Eugene Larkin exhibits Works at two St. Thomas campuses

Forty New Works by Eugene Larkin are being shown by the Art Exhibition Committee in two exhibits from Oct. 1 - Nov. 24. An opening reception for Larkin was held Oct. 3 in the O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center. El Moraleda, a UST student majoring in liturgical music, played the harp – beautifully!

The Blake Series: When the Stars Threw Down Their Spears and Watered Heaven With Their Tears is a collection of 19 woodcuts based on William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience (ca. 1826). The Blake Series can be viewed in the O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center.

Watercolors and oils comprise The Erewbon Series, based on Samuel Butler's Erewbon (1872). The 21 works in this series are meant to express the human character of trees.

Venus Flytrap, Eugene Larkin

Exhibition of Paintings from Tigua, Ecuador opens Dec. 1

Daily Life and Popular Devotion in the Andes: Paintings from Tigua, Ecuador, displays 10 acrylic paintings on sheepskin that depict a wide variety of the domestic and religious activities, rituals, and processions of the indigenous Andean community of Tigua, Ecuador. Some of the paintings reflect a convergence and coexistence of traditional native beliefs and practices with imported Spanish Catholicism, although in many cases the primacy or even the presence of the latter is debatable. The paintings were produced between 1973 and 1999 by the native painters of Tigua, who have some renown in the art world of late with exhibits at the OAS in Washington, D.C., and the Berkeley Art Museum. Also included in the exhibit are several of the ritual objects depicted in the paintings, including a complete Danzante costume and headdress, a prioste faja (a wide, embroidered and highly decorated band worn by the leader of a religious procession), and several masks. A documentary video about the artists of Tigua, by a Fulbright scholar in Ecuador, complements the exhibit.

This exhibit is organized and curated by students in Susan Webster's graduate seminar, "Art and Evangelization in the Colonial Americas." A catalogue with entries on each painting will accompany the exhibit. The exhibit will open with a reception and refreshments from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, in Brady Educational Center Art Space on the St. Paul campus, and run through February 2000.

The Department of Art History Web site has been updated: http://department.stthomas.edu/ArtHist
Welcome, Billie and Christy

Billie Follensbee, Visiting Assistant Professor

Billie is a specialist in pre-Columbian art history and archaeology who comes to UST from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her dissertation, “Gender in Olmec Art and Archaeology,” explores how the physical and clothing attributes of provenienced Olmec ceramic figurines help to clarify gender in androgenous Olmec small-scale and monumental sculpture. Previously, she worked at the National Gallery of Art and at Dumbarton Oaks Center for Pre-Columbian Studies in Washington, D.C. This year, she will teach upper-level and graduate courses on gender and non-western art as well as the first half of the world art survey.

Billie’s upcoming presentations include “Costume and Gender of Olmec Figurines” as part of a symposium at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, and “Problematizing Gender in Olmec Art and Archaeology,” for which she recently was chosen as one of three speakers for the Association for Latin American Art symposium at the College Art Association’s 2000 annual meeting.

Christine Prestegard, Slide Curator, Adjunct Lecturer

Christy comes to UST with a master's in architectural history from the University of Virginia. Her thesis, “Purcell and Elmslie’s Small Minneapolis Houses: Philosophical and Contextual Issues in Progressive Design for the Middle Class,” reflects her interest in late 19th- and early 20th-century American housing, particularly that of the Upper Midwest. Prior to joining the Art History Department, Christy was a museum educator at Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, and a research historian with a Twin Cities consulting firm. Current projects include the creation and implementation of an interactive website to complement the department’s survey courses. She also teaches the second half of the world art survey.

Shelly Nordtrop-Madsen has been invited to present a paper titled, “The Cultural Identity of the Late Greenland Norse,” at Identities and Cultural Contacts in the Arctic, a conference sponsored by the National Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark, Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Shelly’s presentation examines the 14th-15th-century graveyard at Herjolfsnaes in southwest Greenland. What the costumes and methods of interment show provides evidence of continuing contact with Continental Europe long after contact was lost with the Norwegian homeland. While in Denmark, Shelly will also do research at the National Museum and confer with paleo-botanists and experts in skeletal analysis.

Congratulations to Mary T. Swanson on her promotion to full professor effective Sept. 1. Mary worked part of the summer with Barb Kock, program administrator, on fall plans and events connected with the graduate program in art history. She also received a faculty research assistance grant to survey immigration periodicals relating to patronage issues in early 20th-century American art, and studied French in evening classes at the Alliance Francaise in preparation for her tenure in spring semester 2001 as the director of St. Thomas’ liberal arts semester in Paris. During a trip to Scandinavia in late August, she met with Swedish immigration scholar Dr. Dag Blanck and Leena Ahtola Moorhouse, curator of the Athenaeum, the Finnish National museum.

