

GUND GALLERY

Kenyon College

Gund Gallery Faculty Seminar 2015

Course Syllabus and Schedule:

Since its dedication in the fall of 2011, it has been the Gund Gallery's mission to celebrate art as a critical centerpiece of Kenyon's liberal arts mission and the community by championing the best art and artists of the 20th and 21st centuries via an active exhibition schedule, expanding permanent collection, and formal and informal learning experiences. To encourage the conceptualization of creative interdisciplinary and liberal arts-inspired curricular connections and projects aligned with the Gund Gallery's mission and goals, tenured and tenure-track professors and instructors on long-term contracts from across all the college's disciplines are eligible to participate in the biennial faculty seminar supported in 2015 by the Smart Family Foundation. Over casual dinner discussions based on short articles and essays, topics presented by guest experts and experiences gained from focused visits to other art museums, seminar participants will have the opportunity to consider contemporary curatorial practices and museum issues, including but not limited to: the history of the modern museum, visitor motivations and expectations, learning and engagement through objects and exhibitions, contemporary curatorial practices and trends, intersection of museum and higher education history, Visual Thinking Strategies and interpretation, contemporary art in encyclopedic museums, visual literacy, collecting and collections management, the public trust and collections ethics, curating from collections, collaboration and interdisciplinarity, creativity and innovation, and other topics.

Seminar begins Wednesday, September 23, 7:00-10:00 PM – Gund Gallery Classroom (GG101)
All sessions are mandatory and meet over casual catered dinners catered on Wednesdays from 7:00-10:00 PM. Readings are subject to change.

September 23: First meeting and dinner discussion

Topics: Introductions, rise of the modern museum, major themes

Readings:

Bennett, Tony, "Civic Seeing: Museums and the Organization of Vision, *A Companion to Museum Studies*, ed. Sharon MacDonald, Oxford: Blackwell, 2006, p. 263-281.

Greenblatt, Stephen, "Resonance and Wonder," *Museum Studies: An Anthology of Contexts*, ed. Bettina Messias Carbonell, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, p. 541-555.

October 7: Dinner discussion with special guest: **Dr. Lauren Lessing**, Mirken Curator of Education, Colby College Museum of Art

Topics: Object-based learning, museum visitor motivations, visual culture/visual literacy

Readings:

Mitchell, W.J.T., "Showing Seeing: A critique of visual culture," *The Visual Culture Reader*, ed. Nicholas Mirzoeff, NY: Routledge, second edition, 2002, p. 86-101.

Falk, John H., "Viewing Art Museum Visitors Through the Lens of Identity," *Visual Arts Research*, Vol. 34, No. 2, *Museum Education*, 2008, Wiley: University of Illinois Press, p. 25-34.

Milkova, Liliana and Steven S. Volk, "Crossing the Street Pedagogy: Using College Art Museums to Leverage Significant Learning Across the Campus," *Exhibitions and Education: A Handbook for Academic Museums*, Vol. 1, Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc. Ltd., 2012, p. 88-118.

Milkova, Liliana and Steven S. Volk, "Transfer: Learning in and Through the Academic Museum," *Advancing Engagement: A Handbook for Academic Museums*, Vol. 3, Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc. Ltd., 2012, p. 28-59.

Zaretsky, Donn, "Issues Regarding Donor Intent in the Fisk-O'Keeffe Litigation," *Beyond Exhibitions and Education: A Handbook for Academic Museums*, Vol. 2, Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc. Ltd., 2012, p. 593-602.

Dean, Peter and Bradley W. Bateman, "Randolph College: A Sequel, A New Relationship and More Controversy," *Advancing Engagement: A Handbook for Academic Museums*, Vol. 2, Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc. Ltd., 2012, 182-209.

Assorted news clippings about collection deaccession ethics: Detroit, Fisk, Randolph, etc.

October 21: Dinner discussion with special guest: **Dr. Athena Hadji**, Visiting Professor, Plato's Academy (Athens, Greece) and NEON Foundation/Whitechapel Gallery Emerging Curator Award (London)

Topics: Contemporary curating, curatorial trends

Readings:

Excerpt from: Terry Smith, *Thinking Contemporary Curating*, NYC: ICI, 2012, p. 17-55, 101-138.

Hughes, Lindsay, "Do we need new spaces for exhibiting contemporary art?: A critique of curatorial practice in relation to the viewer's engagement with contemporary art," *Journal of Visual Art Practice*, Volume 4, # 1, Intellect, 2005, 29-38.

October 28: Dinner discussion with special guest: **Dr. Joy Sperling**, Professor of Art History and Visual Culture, Denison University

Topics: 20th century history of curating, the role of the connoisseur, professionalization of museum practice

Reading:

Storr, Robert, "Show and Tell," *What Makes a Great Exhibition?*, ed. Paula Marincola, Philadelphia: Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative, 2006, p. 14-31.

Jandl, Stefanie S., "The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation: Transforming College and University Art Museums in the United States," *Beyond Exhibitions and Education: A Handbook for Academic Museums*, Vol. 2, Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc. Ltd., 2012, p. 121-147.

