

ART BULL

The Newsletter of Boston University's Art History Graduate Students

Spring Semester, April 2008

Welcome to the spring 2008 publication of the *Art Bull*! Thank you to the many people who contributed during this very busy time of year. It is wonderful to keep up with everyone's activities.

Enjoy the summer!
Katherine Carroll
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FACULTY

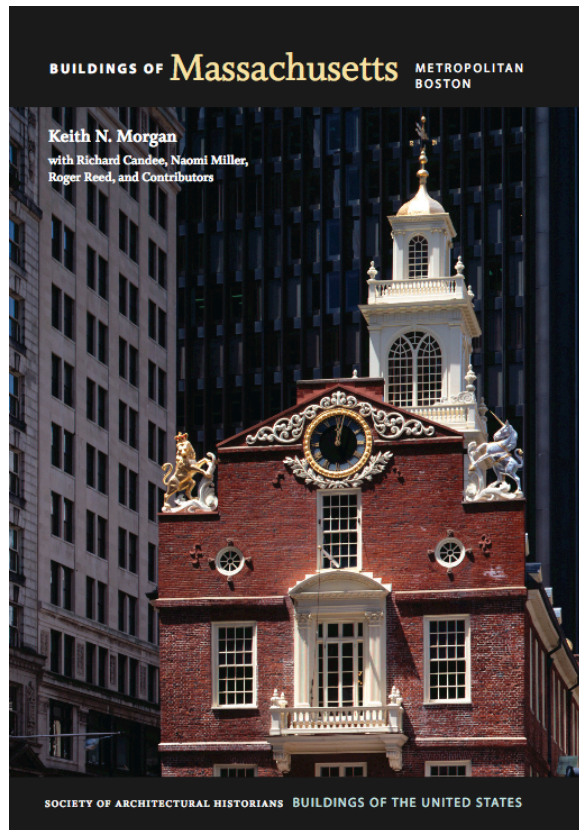
Qianshen Bai presented the paper "Study of the Practice of Inscribing Portraits in the Early Qing Period" at the "International Symposium on Ancient Chinese Figure Paintings from Liaoning Provincial Museum and Shanghai Museum" in March. The symposium was organized by the Shanghai Museum. In April, Professor Bai gave the Harn Eminent Scholar Lecture at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida. The lecture was entitled "The Change of Elite Structure and Its Impact on Contemporary Chinese Calligraphy," and after the lecture, Professor Bai demonstrated calligraphy at the Harn Museum. Also in April, Professor Bai received a citation from the Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in recognition of his "accomplishments and contribution to the sharing of Chinese calligraphy in the United States."

Emine Fetvaci attended CAA this semester as a board member of the Historians of Islamic Art Association. There were many Islamic Art sessions to attend,

which was a welcome change from previous years. Later in the semester she was invited to a weekend workshop at the University of Chicago Center for Middle Eastern Studies, focusing on the sixteenth century in the Ottoman Empire. Her first book review, of the catalogue accompanying the Metropolitan Museum's recent exhibition "Venice and the Islamic World," has recently appeared in CAA Reviews online. She has been working on two articles this spring, both on the early seventeenth century in the Ottoman Empire, one focusing on the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, the other on a group of manuscripts. She will be spending most of the summer in Boston focusing on her book project and hopes to take a few weeks off in August to see her family in Turkey and check out some archival materials in Istanbul.

Melanie Hall, with graduate student Beth Pugliano, has been working over the past year with members of GSAHA and AHA to develop a mentoring program for BU undergraduates who are interning, or hoping to intern, in museums and galleries. The program has received positive feedback and

advice from staff members at the MFA and ICA, and numerous undergraduates and graduate students at BU have already volunteered or expressed interest in participating. Mentoring teams may be arranged as early as the summer or by next fall at the latest.



