

SPRING SEMESTER 2009

■ ARHS 535: Collecting and Exhibiting Asmat Art

Julie Risser

Mondays, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

This course explores ethical issues that arise when “Non-Western” art is displayed in a Western context. Exhibitions of Native American Indian art, and African art will be included along with exhibitions of Oceanic art and Asmat art specifically. Students will learn about exhibitions that proved successful as well as those that became controversial. They will review the “Time and Tide: Asmat Art Of New Guinea” exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. This exhibition features objects from the American Museum of Asmat Art at the University of St. Thomas (AMAA@UST). It opens during the semester on February 14, 2009. Students will develop a theme, and a display for an exhibition by examining, selecting, and researching pieces from the American Museum of Asmat Art at the University of St. Thomas. The planned Asmat Gallery for new Anderson Student Union, means students have the opportunity to generate actual proposals on how Asmat art should be displayed on campus. The Asmat Gallery and the Anderson Student Union are slated to open in 2011.

This course fulfills the Non-Western Art core requirement.

Background Reading:

Oceanic Art, Adrienne L. Kaeppler, Christian Kaufmann, Douglas Newton; translated from the French by Kaeppler, Adrienne Lois. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1997.

Manawa: Pacific Heartbeat: A celebration of contemporary Maori & Northwest Coast art, Nigel Reading and Gary Wyatt. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre; Seattle: University of Washington Press; Auckland: Reed Books, 2006.

Asmat: Perception of Life in Art, The Collection of the Asmat Museum of Culture and Progress, Asmat Museum of Culture and Progress, Agats, Papus, Indonesia, 2002.