

ART BULL

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S ART HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Spring Semester, May 2010

Thank you to all who contributed to the Spring 2010 publication of the *Art BULL*. I am proud to report on the impressive accomplishments and numerous projects that the Art History Department boasts this year! Wishing all who are graduating congratulations and the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Best wishes,
Ginger Elliott Smith
gesmith@bu.edu

FACULTY

Cynthia Becker plans to conduct research in Morocco for six months (June to December) with the support of a Fulbright-Hays grant. She will finish research on the Afro-Islamic aesthetics of the Gnawa. The Gnawa are descendants of enslaved peoples who were carried across the Sahara by caravans from Mali, Niger, and Senegal. The research considers ceremonial performances and material culture—including dress, ritual accoutrements, and musical instruments—in order to historicize Gnawa aesthetics, to reveal their Sahelian African derivations, and to consider the process of diaspora community formation in North Africa.

Jodi Cranston's book, *The Muddied Mirror: Materiality and Figuration in Titian's Later Paintings* came out in

February published by Penn State University Press. She also gave conference papers at the College Art Association Annual Conference in Chicago and the Renaissance Society Conference in Venice. In June she will be giving an invited lecture at a symposium on "The Haptic Image" in Berlin. This summer she plans to spend the summer here in Boston, working on an edited anthology on Venetian painting and figuring out what her next project will be!

Emine Fetvaci has been working on her book, *Picturing History at the Ottoman Court*, as well as teaching courses on the Ottomans, Safavids and Mughals this spring. She gave two conference papers this semester: one on Ottoman and Italian portraiture at the College Art Association Annual Conference in February, and another on the nineteenth-century Ottoman painter

Osman Hamdi at a conference at the University of Pennsylvania. She also has enjoyed serving as Director of Undergraduate Studies. She is looking forward to some research in the UK and in Turkey and writing in Boston during the summer.

Patricia Hills reports that her book, *Painting Harlem Modern: The Art of Jacob Lawrence*, was officially published on January 5, 2010. She has been speaking about the book at the D. C. Moore Gallery, New York; the University of Massachusetts, Boston campus; Boston University; the Hudson River Museum on May 8; and also will speak the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University on May 13. She also just received the Macedonian translation of her book *Modern Art in the U.S.A.: Issues and Controversies of the 20th Century*.

Deborah Kahn contributed a paper at a British Archaeological Association Conference in April on "Romanesque and the Past." The conference was held at the Victoria & Albert Museum (in honor of the spectacularly renovated medieval gallery there) and the Courtauld Institute of Art. Her lecture was called "Uses of the Past in English Romanesque Sculpture: Beyond the Antique." She was also awarded a Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship for 2010/2011 from the BU Humanities Foundation to work on a book on Romanesque sculpture. She also has enjoyed serving as Deputy Chair during Michael Zell's sabbatical. Her real triumph was that she made it back from London 24 hours before the shutdown of European airspace.

Fred Kleiner published a revised and expanded edition of his prizewinning *A History of Roman Art* in February, just in time for the annual meeting of the College Art Association in Chicago, where he and Pat Hills hosted the annual alumni/ae breakfast (well attended despite the many no-shows at the conference due to snowstorms on the east coast). He is now working on the 14th edition of *Gardner's Art through the Ages* and in early May will be traveling to France with a professional photographer to take new photographs of Romanesque, Gothic, and ancient Roman monuments for that edition. In July he will be in Hong Kong for a week to conduct an advanced seminar on teaching Western art and architecture for professors from various universities on the Chinese mainland. In late July and early August he will be conducting research and taking photographs in Sicily and the Veneto for various projects. Then it's back to CAS 302 for the final year of his term as Art History Chair.

Keith Morgan is completing the final revisions for *Community by Design*, his working title for a book-length investigation of the role of the Olmsted office in the shaping of Brookline as suburban landscape and townscape. He has also begun working with the Building of the United States project of the Society of Architectural Historians on converting *The Buildings of Massachusetts: Metropolitan Boston*, which he edited and which was published last year into one of the first on-line volumes in the series. He will be on sabbatical starting in the spring of 2011 and will be

starting a new research project this summer for his time away.