Keith Morgan recently published an article entitled "Muskau and America: Pueckler's Influence on Charles Eliot and Regional Landscape Planning in the United States" in the *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute*. His essay is part of an anthology of essays from a conference he attended in Muskau, Germany, in the summer of 2006. He has recently completed the review of the copy-edited manuscript for *Buildings of Massachusetts: Metropolitan Boston* and continues to lead a team that is preparing a report on the impact of the Frederick Law Olmsted office on the

development of Brookline, Massachusetts, as a model suburban community.

Jonathan Ribner gave several lectures at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in March and April. He contributed three lectures, "The Spanishness of Spanish Art," "Imperial Decline, Artistic Glory," and "A Golden Age and its Legacies," to the series "The Arts and Cultures of Spain 1550-1650." He also presented "Modern and Contemporary Art," five sessions of the course "Collection Training: Modern and Contemporary Art" in the Gallery Instructor Program.

Paolo Scrivano has just published two essays, "Romanticizing the Other? Views of Italian Industrial Design in postwar America" (in *The Italian Legacy in Washington DC: Architecture, Design, Art and Culture*, Skira) and "Adriano Olivetti: Agent of the Italian-American Exchange in the Postwar Years" (in *The Human Tradition in Modern Europe, 1750 to the Present*, Rowman and Littlefield). He has also been invited to present a paper at the SAH/EAHN conference "Transfer and Metamorphosis: Architectural Modernity between Europe and the Americas 1870-1970" at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zurich (26-29 June). In the fall 2008 he will offer a 500-level course on transnationalism and modern architecture.

Jessica Sewell has been expressing the interdisciplinary range of her teaching and research work by presenting at numerous conferences, which probably have no other person in common. In February, she presented on "The Playboy's Pipe" at an international conference on design and material culture titled "Love Objects" and held at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, Ireland. In June, she will be presenting at the Berkshire Conference of

Women Historians about woman suffrage in California and connecting history to historic places, in this case downtown San Francisco. In July, she will be presenting about her undergraduate architectural theory class, "Understanding Architecture," at "The Oxford Conference 2008: Resetting the Agenda for Architectural Education," in Oxford, England. To cap off her interdisciplinary jaunt, she has a paper forthcoming in *Food, Culture, and Society* based on a talk she gave in the Art History Department series in 2004 on the uses of tea by suffragists.

Kim Sichel reports that *TO FLY: Contemporary Aerial Photography* was published in September 2007, distributed through the University of Washington Press. The exhibition it accompanied, at the Boston University Art Gallery, received a full-page review in the Sunday *Boston Globe* and a review in October's *Art News* magazine, among others. The project will be featured in the magazine *Research at Boston University* for 2008. Professor Sichel is continuing to work on her book on aerial photography and plans to spend next spring's sabbatical working on that project. In addition, she is writing an essay for an exhibition of Lyonel Feininger's photographs for the Harvard University Art Museums for an exhibition and catalogue to circulate in Europe during the time when the Fogg is closed for renovation. Professor Sichel is also writing the introductory text for a portfolio of photographic prints for the Photographic Resource Center's thirtieth anniversary. Next October she will be participating in a conference on transnationalism sponsored by the American and New England Studies program.

Alice Tseng returned to teaching in spring 2008 after a semester of maternity leave. In June, she celebrates baby Clara's first

birthday and the publication of her book *The Imperial Museums of Meiji Japan: Architecture and the Art of the Nation* (University of Washington Press). A portion of her new research on Kyoto arts is scheduled to appear in the September issue of *The Art Bulletin*. The article is entitled "Kuroda Seiki's *Morning Toilette* on Exhibition in Modern Kyoto," and it examines the controversy surrounding the public display of a nude painting in 1895 Kyoto.



Professor Westervelt in Sicily last spring.