Mark Stansbury-O'Donnell's book, Pictorial Narrative in Ancient Greek Art, was published by Cambridge University Press in August. Mark also taught a class, Women’s Lives in the Ancient World, at the MIA in October.

The Department of Art History Web site has been updated: http://department.stthomas.edu/ArtHist
Student News

Caroline Churchill, Jill Deedrick, Brooke Geyen and Stacy Hegg are busy assisting with slide collection development and maintenance, and helping with exhibits.

Megan Emery is in the Conservation Department of the Ireland Library working with Sheila Hague. She is learning to perform a variety of repairs on bookbindings and the basics of sewing and binding books.

Sarah Goble is interning at Intermedia Arts.

Mercedes Rhoads is spending fall semester studying in London.

Emily Rush is interning this semester in the textile department at the MIA, and is president of Art Attack, the student art club.

Alumni Update

Kelly Teske Denzer ’96 is a non-degree student in the Art History Graduate Program. Kelly is interning at the Minnesota Historical Society in the Education Publications Department.

Jean Ehling ’98 is interning at the MIA in the Education Department.

Devra Glassman ’98 is a non-degree student in the Art History Graduate Program while working on her masters in education. She participated in the President’s Council Dinner on Oct. 14, which showcased the talents and research of St. Thomas undergraduates. Devra presented her 1998 NCUR research paper to the dinner guests.

Stephanie (Hodges) Krusemark ’96 is employed by the Minneapolis Arts Commission. Stephanie was an NCUR presenter in 1995.

Heather Thimm ’98 is the assistant registrar at the Walker Art Center. She interned last spring in the Development/Membership Department at the Walker.

Chrisy Torres ’98 has been an intern at Sotheby’s Minneapolis since April.

Susan Hanson Clayton ’84, a non-degree student in the Art History Graduate Program, is interning fall semester at the Minnesota Museum of American Art in St. Paul.

Historical Society selects Mark Jensen to participate in photo-documentary

Mark Jensen has been selected by the Minnesota Historical Society to participate in Minnesota 2000, a photo-documentary that records life in Minnesota at the end of this century. He is curator of Historical Paintings and curates all exhibits at Food for Thought restaurant at the Minneapolis campus.

Historical Paintings, an exhibit of a dozen oil and watercolor paintings by Betty Beisell Vachon, was displayed through Oct. 20 in the Food for Thought. The exhibit depicts scenes from Minnesota’s Iron Range and the Twin Cities in the 1950s and 1960s.

First People Video Series

The First People series chronicles the lives of indigenous peoples living in North and Meso-Amercia before and after contact with European-Americans. The series is being shown at noon on both the St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses.

Videos in Minneapolis are in Room 450.

Ice Age Crossing and Mexico’s National Museum of Anthropology

Wednesday, Oct. 6, Room 154, Murray-Herrick Campus Center, St. Paul; Wednesday, Oct. 13, Minneapolis campus

The Maya: Temples, Tombs and Times

Tuesday, Oct. 12, Room 101, Brady Educational Center, St. Paul; Wednesday Oct. 20, Minneapolis campus

The Incas Remembered

Wednesday, Oct. 20, Room 154, Murray-Herrick Campus Center, St. Paul; Wednesday, Oct. 27, Minneapolis campus

Anasazi: Vanished Culture of the American Southwest

Tuesday, Oct. 26, Room 101, Brady Educational Center, St. Paul; Wednesday, Nov. 3, Minneapolis campus

Daughters of the Anasazi

Wednesday, Nov. 3, Room 154, Murray-Herrick Campus Center, St. Paul; Wednesday, Nov. 10, Minneapolis campus

Maria: Indian Pottery of San Ildefonso

Tuesday, Nov. 9, Room 101, Brady Educational Center, St. Paul; Wednesday, Nov. 17, Minneapolis campus

Views of a Vanishing Frontier

Wednesday, Nov. 17, Room 154, Murray-Herrick Campus Center, St. Paul; Wednesday, Nov. 24, Minneapolis campus

Indian Family in the Desert

Tuesday, Nov. 23, Room 101, Brady Educational Center, St. Paul; Wednesday, Dec. 1, Minneapolis campus

Beyond Tradition: Contemporary Indian Art and its Evolution

Wednesday, Dec. 1, Room 154, Murray-Herrick Campus Center, St. Paul; Wednesday, Dec. 8, Minneapolis campus