November 4: Dinner discussion with special guest: **Dr. Denise Birkhofer**, Ellen Johnson '33 Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College

Topics: Collecting and collections management, curating from collections, contemporary art in the encyclopedic museum

Readings:

MacDonald, Sharon, "Collecting Practices," *Companion to Museum Studies*, ed. Sharon MacDonald, Wiley, 2008, p. 81-97.

Selections: Sedgwick, Michele, and Judith Rugg, eds. *Issues in Curating Contemporary Art and Performance*. Bristol, UK: Intellect Books, 2008.

Jane Rendell, "Critical Spatial Practice: Curating, Editing, Writing," p. 59-75.

Chris Dorsett, "Exhibitions and Their Prerequisites," p. 77-87.

Selections: *Collecting the New: Museums and Contemporary Art*. Bruce Altshuler, ed., Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2007.

Howard Fox, "The Right to Be Wrong," p. 15-28.

Robert Storr, "To Have and to Hold," p. 29-40.

Jeffrey Weiss, "9 Minutes 45 Seconds," p. 41-54.

November 11: Dinner discussion with special guests: **Jessica Hunter-Larsen**, Curator, InterDisciplinary Experimental Arts (IDEA) Program, Colorado College
Dr. Carolyn Allmendinger, Director of Academic Programs, Ackland Art Museum, UNC-Chapel Hill

Topics: The exhibition as learning method and pedagogical tool, connections across disciplines, collaboration

Readings:

Hunter-Larsen, Jessica, "The Curatorial Classroom: Creating Opportunities for Engaged Learning," *Exhibitions and Education: A Handbook for Academic Museums*, Vol. 1, Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc. Ltd., 2012, pp. 301-320

Allmendinger, Carolyn and Emily Kass, "Mining the Hidden Jewel: Engagement and Transformation at the Ackland Art Museum," *Exhibitions and Education: A Handbook for Academic Museums*, Vol. 1, Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc. Ltd., 2012, p. 54-87.

Crane, Susan A., "Memory, Distortion, and History in the Museum, *History and Theory*, Vol. 36, No. 4, Theme Issue 36: Producing the Past: Making Histories Inside and Outside the Academy, Dec. 1997, Wesleyan University: Wiley, p. 44-63.

Vogel, Susan. "Always True to the Object, in Our Fashion." *Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display*. Edited by Ivan Karp and Steven Levine. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991, p. 191-204.

November 21-22: Field Trip to Cleveland Area Museums

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College

Meet **Dr. Andria Derstine**, John G.W. Cowles Director, Allen Memorial Art Museum. Discussion led by **Dr. Steven Volk**, Professor of History, Director, Center for Teaching, Innovation and Excellence, Oberlin College, and **Lodewijck (Oidie) Kuijpers**, Curatorial Assistant, Office of Academic Programs, Allen Memorial Art Museum.

Topics: The Academic Museum and the Liberal Arts: strategies for engaging faculty and students across disciplines.

Cleveland Museum of Art

Self-guided tour of collections and special exhibition, *Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse*.

Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland

Meet with **Jill Snyder**, Director

Topics: The origination and evolution of the museum including its mission as a *kunsthalle* institution, fundraising, and the architectural design and symbolic import of the current structure; the role of the museum in the art ecosystem of Cleveland and in the revitalization of University Circle.

December 2: Dinner discussion with special guest: Dr. Andria Derstine, John G.W. Cowles Director, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College

Topics: The 21st century academic museum in the liberal arts institution, creativity and innovation, trends and patterns

Readings:

Stromberg, John R., "College Art Museums at the Crossroads," *Beyond Exhibitions and Education: A Handbook for Academic Museums*, Vol. 2, Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc Ltd., 2012, p. 21-35

Stromberg, John R., "Creativity and the Relevant Museum: A Proposal," *Exhibitions and Education: A Handbook for Academic Museums*, Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc. Ltd., 2012, p.21-36.

December 12-13: Field trip to Pittsburgh art museums

Carnegie Museum of Art

Museum tour with **Kim Dingess**, CMOA Senior Docent; afternoon discussion with **Catherine Evans**, Chief Curator; **Marilyn Russell**, Curator of Education; **Anna Katherine Brodbeck**, Associate Curator, and **Erin Peters**, Joint Lecturer in Curatorial Studies in History of Art and Architecture and Assistant Curator in the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

Topics: The restructuring of curatorial and education teams and new strategies for engaging diverse audiences in a public museum.

The Andy Warhol Museum

Self-guided tour of the permanent collection and special exhibition, *Warhol by the Book*, a showing of Warhol's book art extending from early illustrations to commercial work, film, and Pop art.

Mattress Factory

Tour and discussion with **Michael Olijnyk**, Co-Director.

Topics: Site-specific installations, artist residency programs, collectivist ideals underpinning art-making and exhibition, and institutional initiatives for community revitalization and rehabilitation.

Summary of Faculty Responsibilities:

- Commitment to attendance and full preparation for all seminar sessions, discussions and field trips.

Summary of Gund Gallery Responsibilities:

- Organize and manage the seminar's syllabus and course schedule; ensuring readings, materials, guest experts and other course elements are planned, announced and accessible to seminar participants.
- Provide ongoing and timely communications with and among all seminar participants.
- Distribute and clearly discuss exhibition proposal guidelines and process.