Hilda Westervelt is currently developing a project on women's use of textiles as powerful weapons in Greek mythology. Have a rival for your husband's affection? Douse a textile with flesh-eating poison and send it to her as a gift! Or better yet, send it to your husband! Few actual textiles have survived from Greek antiquity, but their depictions in vase paintings, sculpture, and metalwork are numerous. Women had few resources, but the production of textiles was something that all women did, from queens and matrons to slaves and prostitutes. Therefore textiles were often the first thing that women would turn to when in need of something, such as a weapon, a delay tactic, or a voice. Medea dispatches her rival by sending her a gorgeous robe that causes her to burst into flames. Penelope puts off her numerous suitors by telling them that she

must first finish weaving her father-in-law's shroud before she can choose a new husband. She weaves by day, but unravels by night. Sisters Procne and Philomela are able to communicate only through weaving after one of the sisters has her tongue cut out by the other's husband after he rapes her. Professor Westervelt writes that these are only a few examples of textiles being used as powerful weapons by women in Greek myth, and she looks forward to further research on the topic.

Gregory Williams was recently awarded a non-residential Postdoctoral Fellowship by the Getty Foundation. He will be on a leave of absence during 2008-2009 in order to work on his book, which explores art and politics in West Germany from the 1960s through the 1980s. In support of his continuing research, he, along with his family, will spend some of the summer in Germany. He delivered a lecture on Martin Kippenberger as part of the "Food for Art" panel at CAA in Dallas.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Christina An started her M.A. at BU this spring and is happy to report that her experience has been every bit as wonderful as she'd hoped it would be, thanks to the kindness of her classmates and professors who have been gracious in guiding her along. Prior to matriculating at BU, Christina spent five years in non-profit management roles and two years teaching in an inner-city school with Teach For America and graduated with a degree in English from Stanford University. While she has enjoyed attending school part-time this term, she looks forward to taking on a full course load this fall and being more involved on campus. She hopes to pursue research in the areas of American art or seventeenth-century Dutch painting.

Carrie Anderson was recently awarded the GRAF (Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship). She will be traveling to the Netherlands and Copenhagen this summer and fall, where she will begin research on her dissertation, "Johan Maurits's Brazilian Collection: The Role of Ethnographic Gifts in Colonial Discourse."

Ross Barrett has been in residence for the 2007-2008 academic year at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art, where he is completing the second year of a Wyeth Fellowship. Over the past year, he has delivered papers at the SHEAR, NCSA, and PCA/ACA conferences and has an article on the American painter Ernest Lawson coming out in the spring 2008 issue of *Winterthur Portfolio*. In the fall of 2008, Ross will begin a two-year Mellon postdoctoral fellowship in American art at the University of Chicago.



Katherine Carroll and her husband, Patrick Zimmerman, this past December as she continues to work down her list of architectural landmarks.

Katherine Carroll completed her qualifying exams in the fall and is currently at work on her prospectus. She looks forward to traveling to the East Coast in the coming year as she begins the archival research for her dissertation on the architecture of the modern American

medical school. This spring she received grants from the Countway Library of Medicine at Harvard University and the Rockefeller Archive Center to support her upcoming research at these institutions. She continues to teach as an adjunct at Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Texas.

Judy Ditner has enjoyed working as a teaching fellow with Greg Williams and Kim Sichel this year. Since completing Ph.D. coursework in the fall, Judy has been preparing for her qualifying exams. Recent published articles include the feature essay “Re-Framing the War in Iraq” in *Photography Quarterly* (Spring 2008) and the review “Tod Papageorge – American Sports, 1970” in *Modern Painters* magazine (February 2008). Judy is also looking forward to teaching the History of Photography in BU’s summer term.

J. Keith Doherty writes that, unforeseen dissertation delays notwithstanding, the past year has been a positive one. After getting married in September, he and his new bride Aleksandra were off to Croatia for two weeks of honeymooning. Highlights included lounging on a beach within eyeshot of Jack Nicholson (or at least someone who looked very much like him), swimming in the Adriatic, and a stay at a hotel inside the emperor Diocletian’s palace complex at Split. In subsequent months, he co-wrote tours of the MFA’s Classical, Chinese, and Indian collections for the University Core Studies program with Stephanie Nelson of the BU Classics Department and delivered a lecture on Etruscan funerary iconography at the CAA annual meeting in Dallas.