Beef up your Resume

Internships are available in local galleries and museums. Internship flyers are posted on the bulletin boards in Room 101, Brady Educational Center, and outside Room 301, Loras Hall. The majors and minors are also e-mailed about new opportunities. If you have questions about internships call the department, (651) 962-5560.
September Symposium Proves “There is Life After School!”
by Vanessa Rousseau

On Sept. 29, 1999, the Art History Graduate Program presented “Is There Life After School? A Symposium on Career Opportunities in the Arts.” Graduate Art History students Kelly Gage and Vanessa Rousseau moderated the event by presenting questions to six panelists from Twin Cities museums. The panel participants were: Douglas Fogle, assistant visual curator at the Walker Art Center; Bruce Lilly, director of the Minnesota Museum of American Art; Sheila McGuire, director of museum guide programs at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Thomas O’Sullivan, curator of art for the Minnesota Historical Society; Colleen Sheehy, director of education for the Weisman Art Museum; and Kris Wetterlund, director of education for the Minnesota Museum of American Art.

Prior to the event, Kelly and I formulated three questions designed to elucidate the career opportunities that are available for art historians and the kinds of credentials and experiences that are useful in attaining those positions. Audience members were also given blank cards to write additional questions, which were presented to the panel as time permitted.

The panelists’ responses were both interesting and informative. They noted that a Ph.D. is not always necessary for a museum position and stressed the importance of internship experiences as well as degrees. A few panelists also noted the value of all previous work experience, even that which is seemingly unrelated to the art field. Overall, it became clear that no two career paths are the same and the more experience we have, whether internships, volunteer work or a previous career, the better qualified we will be to find “life after school.”

Please join us for “Is There Life After School? Part II” on Feb. 24, 2000. This event will feature panelists who are working outside of traditional museum or scholastic settings.

Welcome Docents!

Four docents from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts who are now in their second year of training, applied for and were accepted by the Graduate Program in Art History for fall semester 1999. They will receive six graduate credits for their last two semesters of docent training. The four, Beth Ellwein, Florentine Goudsmit, Beverly Hedin, and Barbara Horbeck, will attend classes at the MIA and submit four seminar-length, graduate-level papers examining works in the MIA’s permanent collection. Sheila McGuire, head of docent training at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, along with the director of graduate studies in Art History at the University of St. Thomas will evaluate their work.

Art History Authors Applauded

On Sept. 22, the St. Thomas community celebrated the recent publication of books by three of our Art History graduate faculty members with a wine and cheese reception.


Welcome

Welcome graduate students Laura Miller, Vanessa Rousseau, Jennifer Vosz and Charlotte Wright. These students were admitted to the program last spring and began their course work fall semester 1999. We also welcome several new non-degree students.

Bravo, Graduate Students ...

Fellowships for the 1999-2000 academic year have been awarded to Kelly Gage, Marilyn Olson, Cathy Peters, Vanessa Rousseau and Jennifer Vosz.

Kelly Teske Denzer started an internship with the Education Publications Department at the Minnesota Historical Society in early October. Kelly is working approximately 15 hours a week through December and is utilizing her research skills working on the Minnesota Communities web project, Northern Lights sixth-grade Minnesota history textbook, and the “African Americans in Minnesota” fourth-grade curriculum kit, as well as other writing and miscellaneous duties.

Susan Hanson Clayton is interning this fall semester at the Minnesota Museum of American Art in St. Paul, assisting its curator with preparations for a Minnesota Biennial scheduled for May 2000. Susan also is spending her 15 hours per week working with the Education Director writing labels for the MMAA’s permanent collection. As a volunteer, Susan is in her fourth year as an MIA Picture Person at her son’s elementary school.

Kelly Teske Denzer’s abstract Ben Shahn and John Stewart Curry: Urban and Rural Imagery of American Life in Art of the 1930s has been accepted by the American Cultural Association for presentation at its annual meeting next April in New Orleans.

Graduate students Kelly Gage, Laura Miller, Marilyn Olson, Vanessa Rousseau and Jennifer Vosz have been awarded graduate assistantships in the Art History Department for the 1999-2000 academic year.

The Department of Art History Web site has been updated: http://department.sttbomas.edu/ArtHist
Greetings from your Graduate Rep ... Kelly Gage

Fall is upon us and we are beginning week seven of the semester at the writing of this letter. Stacks of books surround me from numerous libraries, my eyes ache from reading, my fingers cramp at the sight of a pencil, and my head is spinning with paper topics and upcoming assignments due. Sound familiar? Such is the life of a graduate student!

Please let me introduce myself again — my name is Kelly Gage and I am the 1999/2000 graduate student representative. I am a second-year student currently taking my seventh, eighth, and ninth classes. If all goes as planned I will graduate in May 2000.