Paolo Scrivano had his essay “Le Centre de calcul électronique de Rho” included in the volume *L’Italie de Le Corbusier*, published by the Fondation Le Corbusier and the Éditions de la Villette. He also participated in the conference of the British-based Association of Art Historians that took place in Glasgow in mid-April, where he presented a paper derived from his current research on the relationship between Italian and American architectural cultures in the postwar years. During the summer, he plans to work toward the completion of this project in the form of a book manuscript and he will also participate in conferences in France and Portugal.

Kim Sichel has been working on an article on aerial photography and the “New Topographics” for an anthology with the Center for American Places, and working as Director of the American and New England Studies Program (AMNESP). She has also received funding for a series of lectures and interdisciplinary talks on the theme of “House and Home in American Culture,” which will meet monthly in AMNESP next year.

Alice Tseng reports that the highlight of the 2009-10 academic year has been serving as the department’s Director of Graduate Studies. She has enjoyed getting to know the students in person and through reading their MA papers and PhD prospectuses. In the spring semester, Professor Tseng offered a graduate seminar on Kyoto Architecture

and Urbanism for the first time. As the finale to the course, the class visited the Kyoto *machiya* (townhouse) exhibit at the Boston Children’s Museum. Besides regular course lectures, she was invited to give a wide range of talks this year: a guest lecture for AH 205 on traditional architecture of China and Japan; a special lecture for the CAS Core Curriculum on how to look at Chinese art; an impassioned presentation to the north Brookline community on the architecture of Julius Schweinfurth in an attempt to save one of his houses from demolition (70 Sewall Avenue); and finally, a talk on her current research on Kyoto’s Jidai Matsuri (Festival of Ages) at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. For the summer, Professor Tseng plans to continue her research on Japanese old capitals in the modern century. Special side projects include assembling a robot tea-serving doll from a kit and building a scale model of the Ise Shrines from scratch.

Gregory Williams is currently completing revisions on his book manuscript, *Arrested Ambition: Humor and Politics in Contemporary German Art*. In February he presented a paper at a College Art Association panel on the cultural afterlife of the Berlin Wall. He also wrote an essay on Rosemarie Trockel to be included in an exhibition catalogue published in May by the Kunstmuseum Basel and Kunstmuseum Bonn. Most recently he delivered a paper on the artist Imi Knoebel for a panel on “Materiality and Waste” at the annual conference of the Association of Art Historians in Glasgow. The materiality theme was made quite literal by the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull

volcano in Iceland, which launched an unplanned four-day research trip on contemporary art in Glasgow.

Michael Zell continued his sabbatical in the spring semester, working on his book *For the Love of Art: Gift Giving, Amateurs, and The Poetics of Painting in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Culture*. At the College Art Association conference Professor Zell presented "Vermeer's Poetics of Painting" and in May he will deliver another paper related to the book project, "Rembrandt's Art as Gift: A Case Study of Actor-Network Theory," at the Historians of Netherlandish Art Conference in Amsterdam. He will continue to work on his sabbatical project over the summer. This fall he resumes his duty as Deputy Chair.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Christina An worked on the exhibition *Modeling Devotion: Terracotta Sculpture of the Italian Renaissance* during a year-long graduate curatorial internship at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum with Alan Chong, curator of the collection. She has enjoyed serving as a second-year Boston University Art Gallery graduate assistant and also GSAHA Vice President this year. She will be graduating with her Masters degree this spring and is thrilled to report that she will be staying on at BU for her PhD.



Christina An and *Modeling Devotion: Terracotta Sculpture of the Italian Renaissance* at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the last historical show at the museum until the completion of the new building project.

Hannah Blunt was honored to be selected by the Copley Society of Art for the 2010 Robert C. Vose, Jr. and Ann Peterson Vose Scholarship in American Art History. She has recently begun an internship with Theodore Stebbins in the Department of American Art at the Harvard Art Museum. She will be researching and writing entries for the museum's forthcoming collections catalogue, *American Paintings at Harvard: Volume One*.

