



ARLIS/New York News

The Newsletter of the Art Libraries Society of North America/New York Metro Chapter

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Fall 2005

Election Results

Chapter Secretary Tony White reports the results of the recent election for new chapter officers for 2006:

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: Zimra Panitz

Treasurer: Meg Black

Member-at-Large for Membership: Eric Wolf

53% of the ballots were returned by the stated post mark deadline. (105 of the 198 ballots sent out.)

Hearty congratulations to our new officers, and to the other candidates who ran, Holly Hatheway and Charlotte Priddle.

Holiday Party

The annual ARLIS/NY holiday party will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 6–8pm. Our venue this year is sure to delight. The Accompanied Library at the National Arts Club is an intimate private library and writers' club located on beautiful Gramercy Park.

15 Gramercy Park South, Studio 6C

212-979-5313 <http://www.accompaniedlibrary.com>

Subway: 6, N, R to 23 St.

Bus: M1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 101, 102, 103 to 20 St.

From lobby, proceed to rear of building. Take elevator to 6th floor. Please use the lobby coat room. Please arrive by 6.30pm.

Light refreshments and drinks will be served.

The Accompanied Library would welcome the gift of an unusual book: literature or nonfiction, preferably hardcover.

RSVP to jennifer_tobias@moma.org.

Editors' Note

By James Mitchell and Alexandra de Luise

Some of you may have noticed that the Fall issue was not sent out at its regular time. Due to unfortunate production difficulties we were delayed with that issue, and have had to combine it with coverage of more recent events in this issue.

Our 2005 Chapter Chair, Ken Soehner, has done such an outstanding job of organizing interesting and informative programs this year, we have barely been able to keep up. Included in this issue are reports on many of the events from the summer and fall. We regret that we were not able to also report on the RLG presentation at the Metropolitan in October, and the tour Tony White organized at Yale last month, featuring his exhibition "Production not Reproduction: the History of Offset Printed Artists' Books."

We are looking forward to another eventful year in 2006. Our thanks again to Ken for his tremendous work as Chair, with hopes that he will continue to assist as unofficial Entertainment Coordinator next year.

Inside this issue:

Reports on recent events, including:

Artists' Books Conference at Wellesley College

Pratt students summer in Florence

Chapter visits to the Knoedler Gallery, ICP, the Brooklyn Museum, and more.

And Member News!

2004 ARLIS/NY Executive Board

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Karyn Hinkle, Viktoria Paranyuk, Amy Schwarz, Jenny Tobias, Tony White.

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Send renewals, changes of address, and contributions to Erin Elliott, Membership Coordinator, ARLIS/NY, Bard Graduate Center, 38 West 86 St, New York, NY 10024.

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The New Museum of Contemporary Art

On September 7th ARLIS members were treated to a reception and special viewing of "Point of View: A Contemporary Anthology of the Moving Image," a DVD box set featuring new art works by 11 contemporary international artists. Our thanks to Ceci Moss, Point of View Sales Director at the New Museum, and to Lauren Cornell, Executive Director of Rhizome.org, who spoke on the concurrent exhibition, "Rhizome Artbase 101." And to all of the staff of the museum who helped welcome us to Chelsea.

For information on DVD sales, contact Ms. Moss at cmoss@newmuseum.org.



Still from Francis Alys' *El Gringo* (2003), part of "Point of View."

Image courtesy of the New Museum of Contemporary Art.



Mark di Suvero in the library at the Knoedler Gallery.



Suzanna Simor spins the art.

Photos by James Mitchell

Mark di Suvero at Knoedler's, July 14

By James Mitchell

On July 14 a large but indeterminate crowd of ARLIS librarians and their friends braved the heat and humidity to visit the venerable Knoedler Gallery on East 70th Street for a special viewing of their exhibition "Mark di Suvero: Indoors." It was well worth the effort. The artist himself was present, and spoke to the guests after a short tour of the gallery's library.

Edye Weissler, librarian, and Ann Freedman, President of Knoedler & Company, hosted the event. Edye graciously led some members through the upstairs library — a curious and utterly charming warren of rooms that somehow did not seem to have been designed originally to house a library. After Edye's description of the history of the gallery, and the library's current operations and collections, Mr. di Suvero joined us to talk about his work and his love of libraries. He cheerfully took questions from the crowd, and mentioned that his daughter has recently expressed an interest in becoming a librarian. Surely an appropriate internship could be found for her.

The artworks displayed on the main floor were quite wonderful. This author was not already very familiar with di Suvero's work, but was fascinated by the smaller, intricate sculptures. Thick twisted sheets of metal seemed to have been torn by hand into intricate shapes, with carefully balanced spinning pieces. We greatly enjoyed the rare opportunity to "touch the art." There was one mishap when one of the works fell off its axis, but no one seemed to mind terribly. So the party continued.

Sparkling and white wine were provided, as well as complimentary copies of the exhibition catalogue. We were also pleased to welcome Roberto Ferrari, recently arrived from Florida, as a new ARLIS/NY chapter member.

Photos on page 2.

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Artists' Books as Catalyst

By Tony White

Artists' Books Conference

Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts. June 15–18, 2005

From June 15–18, 2005, Wellesley College hosted the Artists' Books Conference (ABC), bringing together librarians, artists, curators, private collectors, professors and book dealers. Over 200 people attended this four-day event that covered topics such as collecting artists' books, the business of artists producing these books and related pedagogical aspects of this genre.

