



Duke House Diaries

INSTITUTE of FINE ARTS

September 2011

From the Director

Back to school bustle now resounds in our hallways, and it is a pleasure to welcome our returning and incoming students to the new academic year. Much gratitude is owed to colleagues throughout the Institute – in IT, in the library, in Visual Resources, the building staff and the Academic Office – for all the work that they put into preparing for your arrival, particularly given the complications caused by Hurricane Irene. Then again, life at the IFA is never dull!

With that in mind, I want to alert you to some upcoming events. Soon this year's Silberberg Lecture Series will begin: on Tuesday, September 27, with a lecture by Michael Leja, Professor of Art History, University of Pennsylvania, *The Consolidated Image circa 1850*, with thanks and congratulations to the organizers of this year's series. Please consult the events page on the website for more information about the lectures, so that you can put the dates in your calendars.

On September 30, we are holding the first of the "summit" meetings with the Mellon Research Review Project coordinators and our in-house committee. To remind you, Jim Coddington (MoMA), Jas Elsner (Corpus Christi, Oxford) and David Wengrow (University College London) accepted our invitation to be the organizers of workshops and conferences that examine key issues in conservation, art history, and archaeology in order to identify important directions in research. They will also participate in Institute life, through seminars and lectures. Details about the program will be published as they develop. There will be a reception at 5:30pm on Friday, September 30, when you will have a chance to meet the coordinators and to share ideas with them. Please contact Yaelle Amir (yaelle.amir@nyu.edu) if you would like to attend the reception. The first event, which is a one-day workshop scheduled for November 5, is being organized by Jim Coddington. It will be conservation focused and address "presentism." Its aim is to pose questions about our relationship to the past and to the objects that are being treated in the present. This is a theme of common interest, but one with special implications for the conservation and restoration of works of art. Space is limited, so please contact Yaelle if you are interested in attending the workshop.

As you can see, time management will be one of the important skills that you will need to hone over the coming months, which I trust will be as rewarding as they are busy.

Academic Office

IFA Decorative Arts Prize for MA Students

The IFA awards two annual prizes of \$500 for outstanding papers in the decorative arts. The prize aims to encourage advanced work in the study of the decorative arts. It is not restricted to period or place, medium or material. Papers must be written by students at the MA level. There will be a call for papers in the spring semester and prizes will be awarded at the end of the academic year.

Grading Guidelines

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to restate the IFA's grading guidelines:

- A+ The student's work was exceptional. This rare, in-house grade will be noted in the student's file but will not appear on the NYU transcript.
- A The student's work was of excellent graduate level.
- A- The student's work was of fine graduate level, but should improve in some aspects.
- B+ The student showed capability for good graduate level work but needs improvement.
- B The student met course requirements.
- B- The student did not meet course requirements and may be subject to academic probation.

Computer Services

Student IFA print accounts have been reset for this semester. Students are now given \$120 each year in a printing grant, which equals 2100 to 3000 pages, depending on how you print.

Visual Resources

First Exhibit of the Year

"FIELD SEASON: records, wandering perspectives, side notes", is an exhibition of the work of photographers Greg Maka, Amanda Kirkpatrick and Gus Gusciora, opening September 6. Curated by IFA Ph.D. candidate Ileana Selejan, this stunning selection of work from the past three years highlights the Abydos excavations in Egypt. The work is on display in the PC and New Mac Labs on the basement level of the Duke House, and will be on view through much of the semester. "FIELD SEASON" has its own tumblr page, too: <http://fieldseason.tumblr.com/>

Sign up for LUNA Database Access

All students are encouraged to sign up early in the semester for personal accounts to access NYU's LUNA image database! LUNA is used by IFA faculty to build on-line course reserves, and is a great resource for images for papers and presentations. Visit <http://www.nyu.edu/its/luna/> and follow the links to "request an account." User profiles are created by ITS sysadmin and take several days to go 'live.' Please see Jenni Rodda in the VRC offices if you have questions about the process.

Image Database Workshops

The Visual Resources staff will again conduct image database workshops to introduce

new and returning students to the intricacies of on-line image research. Topics to be covered include how to set up an ARTstor account, best use of NYU's LUNA database, and sources for specific museum images. Watch the GSA's listserv (ifagsa) for information about specific times and locations of these workshops.

To submit an announcement to the Duke House Diaries, contact sarah.johnson@nyu.edu