

ARTH facts

Vol. 8

Winter, 1994

ART HISTORY DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

Art History Department Update

The schedule of courses for next year has been completed. We are very excited about the new courses which will be offered, and have described them below. If you would like more information on these courses please contact the department at 962-5560.

Fall 1994

Art and Architecture of Colonial Mexico

The artistic context of both Pre-Columbian and Spanish cultures in Mexico from 1525 to 1700 will be investigated as a basis for understanding the art of post-conquest Mexico.

J Term, 1994

Art of Africa

This course will provide an overview of the artistic traditions of Africa. Although "African art" is often understood to mean masks and sculpture from West & Central Africa, we will also explore art from North Africa (including Egypt) and the early empires of the Sahel, and the eastern and southern regions, looking as well at architecture, textiles, ceramics, and body decoration. Lectures, readings, and independent research projects will emphasize the social contexts in which art is produced, permitting us to examine issues of gender, hierarchy, and the complex situation of contemporary artists in Africa.

Spring, 1995

Art of the Pacific Islands

The arts of the Pacific Islands combine dynamic visual impact with philosophical sophistication. This survey will set traditional and modern art of the Pacific in a cultural context, examining its role in politics, religion, and gender relations. Special emphasis will be given to the region of Melanesia and students will be encouraged to develop an area of individual expertise.

Modern Scandinavian Art

A study of 19th and 20th century Scandinavian art which was shaped by a combination of its austere peasant heritage and a veneration of successive, contemporary European styles.

Introduction to Art History I & II

The department will also begin offering two new introductory courses, 151 and 152, to replace 111. The new courses are divided chronologically around 1400 and will devote a substantial amount of attention to Asian, African and American art and the role of women in art.

Art History Department 962-5560

Mark Stansbury-O'Donnell, chair.
Sr. Johanna Becker
Susan Focke
Ed Kodet
Eileen Michels
Ginger Moraczewski
Melba Price
Mary Swanson
Bruce Tapola
Susan Webster

Noon Hour Art Videos

Enjoy a fine arts film during the noon hour. You are free to bring your lunch.

Les Silences de Manet

noon, Thurs., March 10, Murray Herrick 154

In a Brilliant Light: van Gogh in Arles

noon, Thurs., March 17, Murray Herrick 154

Paul Cezanne: The Man and the Mountain

noon, Thurs., March 24, Brady Educational Center, 101

STUDENT NEWS

The department welcomes new majors **David Clark, Micah Garber, Jacqueline McManus, Noreen Waters, and April Yarbrough**; and new minors **Karoly Burghard, Michelle Carlson, Kirsten DeBoer, Diane Ludwig, and Andrea St. Martin**.

Congratulations to **Sarah Crawford** on her acceptance to the graduate art history program at the University of Kansas.

Belated congratulations to **Jim Rebrovich** who graduated in Dec. with a minor in Art History.

Amy Schmitt is studying in Italy this semester, and **Kristi Vos** is studying in England.

Jennifer Jacobs is interning at the MIA this semester. She is working on a project with Shelley Madson. Two other majors have applied for internships for next fall. Contact Ginger Moraczewski for more information on internships - 962-5562.

The Graduate School Application Process Sarah Crawford, 1993

The Art History Department recently asked me to write an article detailing the graduate school application process. I completed the entire application process this past January and after a few weeks of rest, I am now finding the energy to write about it. I have found that applying to graduate programs can be extremely exhausting and at the same time incredibly rewarding.

The most important factor in applying to graduate programs is defining exactly what it is you hope to do. It is not enough just to want to enter a graduate program. Schools will want to know your exact career goals and how you plan to reach them. They will also want to know about any research you have completed and what research you hope to do in the future. Internships are an ideal way to gain experience and help to define career plans. Internships also illustrate dedication to the field, which graduate programs value a great deal.

The Art History Department at St. Thomas has extensive information regarding specific schools. Send for application materials as early as possible. Application processes differ greatly from school to school. The key is being organized as to what school needs what information and when. Also register to take the Graduate Record Exam early. Do not agonize over the quantitative portions of the exam. I am living proof that one can receive a low score on the math related segments and still be accepted into a competitive art history program.

My final advice is to continue foreign language courses. Reading proficiency in either French or German is normally required while pursuing a master's degree. Reading proficiency of both, or an acceptable substitute, is required for a Ph. D. Some programs let individuals take undergraduate foreign language courses while

pursuing their graduate degree. Other programs use foreign language proficiency as a prerequisite for admission.