Leslie K. Brown, first year PhD student, was honored to be chosen to receive the 2009-10 Art History Teaching Fellow award, a departmental prize sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences. In March, she presented a paper as a part of "Place:" The 26th Annual Boston University Graduate Student Symposium on the History of Art. This summer, Leslie will be participating in "Emerging Landscapes," a conference hosted by the University of Westminster, London, UK. She is looking forward to teaching the History of Photography as a part of BU's summer term and also to her own coursework next year. In keeping with her focus on place, Leslie and her fiancé

will be wed this June in the Catskills Mountains along the Esopus Creek.

Katherine Carroll is completing the second semester of a Henry Luce Foundation/ ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art. In addition to working on her dissertation, she recently presented the paper "American Medical School-Hospital Complexes in the Early Twentieth Century: Constructing Gendered Professional Identities while Building for Modern Science" at the Graduate Symposium on Women's and Gender History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She also participated in the first annual Graduate Student Lightning Talks at the annual meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians in April. On a more personal note, is relocating to Altoona, Pennsylvania, where her husband, Patrick, will start his residency in July. She plans to take full advantage of the Penn State libraries just down the road. They are also ecstatic to welcome a baby boy expected at the end of August.

Holly Markovitz Goldstein defended her dissertation "American Landscapes as Revisionist History: The Frontier Photographs of Mark Klett, John Pfahl, Deborah Bright, and Robert Adams." She has accepted a faculty position at the Savannah College of Art and Design where she will teach the history of photography and modern art.

Mamie Hyatt, a third year PhD student, received a fellowship from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program and a dissertation research grant from the

American Scandinavian Society's Thord-Gray Memorial Fund. As a result, Mamie will spend the 2010-11 academic year researching her dissertation in Stockholm, Sweden. She will be based at both the University of Stockholm and Mid Sweden University in Östersund. Her topic focuses on the African American artist Hebert Gentry – a second generation Abstract Expressionist who migrated to Scandinavia in 1959. In February, Mamie presented her paper, "Homeboy Cosmopolitan? Kehinde Wiley and *The World Stage*," at the 36th annual Cleveland Symposium, where she also was awarded second place for 'Most Innovative Research and Successful Paper Presentation'. The topic of the symposium was, "The Art of Exchange: Cross Cultural Ideas in a Visual World" and was sponsored by the Cleveland Museum of Art and Case Western Reserve University.

Amy Huang has completed her course work and submitted her MA paper this semester. Her paper focuses on 17th century art collector, Gao Shiqi, and discusses the social and political aspects of art collecting in the early Qing dynasty. Amy has been volunteering at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston this year and had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the new exhibition on Chinese painting masterpieces forthcoming this September. She reports that studying these beautiful works at close range has been an extraordinary experience. After graduating from BU with her MA, Amy will continue her graduate studies in Chinese art history in the PhD program at Brown University this fall.

Meghen Jones is continuing her Fulbright-sponsored dissertation research until early July at the Crafts Gallery, Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. She presented a paper based on her most recent research, "Tomimoto Kenkichi's 'Linkage' (renkan) to Kenzan in the History of Modern Japanese Ceramics: Amateurism, Transnationalism, and Rebellion," on February 6 for the Modern Japan History Workshop held at Waseda University. Then, for the Image and Gender Research Association, she presented the paper "Fans of Japan: American Women's Japonisme and Crazy Quilts, 1876-1910" (in Japanese) on February 14 at Musashi University.

Amber Ludwig is currently undertaking research in London and Greenwich, England for her dissertation on the creation and reception of portraits of Emma Hamilton, the famous lover of Horatio Nelson. She received a short-term Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship from Boston University to cover the majority of research expenses. The Historians of British Art, the Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture, and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies also provided small grants to offset costs. The University of York invited Amber to give a talk related to her research at the Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies during her time in the United Kingdom. Earlier in the year, she gave papers related to the second chapter of her dissertation at the College Art Association Annual Conference in Chicago and the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Albuquerque, NM.

In October 2010, the Cincinnati Art Museum will publish Amber's essay "'Virtue in a Vicious Age': Fashioning Feminine Identity in Eighteenth-Century London" in conjunction with their exhibition *Thomas Gainsborough and the Modern Woman*.



