Good News from the Visual Studies Research Institute

VSRI Announces Two-Year Post-doctoral Fellowship

The Visual Studies Research Institute is thrilled to announce the selection of Ellen Macfarlane for our two-year post-doctoral fellowship in the history of narrative art.

Ellen studies the history of photography and modern art, with a particular concentration on the intersection of aesthetics and politics with the visual culture of the United States from 1890-1945. She is completing her dissertation, “Group f.64 and the Politics of Pure Photography,” in the Department of Art & Archaeology at Princeton University this summer. Ellen also holds an MA from Rutgers and is a proud graduate of USC’s Class of 2006 where she majored in Art History. Her dissertation argues against the commonly held belief that this Bay Area art photography collective was not socially engaged by uncovering the group’s political activities and investigating how f.64 understood the concept of photographic objectivity to have implications in areas as far-reaching as interwar race relations, the rise of Communism, and environmental preservation. Her essay titled “Group f.64, Rocks, and the Limits of the Political Photograph” was published in the fall 2016 issue of American Art. Ellen’s dissertation has received support from The American Council of Learned Societies, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Center for Creative Photography, and the Huntington Library. Appearing in Southern California Quarterly this summer, a new essay titled “Photography and the Western Worker: Organizing Farm Labor in Early 1930s California” investigates how the communist newspaper Western Worker used narrative photographic strategies such as montage and serial imagery to present images of immigrant farmworkers and labor organizers for the purpose of rallying activist support. This new research is the basis for a next book project about the photographic aesthetics of U.S. radical periodicals from 1920-1934, which, in addition to publishing her dissertation as a book, Ellen will pursue during the postdoctoral fellowship.

2018 VSGC Summer Grant Recipients

Emma Ben Ayoun, Cinema and Media Studies
*Sick cinema: disease and disability on screen*

Danielle Charlap, Art History
*The International Cooperation Administration Abroad: Design, Technical Training, and Israel in the 1950s*
Grace Converse, Art History
*Theosophy in American visual and performing art, design, and architecture in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries*

Debjani Dutta, Cinema and Media Studies
*Tremulous Media: Nature, Technology, and the Seismic Imagination*

Amanda Jordan, Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture
*Aesthetics in & of the archive: thinking through media, collectivity, and art practice*

Jayson Lantz, Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture
*The First of Seven Lives: Exploring Chris Marker’s Archives at the Cinematheque Francaise*

Frances Lazare, Art History
*Painters and Poets in Collaboration: Tiber Press and the New York School*

Myles Little, Art History
*Slim Aarons: Photography, Privilege and the Mass Media*

April Makgoeng, Religion
*‘What the Church Can Do’: Protestant Films about Foreign Missions 1935-1970*

Zachary Mann, English
*Authors and Algorithms*

Darshana Mini, Cinema and Media Studies
*The Transnational Journeys of Malayalam Soft-porn: Obscenity, Censorship and the Mediation of Desire*

Maria Francesca Piazzoni, Policy, Planning, and Development
*From Jews to Bangladeshis. Marginalized Street Vendors in the Center of Rome, 1871 to the Present*

Steven Samols, History
*Ursula Wolff Schneider and a Transnational Jewish Spectatorship*

Jacqueline Sheean, Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture
*Pathological Cityscapes: Tracing a Modern Iberian Psychogeography through Film*

VSGC Students: Fellowships and Grants

Emily R. Anderson, Art History
*USC Russell Endowed Fellowship (2018-2019)*
*USC Graduate School Summer Grant (2018)*
*EMSI Ph.D. Dissertation Fellow (deferred until 2019-2020)*

Anirban Baishya, Cinema and Media Studies
*Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow at the Cinema and Media Studies division, USC starting Fall 2018*
Sara Bakerman, Cinema and Media Studies
Russell Endowed Fellowship from the Graduate School for 2018-2019

Jessica Brier, Art History
USC Graduate School Summer Grant
Design History Society, Student Travel Grant
Central European History Society Travel Grant

Danielle Charlap, Art History
Decorative Arts Trust Summer Research Grant

Jonathan Dentler, History
Terra Foundation Summer Residency Fellowship Award

Lauren Dodds, Art History
USC Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2018-2019)
EMSI Ph.D. Dissertation Fellow (2017-2018)

Grant Johnson, Art History
Russell Endowed Fellowship from USC
Robert Rauschenberg Archives Travel Research Award

Peter Labuza, Cinema and Media Studies
Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries Grant to Scholars from the University of Wisconsin, Madison
Everett Helm Visiting Fellowship from The Lilly Library at the University of Indiana, Bloomington

Natalia Lauricella, Art History
Fulbright Fellowship to France
Chateaubriand Fellowship

Sylvie Lydon, Comparative Studies in Literature & Culture
Gold Family Fellowship

Zachary Mann, English
USC Graduate School Summer Grant Award

Randall Meissen, History
EMSI Ph.D. Dissertation Fellow (deferred until 2018-2019)

Darshana Mini, Cinema and Media Studies
Asian Research Institute Graduate Fellow, National University of Singapore
Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)
Social Science Research Council (SSRC)

Avigail Moss, Art History
Paul Mellon Centre Research Support Grant (London)
Gold Family Fellowship
USC Graduate School Research Enhancement Fellowship, 2018-2019
Daniela Bleichmar
"Visual Voyages: Images of Latin American Nature from Columbus to Darwin" (Yale University Press, September 2017).
ACLS Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship at the Huntington Library, 2018–2019

Kate Flint
Flash! Photography, Writing and Surprising Illumination (Oxford University Press, January 2018).

Jennifer Greenhill
Joe and Wanda Corn Senior Fellow at the Smithsonian American Art Museum
Terra Foundation International Research Grant to fund research in France, Germany, Italy and the UK
John H. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising and Marketing History travel grant for research at Duke

Julian Gutierrez-Albilla
Aesthetics, Ethics and Trauma in the Cinema of Pedro Almodóvar (Edinburgh University Press, August 2017).

Tara McPherson

Steven J. Ross

Ann Marie Yasin
ACLS Fellowship for 2018-19