I am thrilled to say that I am planning on attending the University of Kansas this fall, specializing in the art of the Italian Renaissance. I am indebted to the Art History Department at St. Thomas for their endless support. I also owe a great deal of thanks to Dr. Mark Stansbury-O'Donnell and Dr. Mary Swanson for their willingness to proofread my application materials and for all their wonderful advice.

What can I do with an Art History Degree...? Debra Bauer, 1992

This is a question virtually everyone who has considered the degree has asked themselves, their roommates, parents, friends and professors. I know I spent a lot of time trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life, what areas of study could help to get me there, and how many of my interests I could take along for the ride.

Many may say that Art History is not a wholly practical avenue of study, unless one chooses to pursue an advanced degree. This may be true, but an Art History degree paired with another, perhaps more "practical" major, can give one an advantage when on the career path.

I was hired by Juntunen Video, a field and post-production facility in Downtown Mpls., in Nov. of 1993. I had several years' experience in video production, as well as my degree in Telecommunications. This made me qualified for the position of assistant editor. However, two of the strongest reasons given for offering me the job were: 1) I delivered a thank-you note the same day I interviewed with the company, and 2) management was impressed with the added opportunities my knowledge of art could give to the company.

The first assignment I was given at Juntunen was on a project we edited for the Art Institute of Chicago. I was given the assignment because my knowledge of art made me the best person for the job. Currently, I am being groomed to be a full-time editor. Although there are many, many people out there who are (at the moment) better-qualified and have years more experience than I do in the business, my boss and manager both agreed that the best move for the company would be to take the time to teach me, to let me learn and grow with the company.

What most people don't realize is that Art History is a whole lot more than memorizing artist's names and dates of paintings. It's more than "art appreciation." It's understanding world history, politics, social history, chemistry, physics, mathematics, psychology, theology...in short, the human condition and all factors of human life across the centuries. It is a serious study of humanity. Many companies out there are looking for more than someone who knows the business. They are interested in people who have a little something extra that can benefit the company. An Art History degree can be (and is, in my case) the secret weapon in the job search.

The lesson here is to find your talent by looking in all the obvious places, at the things you do well and take for granted.

Denise Shekerjan

Greece and Italy in Eight Days Mary Monn and Helen Stidgir

Since I first learned of Pompeii and its history, I have been fascinated with the city and knew in the back of my mind that someday I would visit there. When my son's school trip included a stop in Pompeii and a stop in Athens, and parents or other adults were invited to travel with them, I knew this was the opportunity I had awaited. Without further ado, Helen, another Art History major, and I became part of the thirty-nine adults and teens to descend on Greece and Italy.

We knew from the start the trip would be a whirlwind vacation, but a taste of many places would make selections for longer stays in future trips easier. In all the trip included a tour of seven cities in eight days. We landed in Athens on June 10th. We would be in Greece three days. The first stop after checking into our hotel was a short walk to the National Archaeological Museum.

The National Archaeological Museum contains many ancient treasures--Kouros and Korai, bronze sculptures recovered from the sea after 2000 years, huge amphorae with red and black figure painting, Mycenaean treasures, such as a mask of gold from 1550 B.C., and The Fisherman From Thera-- and we had only one afternoon to cover the museum. It was the perfect beginning for our trip, as the artifacts from the museum set our mood for the following excursions into the history of Greece.

Athens and the Acropolis are synonymous; the majestic sight can be seen from many view points around the city. Contrary to what I had always believed, people can walk around the Acropolis and view the buildings from all sides. The white marble and stone glistened in the bright sunlight and contributed to the over all mystique of being inside an ancient center of religious life.

Our last day in Greece included a stop at Delphi before crossing the Ionian Sea to Italy. According to Greek mythology, Delphi is the center of the earth. At this "navel of the world" one of the most important ancient oracles developed. Anyone could consult the oracle after paying the tax which allowed them to offer sacrifices on the altar of Apollo. Helen walked to the top of the hill to view the ruins, while I raced through the Museum of Delphi noting which slides of statues I wanted to purchase. The bronze sculpture of The Charioteer, was a favorite of mine and had to be in my package.

