ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRADUATE STUDENT CHANTAL MANNA’S EXPERIENCE WITH CLOSER TO VAN EYCK WEBSITE

Beginning in January, the entire class of ARTH807 spent the following weeks going through every link on the website, making sure everything worked smoothly. Our class treated the debugging as an exciting challenge and a chance to inspect the Ghent Altarpiece more closely than ever before. Seeing underdrawings dating hundreds of years sparked immediate interest, and before we knew it, the Eyckien polyptych began to dominate lunchtime discussions in Ontario Hall. We got a thrill in sharing our findings, and it seemed as though the more we searched for “kinks” on the website, the more we felt we were part of the project. Even though our role was minor, it encouraged communication and taught us to problem-solve as a team. It soon became apparent that the debugging of the Ghent Altarpiece brought the students of ARTH807 closer together, in the same way this website will help to unite the academic community. As one student eloquently put it: “Eyckstasy” continues to sweeping through the Art History Graduate Room in Ontario Hall.

In terms of an academic resource, the Closer to van Eyck website provides viewers with images that have never been accessible to the general public. Without qualifying or quantifying these images, the website presents the facts and demands its viewer be the art historian. It is designed to encourage viewers to make use of different technologies in order to reassess the breadth of knowledge that already exists on the Ghent Altarpiece in the hopes of coming one step closer to understanding this cornerstone of early Flemish art. In short, the Closer to van Eyck website has allowed me to view the Ghent Altarpiece in a more hands-on way than would ever be possible even if I was standing in the Cathedral of Saint Bavo in Ghent.

IN THE MEDIA

LAUNCH OF THE WEBSITE CLOSER TO VAN EYCK

Congratulations to Ron Spronk on the launching of the web site Closer to Van Eyck; Rediscovering the Ghent Altarpiece (http://closertovaneyck.kikirpa.be/). A Google search on “ghent altarpiece queen’s university” gives over 30,000 results on the web.

The initiative was broadly reported upon in the Dutch and Belgium newspapers, radio and even television, but also in North America. After the write up in the New York Times (http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/24/restored-ghent-altarpiece-gets-own-interactive-web-site/), CNN also posted an article: http://www.cnn.com/2012/03/01/world/europe/ghent-altarpiece-online-open-source/

The site is featured on the Getty Foundations webpage at http://www.getty.edu/foundation/funding/conservation/current/conservation_panel_paintings_ghent.html

Header Photo: Queen's Campus in the Spring / ©Queen's University

Hubert and Jan van Eyck, The Ghent Altarpiece, completed 1432
Macrophotography: S. John the Baptist Enthroned, Macro 201 Closer to Van Eyck: Rediscovering the Ghent Altarpiece (http://closertovaneyck.kikirpa.be/)
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Thinking about Giorgione**  
PROFESSOR CHARLES HOPE  
**Thursday 15 March, 5:30 pm**  
Ellis Hall Auditorium

Everyone is invited to the Macdonald Stewart Lecture in Venetian Culture, given by Professor Charles Hope on Thursday, March 15, at 5:30, in Ellis Hall Auditorium, entitled “Thinking about Giorgione.” Charles Hope is a prominent public intellectual, a recently retired professor from the University of London, who served for many years as the director of the Warburg Institute. He has published widely, including dozens of provocative pieces in the New York Review of Books. Professor Hope brings a balance of scholarly rigor and glee to his devastating deflations of overly intellectualized interpretations of art and demonstrates a fearless willingness to overturn long-hallowed attributions of famous pieces.

**Curatorial Art History versus Academic Art History**  
DIANA NEMIROFF  
**Saturday April 14, 2:00 pm**  
The University Club, 168 Stuart Street

Pierre du Prey, Co Chair Royal Society of Canada: Eastern Ontario Regional Seminar 2012 is pleased to announce the following lecture by a recent recipient of the Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts, Diana Nemiroff FRSC, Director of the Carleton University Art Gallery. She will speak on the topic Curatorial Art History versus Academic Art History on Saturday April 14 2012 at The University Club, 168 Stuart Street at 2:00pm. This lecture is open to the general public as are the other three presentations on the same day. The full program is available through the Queen’s on-line Events Calendar: http://eventscalendar.queensu.ca/cal/showEventMore.rdo

**Queen’s MiniU 2012**  
**May 25 - 27**

Professor David McTavish (Art History) and Professor John O’Neill (Art Conservation) will both be presenting at Queen’s MiniU 2012. MiniU is open to both the Queen’s and Kingston communities as well as attendees from further afield and gives everyone the opportunity to be a Queen’s student for a session, a day, or even for the whole weekend. For more information about MiniU 2012 programming and registration, please contact me or visit the MiniU website at http://www.queensu.ca/alumni/learning/