Director’s Statement

In fall 2008 we welcomed three new Conner fellowship students: Traci Lombardo, Sierra Rooney, and Carolyn Yates. All are doing well and will graduate in June 2010. Our 2007 fellowship students, Marco Antonini and Virginia Villari, graduated in June 2009. Unfortunately, due to the economic downturn, the fellowships for fall 2009 were temporarily suspended. However, negotiations are underway with a different donor to reinstate the fellowships. If the economy improves and all goes well, we may be able to offer more grants than before.

The fall 2008 semester ended with our sixth annual symposium, which addressed the theme of Museums and Civic Engagement. Organized in collaboration with NYU’s Museum Studies Program and the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, this symposium marked the second year in a row that the event was held at City College. The program is posted on our Museum Studies website.

Spring 2009 saw a new high for our program, with six MA candidates graduating: Marco Antonini, Anna Cannon, Dmitry Kyan, Darcie LaFarge, Juanita (Carolina) Valderrama, and Virginia Villari.

Our most exciting news is the promotion of Gonzalo Casals to Director of Education and Public Programs at El Museo del Barrio in April 2009. He oversees what used to be three separate departments: Education, Public Programs, and Theatre. His department is the largest in the museum, with 11 full-time and part-time arts administrators and 13 artist educators.

In addition, two of our students received prestigious grants:

Kate Moioli (MA, 2008) holds the position of Woman’s Board Fellow in Museum Education at the Art Institute of Chicago. In this two-year fellowship, she works within each division of the department of museum education: Adult, Teacher, Student, and Family and Community Programs. Kevin Miller was awarded one of two Henry Darger Study Center Fellowships offered by the American Folk Art Museum to support his research on Henry Darger, the subject of his MA thesis.

Congratulations are in order for Lise Kjaer, who now serves as a Lecturer in our Art Department. Although it was hard to lose an irreplaceable assistant, we are excited to have Lise as a full-time member of the department. She will continue to teach courses in modern and contemporary art, as well as the survey course, which she oversees.

On a personal note, I have been working with Cher Krause Knight (MA, 1992) to establish an international organization devoted to public art. Last spring Public Art Dialogue (PAD) was recognized as an affiliate of the College Art Association. Cher and I will co-edit the Public Art Dialogue, a journal that will be published by Routledge twice a year starting in 2011.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Abigail (Abby) Billings, now in California, and also adjunct lecturer Craig Houser for their help with gathering the information and editing this newsletter. Please keep your news coming! I know there have been/are more successes than we have reported here. This is your network. Please help us see it grow.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and an
ongoing successful academic year!

Harriet F. Senie
Director of Museum Studies
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Current Students

Leah T Abraha's short essay on the exhibition “Crossings: A Visual Exploration of Crisis” at the Institute for Public Knowledge can be seen as a video on: http://www.nyu.edu/ipk/ and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=891nK8hr64Q. She also presented her paper “Futurist Architecture in Eritrea” at the City College of New York Graduate Student Council Symposium held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009. Together with Ran Sharpira and Alison Stauver, as well as the invaluable assistance of Kathryn Keller and Marina Press, Abraha organized the conference “History of Photography – Where is the Future? An Interdisciplinary Exploration,” with the Graduate Art History Club of the City College of New York. CUNY hosted the spring conference on Friday, May 29, 2009, in Shepard Hall.

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Jessica Herbst has an internship working with school programs and outreach for the Education Department at the Jewish Museum.

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Since March 2008 Minjung “Minny” Lee has published 15 articles on internationally noted photographers in Monthly Photography, a Korean periodical with a circulation of 10,000. Lee completed the International Center of Photography’s one-year Documentary Photography and Photojournalism Program and participated in a group exhibition at the Pingyao Photo Festival in China in September 2008. Lee has also served as a teaching assistant for numerous courses at ICP. In February 2009, Lee was awarded a fellowship to attend Italian photographer Georgia Fiorio and French critic Gabriel Bauret’s Reflexions Master Class in Europe. In this two-year program fifteen fledgling photographers are mentored by various instructors from around the world. Since March 2009 Lee has been a contributor to Daylight Magazine’s blog offering exhibition reviews and interviews regarding photography.

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Kevin Miller continues the writing of his thesis on the self-taught Chicago-based artist Henry Darger. This year Miller was awarded one of two Henry Darger Study Center Fellowships from the American Folk Art Museum. The fellowship allows complete access to the artist’s personal archive and writings. Miller will present his research in one of the programs offered by the museum at the Outsider Art Fair here in New York in February 2010. Miller also continues to work as a freelance museum educator.

