From the Director

After a very successful two-day conference, “Material Evidence/Visual Knowledge” organized by Prof. Amy Ogata, with an international array of speakers and special presentations from colleagues at the Getty Research Institute regarding the value of technical knowledge in understanding the Jackson Pollock mural recently restored there and Prof. Jennifer Mnookin of UCLA Law School on visual forensics, we have much in store as we transition to summer and fall. More than twenty doctoral students from across the university have been funded to undertake summer research projects. Other students will have the unprecedented opportunity to take one of our MDA 599 team-taught seminars, starting in July. WJT Mitchell, editor of Critical Inquiry, and Professor of English at the University of Chicago will team-teach a class at the Getty Research Institute with USC VSRI and Digital Humanities Postdoc Justin Underhill called “Atlas Fever: From the Wunderkammer to the Database.” With the increasing interest in “big data,” the VSRI is interested in taking a long view and will investigate practices of visual display that construct totalizing assemblages of multiple images, texts and objects that were created to provide comprehensive knowledge. The class will also draw on the collections of the Getty Research Institute, including its digital resources.

In what follows is lots of good news and announcements regarding the achievements of our community of scholars and students. I want to draw your attention to the fact that I will be on leave during AY 15-16 at the Cullman Center at the New York Public Library and am delighted to announce that Daniela Bleichmar will direct the VSGC and I will continue to direct the VSRI. Together, in AY 16-17, the two of us were awarded a grant from the Mellon Foundation to run a Sawyer Seminar called “Visual History: The Past in Pictures.”
Daniela Bleichmar is a specialist in the history of visual culture, knowledge production and circulation, cross-cultural exchange, collecting and display, and prints and books in the early modern world. She has published on botanical art in Enlightenment science, the connection between natural history and art collections, the history of scientific observation, and issues of geographical and cultural fluidity in early modern collecting, among other topics. She has long been involved with the VSGC and the VSRI at USC.

Professor Bleichmar is currently writing a book on Mexican colonial codices and co-curating the exhibition Visual Voyages: Images of Latin American Nature from Columbus to Darwin, to be held at the Huntington Library as part of PST2: LA/LA.

The VSRI welcomes the appointments of two new tenured faculty in Art History, Amy Ogata and Jennifer Greenhill, to USC and to the VSRI leadership. Professor Vittoria DiPalma, Architecture, joins our Advisory Committee, and Professor Macarena Gomez Barris, American Studies, joins our Executive committee.

Faculty

**David Albertson**
Religion
Currently on a Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship (ACLS) for his second book on geometrical images in early modern Christianity (under contract with Oxford UP)

**Daniela Bleichmar and Vanessa Schwartz**
Art History and History
Awarded a Mellon Sawyer Seminar for 2016-2017 for the VSRI on “Visual History: The Past in Pictures”

**Kate Flint**
Art History and English
Awarded year-long Fellowships from the National Humanities Center, the ACLS, the Georgia O'Keeffe Research Center for American Modernism, and the Huntington Library (declined)
Laura Serna  
Critical Studies  
Awarded a Fulbright – Garcia Robles Research Grant for 2015-2016 academic year

Suzanne Hudson  
Art History  
Won for her book project Better for the Making: Art, Therapy, Process: the Dedalus Foundation Senior Fellowship, a Creative Capital Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant, and a CASVA Visiting Senior Fellowship

Nancy Lutkehaus  
Anthropology  
Was awarded an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship for her project “The Met Goes Primitive: Postwar America, Cultural Politics and the Creation of the Rockefeller Wing at the MET”; was awarded a grant from the International Organization for Migration

Vanessa Schwartz  
Art History/History  
Won a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Cullman Center Fellowship at the New York Public Library, a Mellon Mentoring Award for Mentoring Post-Docs, and USC’s Associates Award for Creativity in Scholarship and Research; named the Lindbergh Chair at the National Museum of Air and Space

Amelia Jones  
Roski School of Fine Arts  
Won the Distinguished Feminist Award from the CAA

Steve Ross  
History  
Won a National Endowment for the Humanities award for his project, “Hitler in Los Angeles”

Current Students

Nadya Bair  
Art History  

Jih-Fei Cheng  
American Studies and Ethnicity  
Accepted tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Department of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Scripps College, beginning this fall

Jennifer DeClue  
American Studies and Ethnicity  
Accepted a tenure-track position in queer studies in the Program for the Study of Women and Gender at Smith College, beginning next fall
Kathryn Page-Lippsmeyer
East Asian Languages and Cultures
Won the USC Award for Excellence in Teaching in East Asian Languages and Culture

Ioana Literat
Communications
Accepted tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Teacher’s College, Columbia University; won first place (Social Sciences and Humanities) at USC’s Graduate Research Symposium

Christopher McGeorge
Art History
Awarded USC Andrew W. Mellon Digital Humanities Ph.D. Fellowship for 15 - 17

Yunji Park
East Asian Languages and Cultures
Awarded the Academy of Korean Studies Graduate Research Grant by USC

Post-docs

Gina Greene
Art History
Invited to participate in a symposium in the Historic Preservation Program at the Design School of the University of Pennsylvania called Therapeutic Landscapes: Genesis, Fate, Future.

James Thomas
Art History
Organized monographic exhibit of Robert Rauschenberg’s NASA-commissioned artworks for Stanford University’s Cantor Art Center

Samantha Burton
Art History
See publications

Justin Underhill
Art History
See publications

Recent Alumni

Jennifer Black
Holds tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of History at Misericordia University

Catherine Clark
Holds tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of French and Global Studies at MIT

Jason Hill
Will begin tenure-track position in Art History at the University of Delaware

Mark Braude
Postdoctoral fellow in the Digital Humanities at Stanford University
David Albertson  
Faculty, Religion  

Nadya Bair  
VSGC, Art History  
Chapter “Never Alone: Photo Editing and Collaboration” published in *Getting the Picture: The Visual Culture of the News* by Vanessa Schwartz and Jason Hill (Bloomsbury, 2015)

Jessica Brier  
VSGC, Art History  
“Like a Rhinestone Cowgirl: Nancy Davidson’s Funny Feminism” in the book *Nancy Davidson: Cowgirl* (Daylight Books, upcoming in June 2015)

Samantha Burton  
VSGC, Art History  


Jason Hill and Vanessa Schwartz  
VSGC Alum and Faculty, Art History/History  
Edited *Getting the Picture: The Visual Culture of the News* (Bloomsbury, 2015)

Featuring essays by USC VSGC alums: Matthew Fox-Amato, Catherine Clark, Ryan Linkof and current student Nadya Bair.
Grant Johnson
VSGC, Art History

Ioana Literat
VSGC, Communications

Tara McPherson
Faculty, Critical Studies

Avigail Moss
VSGC, Art History
Recently published review in CAA.reviews online, “Tea and Morphine: Women in Paris, 1880 to 1914,” an exhibition of prints exhibited at the Hammer

Laura Serna
Faculty, Critical Studies
Making Cinelandia: American Films and Mexican Film Culture Before the Golden Age (Duke University Press, 2014)

Justin Underhill
VSGC, Art History
“The Phenomenology of Sunset at the Palace of the Jaguars, Teotihuacan.” World Art, 4 no. 2 (2014)