

**FALL 2006**

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**A NOTE from the DIRECTOR**

**Stephen Brockmann, Acting Director**

This has been a very busy semester for the Center for the Arts in Society. As most of you know by now, we received a visit from an outside advisory board November 2-3. The advisory board consisted of Joe Roach (Yale University), John Roberts (Ohio State University), and Terry Smith (University of Pittsburgh). The mission of the advisory board, as formulated by deans John Lehoczky of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Hilary Robinson of the College of Fine Arts, was to evaluate and assess new initiatives in the arts and humanities at Carnegie Mellon, with a primary focus on initiatives combining the arts and humanities. Because of a mission that was defined as being broader than simply evaluating the Center for the Arts in Society, CAS staff found themselves, in September and October, preparing an extensive briefing book that included information not just on CAS, but on other arts and humanities initiatives at Carnegie Mellon. Preparing this briefing book, as well as planning for and scheduling the advisory board visit itself, proved to be quite a challenge and required a good deal of staff time. However, my

perception of the advisory board visit is that it went quite well, and that the advisory board members were genuinely interested and excited by the increasingly vibrant atmosphere for the arts and humanities at Carnegie Mellon. I do not expect or want a report that is without criticism, but I am cautiously optimistic that we will receive a constructively critical report that takes cognizance of the tremendous strides that have been made in the arts and humanities over the last five years. We expect to receive a report from the advisory board in December.

The fall semester has also witnessed the trial run of Ting Chang’s new Critical Histories of the Arts course (64-100), which has a very large enrollment of over one hundred students. Thanks to help from the English Department, Kathy Newman, and Kristina Straub, Ting has been able to get adequate TA support for this course, which is required for all freshmen in the College of Fine Arts. This course is a brave new experiment in rethinking and reformulating the pedagogy of art history for Carnegie Mellon’s undergraduates, and by all accounts it has been going quite well. Next semester Ting will offer the course again, this time with an even larger enrollment of 160; we anticipate that there will be twenty H&SS students taking the course as an elective next semester, fulfilling one of the General Education requirements.

Our three fellows—Susan B. A. Somers-Willett, Soyang Park (shared with the Humanities

Center and History Department), and Carl DiSalvo (shared with the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry)—are now settled in, and we hear that their course are going well. All three fellows have given brief presentations on their research at the monthly CAS lunch meetings, and they are set to give more formal presentations in the spring semester. Student response to the fellows' courses has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, Susan Somers-Willett organized a remarkably successful poetry reading by Patricia Smith, an award-winning poet, which occurred in the Hunt Library on November 9, with a very large, enthusiastic—and diverse!—crowd. This is the kind of diverse, artistic, and socially relevant event that I personally would love to see a good deal more of at Carnegie Mellon, and it is a genuine contribution that CAS is making to the climate of dialogue about diversity and the arts on campus.

The Center continues to explore the possibility of hosting another major conference, probably in the fall semester of 2008 to coincide with the next Carnegie International. Conversations in the Center have revolved around the possibility of a conference dealing with aspects of public art and current art practices. It is likely that we will set up a committee to plan and organize such a conference in the spring semester.

Last but not least, the Center's student affiliates group, CASSA, has been particularly active this semester, and we expect that a number of CASSA members will attend our December CAS lunch meeting to report on their

activities. Of particular interest is the photography exhibit on tolerance and intolerance on campus November 13 - December 8, which includes a campus discussion on November 29 about the issues raised by the photographs. We very much look forward to this exhibit, and to the public discussion about it, which we hope will do much to further discussion of tolerance and its value at Carnegie Mellon. This is a good example of art intervening in society in a constructively critical way, and we are excited that CASSA's students have led the way in seizing this opportunity.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Academic Programs Tim Haggerty, Chair

Elaine King is on leave; Bruce Hanington is the acting co-chair. We are getting the Fellows' courses registered and gathering a list of courses for the minor. Discussion is opening up about some kind of graduate certificate. What would be appropriate for us to offer? The minor curriculum has been successful as a six-course sequence, and it has focused on the University's strengths.

### Arts Histories, Liz Bradley, Chair

Ting Chang, and the new arts histories course have been a success. The committee will meet again at the end of the fall term.

## Archive of Controversy Andreea Ritivoi, Chair

The committee is mostly research oriented at present; the main goal is to cover and document cases of arts controversies in national and international contexts. Medium/format: the web is being used to present the cases, using visual models—this semester Miso Kim and David Tinapple worked with Suguru Ishizaki on the web content. After seeing the website, the BBC contacted the Committee to consult about a show being produced on art controversy.

We will be applying for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in April 2007, and have applied for a Getty Collaborative Research Grant.