Amber Ludwig stands with a statue of Horatio Nelson in Greenwich, England.

Erin Hyde Nolan, MA student, continues to aid in the management of the Estate of photographer Todd Webb. Her work with this Estate includes cataloguing the collection, planning a forthcoming retrospective exhibition and an accompanying catalogue.

Sarah Parrish organized this year's Guest Scholar Lecture Series with Co-Coordinator Hannah Blunt. She also continued her work as a Graduate Assistant at the Boston University Art Gallery. In personal news, her synchronized figure skating team, Esprit de Corps, won the gold medal in the Adult Division at the U.S. National Synchronized Skating Championships in Minneapolis, MN. Sarah is looking forward to completing her MA degree in May and continuing on for her PhD at BU next fall.

Austin Porter recently passed the comprehensive oral exam and is currently teaching a course on Modern American Art at the Rhode Island School of Design. During the January intercession he taught a class on Art in the 1980s at the Art Institute of Boston. Austin is also very excited to report that he was awarded the Sara Roby Predoctoral Fellowship in 20th Century American Realism at the Smithsonian American Art Museum for the 2010-11 academic year. While in Washington, Austin will be working on his dissertation, preliminarily titled: "Paper Bullets: the Visual Culture of American World War II Print Propaganda." Finally, Austin is looking forward to teaching Intro to Art History II this summer at BU.

Beth Pugliano has been teaching for a second year in the BU Writing Program. She was awarded a conference scholarship to attend a British Archaeological Association Conference in April on "Romanesque and the Past" at the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Courtauld Institute of Art. This summer she will teach a survey of medieval art at BU and will continue research for her thesis on the Romanesque sculpture of the Tudela Cloister.

Melissa Renn has had a very busy spring. She just completed a full draft of her dissertation, "Life in the Art World, 1936-1972, and looks forward to defending it soon. She also recently gave a paper at the Frick-IFA Symposium on Life Magazine's Illuminations, which was a wonderful opportunity. At the

end of April she is giving a paper, "Fine Arts Under Fire: Life Magazine and the Display of Architectural Destruction," at a conference entitled "The Politics of Architectural Destruction" in Ireland. Her paper (as well as BU alum Milda Richardson's) will be published as a chapter in a forthcoming volume edited by conference organizers, JoAnne Mancini and Terence Dooley. Both Melissa and Michelle Lamuniere (PhD '09) also contributed short essays to the Greek photography magazine *Antilipseis*, curated by Martha Tepper Takayama (see http://www.antilipseis.gr/t20/t20_layout_en.html for more details). Melissa continues to work for Ted Stebbins as the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Associate in the American Art Department at the Fogg Museum, Harvard Art Museum, and is happy to have Hannah Williams Blunt (MA '10) as our new intern this spring.



Melissa Renn, other speakers, and conference organizers at the IFA-Frick Symposium, New York, April 16, 2010.

Seung Yeon Sang has received a Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellowship and will move to Washington DC to start preliminary research for her dissertation. As a Smithsonian fellow at the Freer Gallery of Art/ Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, she will review the Korean and Japanese ceramic collections

and conduct technical analysis of a group of the Wakan Wares. This will form the core of her dissertation project. In addition, she has received a Korea Foundation Fellowship for Graduate Studies for 2010-11.

Lana Sloutsky served as GSAHA president and moderated a session of the BU symposium, "Place." She also enjoyed serving as a Teaching Fellow for AH111 and 112. She continued giving tours at the MFA and gave her first "Looking Together" on John Singer Sargent. She felt very lucky to have spent Spring break in Ephesus with her STH seminar. She traveled to two Byzantine conferences (Washington DC and Sarasota) as well as the College Art Association Annual Conference in Chicago. She presented her work on the Kiev Psalter at the University of Rhode Island graduate student conference and will represent BU at the Wellesley College symposium for university museum professionals.