Stephanie Glickman, an M.A. candidate, will be working as a Graduate Research Intern in the Art of Europe

Department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, this summer. At the end of April, she gave a presentation on the subject of Rembrandt's late portrait paintings at the University of Oregon's Art History Association Symposium “Influence: Process, Patronage, and Perception.”

Renana Greenberg has spent the past semester working on her M.A. paper, which is about the theme of absence in the work of Janine Antoni. She will be graduating in May. This summer she will be coordinating the M.A. Exam prep for next year's M.A. graduates (along with Lana Sloutsky), and she also hopes to travel (mostly to the west coast).



Nora Linssen, Dalia Habib Linssen’s daughter, plays with Porter Albers, Kate Palmer Albers’s son.

Dalia Habib Linssen is currently researching for and writing her dissertation, which examines the contributions of two German-born photographers, Hansel Mieth and Otto Hagel, to the field of social documentary photography. This project will be facilitated greatly by a Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art, which she was awarded this spring. This semester she is teaching a history of photography course at Emerson College and will present a paper on documentary photography and transnationalism this fall. The balance of her

time is spent marveling at and chasing after her delightful two-year-old, Nora.

Kate Harper is spending the year in Amsterdam on a Fulbright fellowship researching her dissertation topic: the prints and drawings of Hendrick Goudt (Dutch, 17th century). She will be based in Amsterdam until October, visiting collections throughout Europe and performing archival work to supplement her study of the artworks.

Mamie Hyatt is a first year Post-M.A. student who is focusing in modern and contemporary African American Art. Last spring, Mamie received her M.A. in art history and museum studies from Tufts University. She graduated from Kent State University in 2003 with a BA in art history. This semester Mamie will present her paper, "Le Tumulte Noir: The Paintings of Herbert Gentry, 1955-1970," at the "James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Visual Culture," at Howard University.

Meghen Jones presented her paper "Fans of Japan: Women's Japonisme and Crazy Quilts in the United States 1876-1910" at The Graduate Center, CUNY, symposium "Globalization Then and Now: Cultural Exchange Across Borders" in March. In April, she presented her paper "The Phallus According to Yayoi Kusama" at the Brooklyn Museum symposium "Love and Pop: Contemporary Visual Cultures in Japan and Beyond."

Sandrine Lacorie is currently completing the last semester of her Masters and writing her scholarly paper on "Music and Musicality in Vermeer." In April 2008, she presented a paper titled "Schiaparelli's Scandalous Beauty and Surrealism" at the Yale Center for British Art Graduate Student

Symposium on "The Power of Beauty: Aesthetics, Politics, Morality." She also gives bimonthly Gallery Talk Lectures at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and coordinates the Guest Scholar Lecture Series for the BU Graduate Student Art History Association (2007-2008).



Amber Ludwig and Lieutenant Carlos Otero during the first dance at their wedding in January.

Amber Ludwig remains at work on her dissertation and recently gave two papers at the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies and the South Central Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies on the first portraits of Lady Emma Hamilton by George Romney. Additionally, she is teaching Introduction to Art History I and II at Anne Arundel Community College and serving as a guest lecturer for a course called "Art and Ideas" at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On January 26, 2008, she married Lieutenant Carlos Otero at the United States Naval Academy.

Holly Markovitz will be spending next winter in Washington, DC, as a Douglas Fellow at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. She has also received a grant to conduct research at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, Austin. Last February she presented a paper at the CAA conference in Dallas. She continues to

work on her dissertation, which examines contemporary American landscape photography. She looks forward to spending a lot of time canoeing and hiking this summer.