We are now moving on to a fourth case of controversy—12 films banned in 1965 by East Germany. This will be a litmus test showing how art can be considered subversive. For more information, check out the webpage <http://archiveofcontroversy.com/>

## Project Grants, Jim Duesing, Chair

The CAS Grant Committee met and refined the RFP for distribution this year. The deadline for applications is February 16<sup>th</sup>, with grants announced March 30<sup>th</sup>. For the RFP, see <http://www.hss.cmu.edu/cas/content/Research.htm>

## Speakers and Fellows Terese Tardio, Chair

The Patricia Smith Poetry Reading, held November 9<sup>th</sup>, was a resounding success, even exceeding expectations. The Ricardo Miranda Zuñiga talk on November 28<sup>th</sup>, co-sponsored with the School of Art Lecture Series, was thought provoking and well attended.

We are currently accepting applications for post-doctoral fellows for 2007-08; the deadline is January 19<sup>th</sup>. This year, thanks to Anna Houck, the applications are available online <http://www.hss.cmu.edu/cas/content/Fellow.htm>

## PUBLIC ARTS WORKSHOP

### Jon Klancher, Chair

The CAS Public Art Research Workshop began this fall under the direction of Professor Jon Klancher of the English Department. Since the 1980s, public art—in its social, historical, political and collective manifestations — has become a topic of concern across the arts, and has increasingly interested scholars in a variety of fields in the humanities and social sciences as well as the arts. This Workshop is oriented to individual members' research fields and to a cross-disciplinary dialogue. There are participants from CMU and University of Pittsburgh faculty as well as representing a wide range of disciplines and such special research projects as the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry.

During fall semester 2006, the workshop has been meeting on the first Monday of every month, 4:30-6:30 in Baker Hall. On November 6, Professor Klancher provided an overview of public-art controversies since the mid-1960s. On December 4, Professor Terry Smith of the History of Art & Architecture at Pitt will present new readings and topics on how “public art” is undergoing transformation into wider social, aesthetic, and political agendas and practices. Anyone interested in joining the Workshop can contact Jon Klancher at [jonklancher@cmu.edu](mailto:jonklancher@cmu.edu) for future meetings. The Workshop will meet in February, March, and April in Spring 2007, and it is expected to run through the spring of 2008.

## CENTER PROJECTS

### Arts Greenhouse Matt Sware, Project Coordinator

The Arts Greenhouse program provides high school and middle school students in Pittsburgh an opportunity to develop music and spoken word skills through an ongoing series of workshops and recording sessions with local artists. Utilizing the musical genre of Hip-Hop, it engages area youth to develop their self-confidence and teaches real world skills through the creative process of making music. Workshops for 2006-07 are underway with Luqman Salaam and James Brown and 10-15

community youth learning about spoken word poetry, lyrics, beat making, and the history of hip hop. Many of the students in this session are singers, and we are seeking voice coaches to give them some pointers. For more information, or if you know a middle or high school student who would like to become involved, please contact Matt Sware at [mswire@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:mswire@andrew.cmu.edu).

### Take Back the Hill Andrea Maresca, Project Coordinator

Take Back the Hill is a project in which Hill District teens meet artists, journalists, political leaders, poets and creative writers from Pittsburgh, and learn about photography, poetry, activism, writing editorials, and cartooning in after-school workshops. We are just going to press for the fifth issue, with history major Andrea Maresca coordinating its publication. Once it is printed, it will be distributed across the Hill District, CMU and Pitt campuses. We are seeking Carnegie Mellon students for Spring 2007 to be workshop leaders for internship or independent study credit. Funding for the project this year has been provided by the Maurice Falk Fund. If you would like more information about this project, please contact Krista at [kcampbell@cmu.edu](mailto:kcampbell@cmu.edu).

## 2006-07 FELLOWS

### Carl DiSalvo Joint Fellow with the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry

Carl's current research focuses on the design and use of emerging technologies for community representation, expression, and action. The research is in two parts. One: Lawrenceville—one of fastest growing neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, especially of non-western immigrants—is a neighborhood in transition. Lawrenceville United—a local neighborhood group has implemented a program to catch delinquents by using motion-sensing video cameras placed in homes. He is exploring the issues of using robotic surveillance and the effect on privacy and activism. Two: He is developing a relationship with a Homewood neighborhood group, and looking into how citizens keep track of and monitor their community. A series of workshops will provide community members with knowledge of technology and help to empower them to ask for things from the city.

A research talk is scheduled for April 4.

### Soyang Park Joint Fellow with the Humanities Center and History Department

Soyang's current project builds on her previous research on the aesthetics of transference, its communicative aesthetic

formation in relation to the subject of the repressed and marginalized. She investigates this dimension as manifested through unexplored dimensions of the *minjung* (grassroots and people's) art movement. Her essays focus on a close investigation and theorization of particular manifestations of postcolonial aesthetics through work of *minjung* artists and Choi Jeong Hwa that interact with the political, intellectual and philosophical of the postcolonial period which are concerned with the issue of trauma, the sense of loss and reconstruction of community.

