



# Duke House Diaries

INSTITUTE of FINE ARTS

April 2013

## From the Director

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April is upon us, both flowering and showering, as expected of the season. The month has also brought us a downpour of causes to celebrate. We applaud Jean-Louis Cohen for the award of a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship for his project, "Americanism in Russian Architecture and City Planning," and for the Society of Architectural Historians' Alice Davis Hitchcock Book Award given to *Architecture in Uniform*. On April 3 the exhibition "Sicily: Art and Invention in Greece and Rome" opened at the Getty Villa. This exhibition owes much to the efforts and expertise of Clemente Marconi, who is a co-editor of the splendid catalogue and a consultant on the organization of this major event, which brings together 145 objects from collections all over the world to make present and to represent the art, culture, and society of ancient Sicily. We have also received news of major awards to our students, which are recorded below, with congratulations!

I am also delighted to announce the appointment of our third Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow: Noémie Etienne. Dr. Etienne earned a dual doctorate in 2011 from the University of Geneva and the Sorbonne, with a dissertation on *The Restoration of Paintings in Paris 1750-1815* (which is already published). Her project for the Mellon Fellowship is *Eastern Practices: Uses and Repairs of Exotic Objects in Eighteenth-century Paris*. Her research and teaching concern the conservation, restoration, and transformation of objects, as well as their translation from one culture to another. Her work is aimed, she says, "at redefining the concept of artworks, considering them as works in progress, as objects in perpetual evolution." Bringing together art history with technical study and involving questions of the distribution, display, and interpretation of artworks (taken in the widest sense), her teaching and scholarship will complement many aspects of the IFA, while also bringing new areas of inquiry and a fully international approach to our academic community.

Another pleasing announcement is that Irene Winter, emeritus professor from Harvard University, has accepted our invitation to be this year's Honorary Fellow. Irene is a specialist in the art of the Ancient Near East. Her many glittering prizes include a MacArthur Fellowship and a Slade Professorship. She will join us at our graduation on May 21, when she will make some brief, and I am sure, inspiring remarks to our graduates. On that occasion Mariët Westermann will be giving this year's

Distinguished Alumna address. Mariët's career, from her Ph.D. at the IFA to the Institute's directorship, and now her position as Vice-President of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, has given her ample occasion to reflect on the challenges and the importance of higher education and how it prepares students for many different career paths.

Speaking of graduation, we are now careening towards the end of semester. I wish all of you who are immersed in writing term papers and preparing for exams a successful conclusion to the semester and the school year.

## Academic Office

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We are very pleased to announce that:

Our recent alumna, Lelia Packer, has received the GSAS 2012-2013 Dean's Outstanding Dissertation Award.

Elizabeth Frasco will be a 2013 GSAS Predoctoral Summer Fellow.

Sajda van der Leeuw will receive a 2013-2014 Fulbright Foundation Scholarship.

## Alumni & Public Affairs

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We will host the Second Annual Fellowship Donor Luncheon on Monday, May 6. This festive event provides a wonderful opportunity for students to meet their benefactors, talk about their work and express their thanks in person.

Alumnus Adam Glick will host the Recent Alumni Circle for an artist- and curator-led tour of Orly Genger's current exhibition, Red, Yellow and Blue in Madison Square Park on Friday, May 17. The newly-formed Recent Alumni Circle aims to forge connections among alumni and highlight the great work they are doing in the field.

On May 20, the eve of graduation, the Alumni Association will host a champagne toast to celebrate the graduating class and "induct" them into the Association. Alumni are encouraged to join the reception and welcome the new alums to the community!

If you are interested in attending an upcoming event, please email [ifa.events@nyu.edu](mailto:ifa.events@nyu.edu) for details.

## Digital Media Services

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Would you like to have a graduation portrait made? Our in-house photographer, Nita Roberts, will be available to take graduation portraits FOR FREE, from Monday, May 13th, through Thursday, May 16th. Portraits will be taken in the Duke House first floor Loeb Room, where Nita will set up a mini-studio.

You must make an appointment for a photo, so Nita is sure to have time for everyone. Appointments are available in half-hour intervals from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 13-May 16. For more information, contact Nita directly, via e-mail ([nlr1@nyu.edu](mailto:nlr1@nyu.edu)) or by phone (212-992-5822).

## Library

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