Susan McCarthy is returning to her Victorian house in Lawrence, Kansas, after two full years in Boston. She's especially looking forward to getting back to a full, modern kitchen, her garden, studio, grand piano, all her books and stuff—in addition to being reunited with family, friends, and Jayhawk basketball, of course. She will proudly carry her Masters degree home with her and is planning to start a pre-Ph.D. regime at KU this fall, eventually specializing in Italian Renaissance. She will miss the great walking city of Boston, the Red Sox, and especially Boston University. It's been a great mid-life adventure and she hopes some of you will keep in touch.

Dorothy Nieciecki is finishing her coursework for the Ph.D. program this semester, for which she has primarily been working on ancient Greek and Roman art. For her second year, Dorothy is a teaching fellow for the Art History survey courses, AH 111 and AH 112. Last semester, Dorothy had the opportunity to teach a course entitled “The Art of Greece and Rome” at Suffolk University in Boston. She continues her work at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, as an intern in the Art of the Ancient World department. Last summer, Dorothy had a magnificent time digging Early Bronze Age pots on the island of Kythira just off the coast of the southern Peloponnese in Greece for three weeks. Afterwards, she took off to explore Crete with her friends before embarking to Italy where she spent 2 weeks attempting to see every archaeological site, church, museum, and gelateria known to man (she wasn't quite successful, but it was an excellent trip

anyway). This summer purports to be even better—wait, scratch that, not nearly as exciting—as she prepares to take her oral exams.

Kate Palmer Albers has had a good spring. She successfully defended her dissertation, "Archive / Atlas / Album: The Photographic Constructions of Christian Boltanski, Gerhard Richter, and Dinh Q. Le," and has accepted a faculty position at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where she will teach the history and theory of photography. Now that all that's settled, Kate is happily spending more time with her almost-two-year-old son, Porter, and husband, Greg, who has recently launched a new publishing venture, Hol Art Books (www.whatishol.com—check it out!).

Natania Remba was the guest curator of the exhibition “Surrounded by Water: Expressions of Freedom and Isolation in Contemporary Cuban Art” at the Boston University Art Gallery, February 8-April 5, 2008. Related to the exhibition, she authored the catalog, organized the education events, and gave a gallery talk. She also presented "Globalization in the Contemporary Cuban Art World" at the international symposium “A Changing Cuba in a Changing World” at The Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, City University of New York, March 12-15, 2008. This paper will be published in an online version of the proceedings from the conference. Natania lectured for an art history class at Tufts University on consumerism, art, and contemporary Cuba. She is working on the publication “La globalizacion en el mundo del arte contemporaneo cubano” (tentative title), which will be published as a chapter in a book in Spanish on Cuban literature and art by City University of New York.

Melissa Renn just finished up with “Damage: The 24th Annual Boston University Graduate Student Symposium on the History of Art” and wants to once again thank all the graduate students and faculty for their help in making it a success. She continues to work on her dissertation on *Life* magazine and is also working full time as the Research Associate in the Department of American Art at Harvard for Ted Stebbins and Virginia Anderson.

Molly Scheu is a second-year Masters candidate focusing on the Italian Renaissance. Her M.A. paper is entitled “Power and Plunder: Images from the Florentine Occupation of Charles VIII.” This spring, Molly continues to serve as GSAHA's Vice President and Treasurer, and she is currently working at the BU Art Gallery as an assistant to the director ad interim. Molly hopes to go into the museum field after graduation.

Lana Sloutsky is currently involved in a variety of projects. She is a gallery assistant at the BUAG, the Guest Scholar Lecture coordinator (with Sandrine Lacorie), the AH representative in the GSO, Publicity Chair in the GSO, Graduate Student Docent at the MFA, and M.A. exam coordinator for 2008 (with Renana Greenberg). She gave a talk titled "Infinite Beauty: Isaak Levitan, Anton Chekhov, and the Russian Landscape" at the 5th annual graduate student symposium in 19th-century art at CUNY, and she attended CAA in Dallas.