My job as graduate student representative is ever evolving but at its core is the responsibility of acting as a liaison between the students and the faculty of the Graduate Art History Program. I have not heard from any of you yet beyond casual chats in class but please feel free to contact me with even what might seem to be minor questions that you do not feel comfortable broaching with one of the professors or staff at St. Thomas. I also will be calling you in the coming weeks just to check in!

A valuable asset of St. Thomas is the student body attracted by the Graduate Art History program. I have truly enjoyed getting to know the new students and getting to know the second-year students even better. I find my horizons greatly expanded through each of your personal experiences and expertise. The range of students is one of the many major benefits of this program.

As busy as things become, don’t forget to take time to enjoy what you are learning!

— Kelly

Featured faculty — Susan Verdi Webster

We welcome back to the department Susan Webster, who through the auspices of a Fulbright Grant, spent the last year on sabbatical leave.

And what a year she had! While surviving volcanic eruptions, economic disasters, political turmoil, and social upheaval during her sabbatical in Ecuador, Susan managed to conduct research in numerous local archives in Quito and Cuenca throughout the year. She also attended and photographed major religious festivals and processions in the rural areas of Ecuador and Columbia, especially those of Holy Week and the octaves of Corpus Christi.

Among many other activities, Susan presented six public lectures in the Spanish language on aspects of her research at universities and museums in the cities of Quito, Cuenca, and Guayaquil, and was interviewed by local press, television, and radio stations throughout Ecuador. She was selected by the US Embassy in Ecuador to serve as delegate and simultaneous translator for the United States’ artists at the week-long Sixth International Painting Bienale in Cuenca. She also helped to inventory and register more than 5,000 works of paintings and sculpture belonging to the newly formed Museo Casa San Francisco in Quito.

As a cultural guide, Susan led a three-week tour of 18 Minnesotans to religious and archaeological sites throughout Ecuador. All told, she shot more than 40 rolls of 36-exposure slide film, which will serve for research purposes and to illustrate future publications as well as for future courses and seminars on colonial Latin American visual culture. Whew!

Susan will take on the duties of director of graduate studies with our graduate program beginning spring semester 2000.

Questions?
Questions about the Art History graduate program?
Call the graduate office, (651) 962-5640.

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Art Attack

Art Attack, a group of students interested in art, recently got together for pizza and to plan their fall events. They will visit the Chagall and Restoration of a Masterwork exhibits at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts in October. On Nov. 5 they will tour the Chokwe exhibit at the MIA with Joe Horse Capture. The group is planning a service project in conjunction with Mark Stansbury-O'Donnell’s methodology class.

You don’t need to be an art history major or minor to join or to attend Art Attack events. Please call Emily Rush, (651) 644-7135, or e-mail her, emrush@stthomas.edu, for more details.

Exhibit Schedule 1999-2000

**Forty New Works by Eugene Larkin**
Woodcuts and Mixed Media
Oct. 1-Nov. 24

**The Blake Series**
O’Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center, St. Paul campus

**The Erewhon Series**
Minneapolis Campus, second floor Art Space Gallery

Sacred Arts: Prints and Drawings by Mary Griep: The French Cathedral Series
Nov. 1-17
St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity
*Artist’s Reception and Guided Tour*
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 8

Hans Christian Andersen: His Life, Works and Travels in the 19th Century
Dec. 1-Jan. 4, 2000
O’Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center, St. Paul

Daily Life and Popular Devotion in the Andes: Paintings from Tigua, Ecuador
Dec. 1-Feb. 29, 2000
Brady Educational Center Art Space Gallery, St. Paul
*Reception:
4-5 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 1

Frank Schreiber: Earthprocess
March-May, 2000
O’Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center, St. Paul

Wednesday Afternoon: Textiles
February-May, 2000
Minneapolis Campus, second-floor Art Space Gallery

**ACTC Art Crawl**
1-4 p.m. Thursday, March 16
Visit the exhibits at our neighboring schools (UST, Hamline, Augsburg and the College of St. Catherine).

*For directions and more information call (651) 962-5560.*

Undergraduate
J-term and Spring Course Offerings

**J-Term 2000**

* Study Abroad
  * ARTH 152: Intro II in Paris, Florence
  * # ARTH 291: Converging Cultures in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula

**Offered at UST**
* ARTH 159: Principles of Art History
* # ARTH 286: Women’s Art in Cross Cultural Perspective
* ARTH 305: Greek Art and Archaeology

**Spring 2000**
* # ARTH 151: Intro to Art History I
* # ARTH 152: Intro to Art History II
* ARTH 330: Churches/Mosques
* ARTH 347: Golden Age of Spain
ARTH 490: Scandinavian Art

* Fulfills the fine arts requirement
* Fulfills human diversity requirement

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