in such sparkling order and made orientation such a smooth operation. We start the year with a transformed kitchen: a user's guide has been circulated; please note that the vending machines will be relocated to the basement mailing room, which will become the vending area. The building is now completely shrouded in scaffolding, and is being examined for renovation to the stonework. The scaffolding will be in place for several months. A word of warning: please be extra careful using the stair case during wet weather, because the scaffolding causes water to pool on the stairs. We are aware of the situation, but we can not always be ahead of the city's changeable climate.

As you plan your semester's schedule, please take note of the [Events Calendar](#). You will see that we have a very exciting line-up, which began last week with a panel moderated by Professors Marvin Trachtenberg and Jean-Louis Cohen on the topic of Architecture and the Experience of Music, inspired by the recent book by IFA alumna Victoria Newhouse. Our special seminar series on Current Trends in Medieval Art opened on September 13 with a presentation by Professor Aden Kumler (University of Chicago) and The Silberberg Lectures begin this year's investigation of the theme of violence on tonight, with a lecture by Wendy Bellion (University of Delaware). The China Project Workshop and the Colloquium on Art in Spain and Latin America also launch their seasons this week.

The month ends with a three-day conference, *Beyond Representation*, co-organized by the Institute's Mellon Research Initiative (Barry Flood and Jas Elsner coordinators) and the Bard Graduate Center. Demand for this conference is such that it is already full beyond capacity; but if you have not booked a place, you will be able to follow the conference on a live video stream through our website. I want to note the success of our video-streaming, with thanks to Jason Varone who has played a key role in putting

our events online and who has just reported that our videos were watched over 5,000 times in the past year!

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, September 18, 2012, 6:00 PM

The Daniel H. Silberberg Lecture Series

Wendy Bellion, Associate Professor of American Art, University of Delaware

The Afterlife of Iconoclasm: Sculpture in Early New York

Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 5:30 PM

Mellon Research Initiative

IFA Student Reading Group

Thursday, September 20, 2012, 6:00 PM

Colloquium on Art in Spain and Latin America

Timothy Barringer, Paul Mellon Professor, Yale University

Art History vs Victorian Jamaica

Thursday, September 27 – Saturday, September 29, 2012

Mellon Research Initiative

Beyond Representation: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Nature of Things

Friday, October 5, 2012, 6:00 PM

The China Project Workshop

Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 6:00 PM

The Daniel H. Silberberg Lecture Series

Andrew Herscher, Associate Professor of Architecture, University of Michigan

Envisioning Exception: Satellite Imagery, Human Rights Advocacy and Techno-Moral Witnessing

Academic Office

Kat Koh has begun the 2012-2013 Curatorial Fellowship at The Kitchen.

Student Research Grant Opportunity: Four grants of \$1,200 each are available for current students at the Institute of Fine Arts to become active participants in the colloquium Digital Art History (November 30 – December 1, 2012), which forms part of the IFA's Mellon Research Initiative, a study on future directions in the field of Art History, Archaeology, and Conservation. Speakers at the colloquium include Andrew Bevan (UCL), Caroline Bruzelius (Duke), Anne Helmreich (Getty Trust), Paul Jaskot (DePaul), Rick Johnson (Cornell), Lev Manovich (UCSD), Stephen Murray (Columbia), Dan Rockmore (Dartmouth), Ron Spronk (Queens, Canada). The impact of digital technology on the practice of the humanities has been a subject of considerable discussion, debate and even consternation. In the context of art history the integration of digital tools and processes has lagged, in varying degrees, in comparison to other disciplines like archaeology and literary studies. Some approaches have been fruitful, such as computational subjects like image processing for technical art history, virtual environments, visualization, use of GIS data in archaeology and others.

Recipients of the bursaries will be expected to conduct original research that makes use of digital tools both in the research and its presentation/publishing. The results of the work are thus expected to be made available digitally as well as presented at the

colloquium on November 30 and December 1. Collaborations across disciplines both within the IFA and beyond, is encouraged.

Students will receive technical guidance from the Digital Media Services staff, and are expected to seek advice from relevant IFA faculty. Further guidance will be available from the project coordinator and conference convener, Jim Coddington (Chief Conservator, Museum of Modern Art).

To apply for these positions, provide an outline of 500 words describing the subject you wish to research and how it will utilize digital tools. Applications must be submitted in hard copy to the mailbox or office of Yaelle Amir, the Mellon Research Activities Coordinator, AND by attachment to ya509@nyu.edu by Monday, October 8, 11:00am.

Digital Media Services

DMS staff will be offering a variety of workshops this fall. These workshops afford students an opportunity to learn new skills or augment what they already know about image research and presentation.

The first workshop will be held on Tuesday, September 18, in the Duke House main floor seminar room starting at 12:30pm, and will cover how to use the ARTstor digital library. Reservations are not necessary, but seating is limited, so please be prompt if you would like to attend! Other workshops planned for the semester include how to use PowerPoint, how to make scans for presentations, and how to navigate copyright and publishing concerns. Scheduling information will be posted to the GSA's listserv and to the DHD as it becomes available. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Jenni Rodda (jenni.rodde@nyu.edu).

Public Affairs

The Development and Public Affairs Office welcomed its new staff member Joe Moffett this summer. Joe will be working part-time as a development assistant. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory and is a professional trumpet player and teacher. We are delighted to have him as a member of the development team.