Across the sea and on to Italy, we traveled by night on a ferry boat carrying tour buses, campers, and travel trailers. In the morning we were astonished to see the deck full of Moslems who had been picked up at a stop in the middle of the night. We were fascinated by their ornamentation and elaborate gold canteens. We felt like intruders as

we watched their noon ritual of praying while kneeling and facing the east.

Arriving in Italy, we drove for a day and a half over the mountains and across the country, stopping only to eat and sleep; our destination, Pompeii. Because of the individual research projects we were working on, Helen and I entered the excavated site before the rest of the group. We walked along the narrow stone and dirt roads of a past civilization whose existence was swiftly terminated in the devastating eruption of 79 A.D. The plaster casts of people frozen in their last moments of life are preserved and on display. The houses and business establishments remain empty and ghost like. With little or no furniture the wall paintings, miraculously preserved, define the space and give us a glimpse into the lifestyle of a past civilization. We spent the majority of our time in the House of Vettii, the house used in our projects. Time was definitely an enemy during our stay in Pompeii and we plan to return and see more of this amazing site.

The next major stop was Rome, with a side trip to the Isle of Capri for a glorious boat trip around the grottos and an afternoon of shopping. A day and a half to see the city of Rome and one day in Florence, the time had gone much faster than we thought it would. Once settled in our hotel, the adults wanted to walk for exercise and to get a feel for the atmosphere of a city brimming with history. The teenagers wanted to hang around the Spanish Steps, an area noted as a meeting place for visiting students from every country. We managed to see the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's, and most of the famous fountains, ruins, and sculptures one could cram into twelve hours. One of the highlights of Rome was a visit to the Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia, an Etruscan museum filled with ancient art.

At the crack of dawn the following day, we left for the city of Florence. Those choosing to stay in Rome for another day had to scramble for transportation as the public transit system went on strike.

Florence is a beautiful city. On Friday the Uffizi was closed because of the bombing, and wouldn't reopen until Sunday. However, the square full of statues, the Accademia containing Michelangelo's David and Pietas, and the Baptistry's Bronze Doors would satisfy any art lover. In spite of our age, the weather necessitated wearing shorts, so after a quick slip into our skirts we had stuffed in our purses, we toured the Cathedral and hit the flea market to shop. Show and tell on the bus brought us back to Rome for our last night.

Yes, it was a whirlwind vacation, but would we do it again? You bet!

FACULTY NEWS

Susan Webster taught a J Term course for 30 students in Spain titled *Spanish Art and Culture of the Siglo de Oro*. Kathleen Faricy, music department, assisted with the tour.

Mary Swanson will be on sabbatical in Finland and Sweden this semester.

Mark Stansbury-O'Donnell presented a paper on ekphrasis and narrative structure in Geometric art to the American Institute of Archaeology in December.

The department is preparing a final draft for a **graduate program in Art History**. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the department at 962-5560.

ACTC Faculty Research Seminars

Bring your lunch. Dessert and beverages are provided.

11:45-1:00 pm, Thurs., March 17th

Augsburg College, Student Center, Century Room

Panel discussion concerning Art History college programs.

11:45-1:00 pm, Thurs., April 21st

College of St. Catherine, AB 102

Robert Gambone, *Edward Laning: American Regionalist*

Kathleen Daniels, curator CSC Art Gallery

Exhibitions

Village Without Mirrors

Feb. 25-April 3

Brady Educational Center Gallery

Music Hath Eyes: Historic Sheet Music Revisited

April 8 - Sept.

Brady Educational Center Gallery

Imagining the Spirit in Tribal Art

Sacred Arts Festival

April 11-May 25th

O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center Atrium

Please mail your "ARTHfacts" contributions to Sue Focke, LOR302, or call. 962-5560 with your comments and ideas.

Susan Johnson - "Seized by Love",

Susan Johnson, fiction author, and a guest speaker at our Career Seminar last September has had her first novel *Seized by Love* republished in a handsome hardcover edition. The book was first published in 1979, and the new edition contains a preface explaining how things have changed since then. *The early books had a harsher sort of male hero and more passive heroines. Now, there is a real equality between them. This is a slow change that mirrors our culture.* Susan also learned that her agent has sold foreign rights to her novel "Sinful" in Russia - the only other book they have sold Russian rights to was "Scarlett."

Sande Society Mask of the Mende, Sierra Leone

Purchased with the generous assistance of Dolly Fitterman Fine Arts.



Happy St. Patrick's Day

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields and,
until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.