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Marina Press is the gallery assistant at DCKT Contemporary, where she completed her internship last summer.

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This past spring Sierra Rooney contributed research to the WNET project entitled World Art (Art Through Time: A Global View). Over the summer she interned at New York City’s Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art Program.

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Kameshia Shepherd interned at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, and is currently interning at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, where she will create teacher lesson plans for a past exhibition called Curtain Call. She is also working at the New-York Historical Society as a museum educator.

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This past summer Linda Stephenson worked at SUNY Purchase as the Summer Visual Arts Coordinator for Youth and Pre-College Programs in the Arts (Drawing, Painting, Sculpture and Photography). She continues to work at Purchase on a part-time basis in the Division of Continuing Education. She also works at the Katonah Museum of Art providing tours and activities for school-aged groups scheduled to visit the museum’s upcoming exhibition Bold, Cautious, True: Walt Whitman and American Art of the Civil War Era. She is an active member of the Victorian Society in America, both the metro chapter and the national organization.

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Alumni

Since graduating in May 2009, Anna Cannon (2009) has been working on the online catalog for the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, making the entire museum collection available online for researchers and the general public in 2010. Anna is working with the Russian Institute for Cultural Research to publish an article based on her thesis in the institute’s fall 2010 journal.

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This fall Marco Antonini (2009) will be teaching in Brooklyn at the 3rd Ward (www.3rdward.com) in its “Art&Ideas” program in the new spaces at 573 Metropolitan Avenue (between Lorimer and Union Streets). His lectures include “The Obsolete in Reverse: Robert Smithson and Science Fiction,” “Are We There Yet?’ The Idea of Nature and Its Historical Development in Art and Technology,” and “An Introduction to New York’s Art World.”

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Publications by Magali Kivatinetz (2003) include:


Together with E. Lopez, Kivatinetz served as education curator (2009-2011) for Tharrats’ Maulatures, which was organized by Barcelona’s County Council in agreement with the City Council of Pineda de Mar and the Tharrats’ Foundation of Graphic Art. She also wrote the education programs for the following museums: Picasso Museum of Barcelona (kindergarten and primary school), Museo Chillida-Leku (summer camp), and a curriculum guide and education sheet for the exhibition Surreal Things at the Guggenheim Bilbao.

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She relocated to Chicago last summer and participated in the Teaching Institute in Museum Education at the Art Institute of Chicago. Currently, she holds the position of Woman’s Board Fellow in Museum Education at the Art Institute. In this two-year fellowship, she works within each division of the department of Museum Education: Adult, Teacher, Student, and Family and Community Programs. Kate also works part-time at the Museum of Contemporary Art as a museum educator, giving tours to adult, student, and family groups.

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Rebekka Rudin works full-time at the Fondation Beyeler in Riehen/Basel with a one-year contract called “Volontariat,” which is a high-level internship. She is the curatorial assistant to the collections curator Ulf Kuester and has worked on the planning of the Giacometti exhibition that opened on May 30, in addition to other projects. Rudin assists guest curators with future shows, like the Basquiat exhibition opening next May. For the Giacometti exhibition catalogue, Rudin worked for the head of publications, proofreading, especially, the English edition. She also gave weekend tours at the Kunstmuseum Basel, for the large exhibition of van Gogh’s landscapes exhibition titled Between Earth and Heaven, on view through Sept. 27, 2009. Additionally, congratulations are in order to Rebekka and her husband, David, who had their first child at then end of October.

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2009 Theses

February 2009:

**Odaisy Vazquez Gonzalez:** “Amelia Pelaez’s Spaces of Femininity”

May 2009:

**Marco Antonini:** “The Obsolete in Reverse: Robert Smithson and Science Fiction”

**Anna Cannon:** “The New Perpendicular: Mikhail Mativshin’s Quest for the Art of the Fourth Dimension”

**Dmytro Kyyan:** “Reading between the Lines of Vyacheslov Tarnovetsky’s and Boris Saveber’s Photographs”

**Darcie Lafarge:** “Photography at Black Mountain College”

**Juanita Valderrama:** “Art and Violence in Colombia since 1948: Artists as Witnesses, Interpreters and Mediators”

**Virginia Villari:** “Colab DIY”