Ginger Elliott Smith is happy to report that she passed the oral component of her qualifying exams the day she completed this Art BULL's draft. In addition to her study regimen this spring, she also gave a gallery talk as programming support for the Boston University Art Gallery exhibition, *The Shape of Abstraction* (February 5 - April 28, 2010) – an exhibition for which she served as research assistant to Independent Curator Rachael Arauz and contributing author of the "Biographies" section of the show's accompanying catalogue. She and her husband are enjoying their new environs in Nashville, though the

flooding of May 3 was certainly a devastating event to watch unfold from their own window. The city is slowly recovering after receiving a record 15 inches of rain in two days that weekend.



Rachael Arauz (left) and Ginger Elliott Smith (right) in front of Louise Bourgeois's *Ode a L'Oubli* exhibited in *The Shape of Abstraction* at the Boston University Art Gallery.

Deb Stein is completing her first year of PhD coursework and is delighted to report that she will be officially awarded the MA this spring. In February she presented her first paper, "Franklin Webster Smith: An Unsung Pioneer of the American City Planning Movement," as the Art History Department's nominee to the Student Symposium of the New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. She discovered Smith, a 19th century American amateur architect, in the fall of her first year (2008-09) on the bottom shelf of the stacks in the Fine Arts Library at Harvard and has been happily following his trail and others like him ever since! This has also been her first year as a Teaching Fellow in AH 111 and 112 – terrific not only for the teaching experience but for the opportunity to witness the wonders of our discipline lecture after lecture all year long.



Deb Stein fielding questions after delivering her paper at the Student Symposium of the New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians.

Kate Sutlive wants to report that she is happy to be graduating this May, but amazed that the time has gone by so quickly. She's been working this past year with Professor Alston Purvis, the graphic design historian in the College of Fine Arts, on preparing a new edition of his textbook, and has also been interning in the Museum Education and School programs department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She looks forward to her upcoming summer in Georgia and also to a move to New York in the fall. She is disappointed to be missing the graduation ceremony, but wishes everyone the best of luck in the future.

Martina Tanga has spent this semester in France for family reasons. She presented a paper "The Production of Space: Aragon's *Le Paysan de Paris*," at the conference "Troubling Reality: (Re)Imagining Realms of the Real" a Graduate Student Conference, hosted by the MA program in Cultural Production at Brandeis University (and a great thanks to Austin Porter who presented

on her behalf). Martina has been working on her oral exams preparation and is looking forward to coming back to Boston this summer to teach AH112 and to finish up her course work in the fall.

Catherine Walsh continues to work on her dissertation, "Landscapes, Ecology and the Figure in Giambologna's *Appennino*." She thoroughly enjoyed her recent visit to Madison, WI where she presented a paper at "Forming and De-Forming the Human Body," the Graduate Association of French and Italian Studies (GAFIS) Symposium at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As part of this trip, she also was able to attend the Landscape History Colloquium at the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) annual meeting in Chicago. Catherine is looking forward to completing research in Italy this fall, thanks to a Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Ben Zweig just completed his first year as a PhD student at BU and will finish his coursework by the end of the summer. In April he presented a paper titled "Social Control and the Public Image in Late-Medieval Sweden: The Case of the Vapenhus" at the 36th Annual Conference of the Association of Art Historians in Glasgow, Scotland. He is looking forward to being a Teaching Fellow at BU this upcoming year.

ALUMNI NEWS

Julia Dolan (BU PhD '09) is currently the Horace W. Goldsmith Curatorial Fellow in Photography at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and is pleased to report that she accepted a position at the Portland Art Museum. She will begin serving as the PAM's new Curator of Photography in June. She competed against more than 50 applicants for the position, which has been vacant for nearly a year and a half since the passing of the museum's founding Curator of Photography, Terry Toedtemeier.



Julia Dolan, pictured in *The Oregonian* in conjunction with an article published on her recent placement at the PAM.

Francesca Tronchin (BU MA '99, PhD '06), spent two years in postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Manitoba and the Getty Research Institute, and recently accepted a position in the Art Department at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. She will be teaching courses on ancient Mediterranean art and archaeology. She is also currently preparing a book manuscript tentatively entitled *Collecting, Eclecticism, and Autobiography in the Houses of Rome and the Bay of Naples* and has one essay

coming out this year based on her dissertation research in the volume *Art, industry and infrastructure in Roman Pompeii* as well as an article in the Italian journal *Rivista di Studi Pompeiani*.