UPCOMING EVENTS

ACTING-OUT, CLAIMING SPACE
March 16, 7:30-9:00 pm, Bio Science Building, Room 1103
Artist Panel co-sponsored by MFARC (Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre) and the Art Department, Queen’s University
Terrance Houle • Skeena Reece • Jordan Bennett • Tanya Lukin Linklater

OPENING ADDRESS: Clive Robertson, Performance artist and historian, Acting Head, Department of Art, Queen’s University

PANEL FACILITATORS: Linda Grussani (Algonquin), PhD Student Cultural Studies, Queen’s University and Aboriginal Curatorial Collective, Executive Board Member with Mimi Gellman (Ojibway Metis), PhD Candidate Cultural Studies, Queen’s University and the Aboriginal Graduate Co-ordinator

Aboriginal Performance Art in Kingston is an MFARC project made in conjunction with Queen’s Native Students Association’s Aboriginal Awareness Week, Tuesday March 15 – Saturday March 19th. Organized for MFARC by curators Daina Warren, (Montana Cree Nation), Canada Council Aboriginal Resident at NGC, and Carla Taunton (PhD candidate and Teaching Fellow, Department of Art)

Full program details: http://www.modernfuel.org/art/programming/event/470

BFA Studio Tours in Ontario Hall
March 15, 16, and 19, Ontario Hall
12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm

BFA students will be conducting tours of the studios and facilities to prospective students. Faculty will be available to answer questions.

BFA SELECT ’11: CHANGE UP
17 – 27 March 2011,
Agnes Etherington Art Centre

This showcase exhibition of work from the 2011 graduating class of Queen’s Bachelor of Fine Art program highlights of the achievements of the emerging generation of artists. The selected works offer powerful expressions of current perspectives through the traditional art media of painting and printmaking. Several pieces reflect the work and travel experiences of the artist; movement, change and transformation are key themes. Featured artists are Chelsea Bellrose, Jennifer Bryson, Katherine Dobson, Kyle O’Brien, Jane Poon, Elisabeth Randell, Rhiana Sneyd, Laura Stewart, Katie Strang and Sophie Williams.

The opening reception for BFA Select ’11 will be held on 17 March, 5 to 7pm: the artists will be in attendance and all are welcome. Exhibition curator Jan Allen will offer a walk-through tour of the exhibition as part of the Art Matters lunch-hour series, on Thursday 24 March, 12:15 to 1pm. Admission to these events is free of charge.

The Art Centre thanks the Department of Art for the financial assistance that makes this exhibition possible. Special thanks go to Laura Stewart, this year’s student coordinator, and to Professors Ted Rettig and Kathleen Sellars for their support of the show’s implementation.

BFA Show, I do the corners first
April 16 - 21, Ontario Hall
Opening Reception: April 16, 6-8 pm

Join the graduating BFA students in celebration of their year-end exhibition at Ontario Hall.
VENICE SUMMER SCHOOL 2011
May 2 - 27

The Department of Art is pleased to announce the 41st Queen's Summer School in Venice, which will be held from 2 to 27 May 2011. Art History 245 - Art and Architecture in Venice will examine the art and architecture of Venice and its region with a focus on the Middle Ages and Renaissance. All instruction is onsite. We will go on morning study tours of churches, palaces, public buildings, and museums, plus full day-trips to sites in the lagoon and on the mainland. We will take advantage of being able to see architecture, sculpture, mosaic, and painting in their original settings in order to study how the structure of Venice as a city built on the water affects its art, the subtleties of colour, and the rich varieties of materials and techniques. By exploring the complex workings of this incomparable Renaissance city, which survives largely intact, we will examine the political, religious, and social contexts for art. In particular, we will study the works of the Bellini, the Lombardi, Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese, and Palladio, among others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(DAAD) GRADUATE STUDY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Congratulations to Claire Wenngren, a second-year student in our Art History MA programme, who has won a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Graduate Study Scholarship that will enable her to attend the TU Dortmund under the supervision of Professor Dr. Gudrun M. König. Claire will be enrolled in the Master's in Cultural Analysis programme; she will work in the university's textile studios and study textile history and theory.

SWEP STUDENT HIRED

The VRU received funding for a Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) position. There were 24 applicants and 3rd Year BFA student, Heather Smith, was hired. Heather will assist with departmental communications and the large-scale project of the digitization and cataloguing of the Art Department’s slide collection. She will gain valuable hands-on experience in using digital equipment and software in the VRU. Heather will begin on May 3rd and continue full time for 16 weeks. Her hours will be Monday & Tuesday: 8:30-4, Wednesday: 8:30-5, Thursday: 8:30-4, and Friday: 8:30-3.

WEBSITE UPDATE

We have transferred our current website to ITServices’ WebPublish. The new site is fully accessible (to those with disabilities) and is now live at the same URL www.queensu.ca/art. If you would like to update any of the information or post an event, please contact Kate (yukselk@queensu.ca) and/or Sue (sms@queensu.ca).
MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSERVATION STUDENTS TALK TO UNION GALLERY EVENT

MAC students, Tasia Bulger and Tessa Thomas answering questions at the Union Gallery. Laura Stewart’s (4th Year BFA) oil painting, The Sleeper is in the background.

On March 2, 2011 Queen’s University’s Union Gallery hosted an artist talk for Body of Work, an exhibition featuring the work of students Laura Stewart, Katie Strang and Bronwyn Loucks. The event was open to the public and after the artists’ talks an informal Q&A was held with two students of the Master of Art Conservation Program, Tasia Bulger and Tessa Thomas. Questions included inquiries from the exhibiting artists regarding their choice of materials, recommendations for storage and general conservation practices, to name a few. The event provided an opportunity for students, the general public and conservation students to have an open discussion about both the symbolic and physical nature of artworks. The event was a success and we look forward to continued collaboration with the Union Gallery in the future.

