



Duke House Diaries

INSTITUTE of FINE ARTS

March 2013

From the Director

The clocks have sprung forward, the vernal equinox has passed, and spring break has sped by. The days are now longer, but somehow time seems shorter. Each sector of the Institute is fully occupied in major tasks, among them admissions for all of our programs and term paper and thesis-writing for students. Over the spring break, the IFA hosted an NYU "dissertation boot camp," which brought together students from all over the University, including the IFA, for an intensive week of writing and discussion. The Marble Room was turned into a think tank, with places laid for each student. The concentration was palpable, and I am sure the results were impressive. The "boot camp" aligns with other IFA dissertation workshops, aimed specifically at our students, which have been led during the course of the semester by our DGS, Priscilla Soucek and Academic Advisor, Sarah Johnson. We are proud to note that there will be 25 IFA Ph.D. degrees conferred this year.

I am also proud to announce Jean-Louis Cohen's most recent award, the 2012 Art Book Prize for *Architecture in Uniform*, and with further pride to congratulate Sarah Johnson for being accepted as a part-time student in the Doctor of Education program in Higher and Postsecondary Education at the Steinhardt School. The Steinhardt program is exceptionally competitive, and we know that they will be enrolling an exceptional student.

As ever, our calendar is crowded with events, and I urge you to keep up with the announcements on the Events webpage. To note but a few: April 9, the penultimate lecture in this year's Silberberg Lecture Series, which has been dedicated to the topic of violence, will be given by Richard Clay on "Iconoclasm and Violence in Revolutionary Paris, 1789-1795"; April 12-14, the third Mellon Research Initiative conference, "Archaeology, Heritage, and the Mediation of Time," which will include five posters and presentations by IFA students who have been awarded bursaries (Andrea Achi, Rachel Boate, Brian Castriota, Kirsten Lee, and Allyson McDavid), on topics ranging from late Antiquity to the late twentieth century; April 17, a lecture by our second Judith Praska Distinguished Professor in Conservation, Carol Mancusi Ungaro, "Cues from Cy Twombly"; and April 20-21, the annual IFA/ Frick Symposium on the History of Art, where the IFA will be represented by Sean Nesselrode, speaking on

"Idol without Altar: Fermín Revueltas and the Secularized Guadalupe." We are grateful to this year's student organizers, Anne Cross and Sarah Humphreville, for their work on this important event. As I said above, this is but a selection of spring offerings from this season's remarkable bouquet of public events.

Academic Office

Joseph Ackley has received a research grant from the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

Maryl Gensheimer and Deanna Sheward will present at the annual conference of the Society for Architectural Historians in April.

Computer Services

NYU ITS is in the process of upgrading wireless in the Duke and Chan Houses. Contractors working on behalf of ITS will be working around both buildings over the coming weeks to upgrade and bolster wireless signals throughout the IFA. The plan is to provide wireless signals to cover almost 100% of the Duke and Chan Houses.

Work is near completion in the Duke House Basement. We will try to mitigate noise as best as we can as they move up each floor. We'll try to contain the noisiest portions of the jobs to early in the mornings and during breaks between classes. We will also work with the library and facilities staff during the upgrades on the second and third floors to minimize any problems with dust, and of course to deal with some of the noise related to the job at hand.

Digital Media Services

The Library and Digital Media Services offices, in collaboration with NYU's scholarly publications and communications officers, are pleased to announce the creation of a local repository for IFA dissertations within the University's Faculty Digital Archive (FDA). This local repository initiative is a pilot project intended to augment ProQuest, and provide our Ph.D. graduates with permanent storage for full copies of their dissertations. The descriptive information and submission guidelines are available from either Amy Lucker or Jenni Rodda. We encourage you to make use of this new service!

An advanced PowerPoint workshop designed for IFA students will be held on Friday, April 5, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., in the main floor Duke House seminar room. This workshop, sponsored by GSA in response to students' requests, will be taught by DMS staff member Jason Varone. RSVPs are not needed, but remember that seating is limited. If you have questions about the program, please feel free to send them jason.varone@nyu.edu.

DMS Manager Jenni Rodda will present an overview of archaeology archives projects at IFA as part of the panel discussion "Archaeology Archives: Excavating the Record" to be held as part of the Visual Resources Association's annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island on April 2-6. This is the second of three panels on the topic: the first was held in February at the College Art Association's annual meeting; the third will be held in late April at the annual conference of the Art Libraries Society in Pasadena. Joining Jenni in the discussion in Providence will be IFA alumnae Laurel Bestock, Assistant Professor of Archaeology, Brown University (IFA Ph.D. 2007); and Shalimar Fojas White, Manager, Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives, Dumbarton Oaks (IFA MA 2002).