She investigate the further returns of historical trauma and the irremovable remains of memories of the past that reshaped the political and cultural landscape of Korean society after the installation of the new civil government (1993- ). She argues that this process marked an inevitable move for the Korean community towards democratic and ethical consolidation, coming out of the long political authoritarianism that incapacitated the grassroots' democratic expression and distorted the public sense of justice.

Her research talk is February 8.

### Susan B.A. Somers Willett CAS Fellow

Susan was thrilled that CAS could bring poet and performer Patricia Smith for a visit on November 9. Her visit to Susan's class and

performance in the Hunt Library electrified CMU students and attracted visitors from all other Pittsburgh-area universities.

In addition to participating in events on campus, Susan did a reading at the Gist Street Reading Series, conducted a poetry and performance workshop with the University of Pittsburgh Writers' Café, and was a featured guest on WYEP's Prosody broadcast. She is scheduled to give a poetry reading/performance as part of the Creative Writing Program's Reading Series on Monday, February 12, as well as a public talk about her research on Wednesday, March 21.

Her poetry is appearing in *Painted Bride Quarterly* and *The Iowa Review* this semester, and was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She recently completed a draft of a second book of poetry, "Quiver," about the science and mathematics of beauty, and has begun research on a new book of poetry about the cultural history of photography.

On the critical front, an article, "Def Poetry's Public," appeared in the latest issue of *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*. She is working as a contributing editor for *RATTLE* magazine's tribute issue celebrating the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the poetry slam and will write the introduction for the issue, forthcoming in summer of 2007.

## MEMBER NEWS

### Memo on Member News Andrea Hamilton, Project Assistant

In addition to the *Member News* section of the E\*Newsletter, CAS has two new venues to showcase member highlights. A dedicated page on the CAS website for Center Member Projects can be found at <http://www.hss.cmu.edu/cas/content/MemberProjects.htm>. Members who wish to have their projects appear on the site may contact Anna Houck at [am2x@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:am2x@andrew.cmu.edu).

In addition, Krista and I are working on a new CAS display case design, located on the second floor of Baker Hall near the History Department. We will begin displaying recent works by members, including book covers of recently published volumes, exhibition posters, film screening and guest lecture posters. We will send out a call for submissions in the spring for the new display case.

### Andrew Johnson Associate Professor, Art

Andrew Johnson will have several works reproduced including the cover art in Hayden's *Ferry Review* 39 - Works of Witness, Fall/Winter 2006-07 published in February 2007 by Arizona State University Press.

**Stephen Brockmann**  
**CAS Acting Director and Professor,**  
**Modern Languages**

Stephen Brockmann's new book "Nuremberg": The Imaginary Capital is a broad study of German cultural and intellectual history since 1500, with a particular emphasis on the period from 1800 to the present. The book explores the ways in which Germans, over the past two centuries, have imagined Nuremberg as a cultural capital, focusing feelings of national identity and belonging. "Nuremberg": The Imaginary Capital analyzes the way in which a particular city came to be seen, in Germany and elsewhere, as representative of the national whole. The book seeks to go beyond the analysis of particular historical epochs by showing the way in which, in Nuremberg, various epochs and their discourses built on previous epochs and discourses; thus German cultural and intellectual history is shown as an intelligible unity, centered on fascination and veneration for a particular city. For more information, please visit the book's website:

<http://www.boydell.co.uk/www.camden-house.com/nuremberg1.htm>

**Elaine A. King**  
**Professor, Art History and Theory**

Elaine A. King has a new book, *Ethics and the Visual Arts*, co-edited with Gail Levin, and published by Allworth Press. An anthology of 19 diverse essays by distinguished authors—

including Eric Fischl, Suzanne Boettger, Stephen Weil, Richard Serra, and others—it covers a broad range of urgent topics facing today's artists, policy makers, art lawyers, galleries, museum professionals, and many others. Readers will find expert insights to matters such as preserving Iraqi heritage in the aftermath of the US invasion; the role of new media; art and censorship; the impact of 9/11 on artists; authenticity and forgeries; cultural globalization; fair use; how tax laws encourage donations of art to museums; where people buy art, from online sources to art galleries and auction houses; how art critics function and their differing ethical codes; and much more.

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**

Please contact:

Krista Campbell  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
5000 Forbes Ave, Baker Hall 240  
Pittsburgh PA 15213  
412.268.5279  
kcampbell@cmu.edu  
[www.hss.cmu.edu/CAS](http://www.hss.cmu.edu/CAS)