MAC STUDENT BLOG

Find out the latest news in Art Conservation by checking out the MAC students’ blog, at http://queensartcon.blogspot.com/

BETA RADIOGRAPHY PLATE IN ACTION

A beta-radiography plate acquired by the art conservation program in 2007 has recently been used successfully to image some important watermarks in old prints and papers. The plate is a thin sheet of acrylic impregnated with unstable carbon 14 isotopes, which emit a very weak radiation called beta rays. These rays can be used as a kind of weak x-ray, to image watermarks that are difficult or impossible to see by other means such as transmitted light.

To acquire an image, the subject paper is sandwiched between the beta plate and a sheet of x-ray film, and left for about 50 minutes. The beta rays pass through the paper and create a latent image on the film. The film is then developed in a darkroom, and the result is a precise exact-size image of the watermark and the internal structure of the paper. The great advantage of this technique is that there is no interference from the text or the image on the paper, thus giving a very clear reproduction of the watermark.
ARTH 862 TRIP TO MONTREAL
On February 2nd and 3rd the students from ARTH 862 and Professor Joan Schwartz went on a trip to Montreal to experience several excellent institutions with a primary focus on photography.

The McCord Museum of Canadian History was our first stop. We were warmly received by Hélène Samson the Curator of Photography. First, we had the opportunity to explore the McCord's William Notman Photographic Archives vault guided by Dr. Samson and Nora Hague, Senior Cataloguer, Notman Photographic Archives. Apart from the collection we were able to examine a variety of historic treasures, such as the Maple Box, Notman's chair, a major component in many of his works, and the largest known photographic album of William Watson Ogilvie. After visiting the vault Dr. Samson escorted us to a major travelling exhibition that has recently been installed at the McCord; Karsh and Steichen: The Art of the Celebrity Portrait. The McCord also offered us the opportunity to see a second show titled The Eloquence of the Everyday: Gabor Szilasi. These installations allowed us to analyse the role of photography as an art and develop an awareness of display practices in art institutions. That evening Theresa Rowat, Director of McGill University Archives, invited us along with several Concordia Graduate students for dinner and discussion at her home. This allowed us to gather and share ideas and knowledge with our academic colleagues.

The following morning we walked to the Centre Canadien D'Architecture (CCA) where we met with the Curator of Photography Louise Désy. She took us on a tour of the photography vault and then brought us into the Scholar's Wing where she had laid out numerous objects from the archives that we previously had requested to see, such as stereographs of Kingston architecture, daguerreotypes, and copper plate prints amongst a variety of other albums and objects. This experience of an exclusive private collection provided us with the opportunity to see a different function of photography, one where photographs are used as records and their subject matter is more important than their aesthetics.

Our final destination was the Montreal Museum of Fine Art (MMFA). Danièle Archambault, Registrar and Department Head of the Archives, welcomed us and showed us the Works on Paper vault. This is a recent addition to the MMFA so we had the opportunity to see it in its early development. Our tour concluded with a travelling exhibition titled Nineteenth Century French Photographs from the National Gallery of Canada. This installation prompted us to reconsider photography display practices and their corresponding institutions.

The trip to Montreal was an excellent opportunity to see exhibitions and go behind the scenes with the exceptional guidance from the curators of each institution. We would like to thank Professor Clive Robertson and Dean MacLean for providing us the means to experience this once in a life opportunity.

The Students of ARTH 862
ELEMENTAL ANALYSIS - MUCH GREATER CAPABILITIES IN THE ART CONSERVATION PROGRAM

We received the exceptional news, just after the New Year, that the Art Conservation Program would acquire a new, top-of-the-line, state-of-the-art, handheld X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analyser from Bruker Elemental, on long-term loan. The capabilities of the new Bruker instrument far exceed those of our previous system. The new XRF is more powerful and can detect elements as light as aluminum and silicon. The instrument allows us to obtain information about metal objects, paintings, ceramics, photographs, and other objects. This opportunity is extremely welcome, as the company that produced our previous handheld XRF had told us in November 2010 that it would no longer support our five-year-old unit. Professor Emeritus H.F. (Gus) Shurvell, the program’s invaluable mentor, alerted the conservation field of our plight which set the wheels in motion for this happy outcome.

Bruker Elemental now has XRF units in all the North American conservation programs as well as in 500 museums worldwide, including the Smithsonian Institution and the Getty Conservation Institute. Dr. Bruce Kaiser, Chief Scientist at Bruker Elemental, visited the Queen’s program in 2008 and gave presentations to our students at that time. He values our program as having international as well as Canadian students who, after graduation, go on to jobs around the world. Dr. Aaron Shugar, Associate Professor at the Art Conservation Department at Buffalo State College, visited the program for two days in March to show us how to use the system. His visit was greatly appreciated and indeed appropriate as he was a key figure in facilitating this long-term loan to Queen’s.

While here Dr. Shugar gave two talks, “X-Ray Fluorescence: Theory and Its Use in Conservation” and “Corrosion Issues with Copper and Copper Alloys.” Dr. Shugar is co-editing a book about handheld XRF analysis in conservation, which will be very important in the field.

We want to thank all the people at Bruker Elemental, especially Dr. Bruce Kaiser, as well as Dr. Aaron Shugar for making these exciting developments possible at Queen’s! Gus and I are extremely pleased that our students will learn about XRF through this instrument.

Alison Murray