This is at least the third independently organized conference on artists' books to be held in the past two years. Wells College in Aurora, New York, organized a symposium titled "Matter & Spirit: The Genesis & Evolution of the Book," held from April 29–May 2, 2004. More recently, the Southern California Chapter of the Art Libraries Society of North America organized a conference held in Los Angeles, from May 21–24, 2005: "Artists Books: Creating, Collecting, Cataloging, Conserving, Collaborating." At ABC, less emphasis was placed on critical analysis of topics; rather, most presentations retained an informal, conversational style that aided in sharing ideas and comments. Major issues were raised about the current genre of artists' books, the lack of critical writings about it and the profound challenge of expanding the artists' book community.

The opening keynote speaker, Betty Bright, founded the Minnesota Center for the Book Arts (MCBA) in 1985. Her book *No Longer Innocent: the Book Arts in America, 1960 to 1980* will be published by Granary Press in September 2005. Bright's presentation, "To Have and To Hold: Why We Need Book Art," focused on historical aspects of private and institutional collecting in this country and the role of librarians and curators. She discussed the formation of early institutional library collections, notably those at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Atlanta College, the Museum of Modern Art and Virginia Commonwealth University. Bright divided the history of artists' books into four categories: fine press, deluxe editions, sculptural books and multiples. Increased awareness of archival materials in the production of artists' books was a noted topic of discussion.

The panel "Collecting in Private and Public Institutions" was moderated by Sandra Kroupa of the University of Washington, Seattle. The panelists represented both private and public institutional libraries, including Claremont College, Rhode Island School of Design, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Boston Public Library. The significance and unique role of artists' books as pedagogical tools that are essential for students and faculty engaged in all areas of art, design, writing and architecture was noted. The panel "Private Collecting" was moderated by Sidney Berger, a faculty member at Simmons College in Boston and a private collector of artists' books. The two panelists, Robert Ruben of New York City and Duke Collier of Cambridge, MA, entertained the audience with PowerPoint presentations that described their personal motivations as collectors, and their relationships with artists, dealers and curators. Other elements discussed included managing budgets and how or if they make their collections available to others for exhibition.

Participants on the "The Business of Artists' Books" panel included Julie Chen, an independent book artist, Emily Larned, a representative from the art collective Brooklyn Artists Alliance and Cynthia Imperatore, an independent bookseller. The moderator, Suzy Taraba of Wesleyan University, asked questions regarding how prices and edition sizes are set, what marketing strategies are used and what professional relationships are preferred and why (for example: artist/dealer, artist/librarian, dealer/librarian). The panel "Education in the Book Arts" included Steve Miller from University of Alabama as moderator and panelists Ken Botnick, Kitty Maryatt and Terry Chouniard who all teach and work at educational institutions. It was noted that most students lack a thorough background in typography, lettering and calligraphy.

The last day of the conference included a closing keynote presentation by Mark Dimunation, Chief of the Rare Book and Special Collection Division of the Library of Congress, titled "What Will Next Prove a Rose: The Thorny Side of Building the Nation's Collection of Book Arts," a discussion about the challenges of collecting, preserving and providing access to artists' books.

The conference committee took the opportunity to give special recognition to Claire Van Vliet, a pioneer book artist who made her first artist book in 1955 under the Janus Press imprint. As a conference keepsake, an accordion book that listed all Van Vliet books was presented and commissioned by Ruth Rogers, Special Collections Librarian of Wellesley College, and made by Jan Owen.

This essay first appeared, in a slightly different form, in *Afterimage* magazine. It is reproduced here by permission.

ARLIS/NY Visits ICP

By Amy Schwarz

The International Center of Photography (ICP) treated ARLIS/NY members, on August 22nd, to a private viewing and presentation of the exhibition, “The Open Book: Photography in Book Form, 1870 – Present.” Around 50 people attended—pretty impressive considering many members were away on summer vacation. ARLIS/NY President Ken Soehner introduced the hosts of the event, Deirdre Donohue, librarian, and Christopher Phillips, senior curator, at ICP.

Mr. Phillips began by pointing out the reverse chronology in the arrangement of photography books to complement the lower floor exhibition, “Young America. The Daguerreotypes of Southworth & Hawes.” A traveling exhibition, “The Open Book” presented photography in book form by international artists, selected by an international jury, under the curator, Ute Eskildsen of the Folkwang Museum in Essen, Germany. Due to space, ICP showed 130 of the original 175 works exhibited. The catalog and text were prepared by Andrew Roth, and published by a major contributor to and co-presenter of the exhibition, the Hasselblad Center in Göteborg, Sweden. (The catalog sells for \$49.95 at ICP’s outstanding bookstore on photography.)

Mr. Phillips explained the selection of photo-books based on originality and content, reproduction quality and graphic layout, jacket design and binding. The books opened to the pages reproduced in the catalog, with a few exceptions chosen by the curator. He described the installation process at ICP: placing each book in a cradle to support the binding, putting together plexiglass display cases, and manipulating lighting to the best advantage. Wall labels were economically made with plain sheets of paper loosely attached to the walls, suggesting pages from a book.

Several artists’ works were individually displayed in cases, such as: Ed Ruscha’s running pictorial narrative, *Every Building on the Sunset Strip*; Nobuyoshi Araki’s rare editions of self-published photocopied books; Hans-Peter Feldman’s self-designed and published photo-books of ordinary, familiar scenes in life; and my favorite, El Lissitzky, the Russian constructivist painter whose book *Industry of Socialism*, with beautifully embossed covers, satisfied Stalin’s propaganda requirements of the 1930s. Many renowned and less familiar photographer/artist’s works were exhibited. With time to chat and consume the generous reception spread, the evening at ICP closed with plans to return.



Curator Christopher Phillips discussing some of the photo-books in a display case with ARLIS/NY members.

Watercolor drawing by Jenny Tobias.

ARLIS/NY Fall 2005 Business Meeting

Reported by James Mitchell

The chapter met for its annual business meeting in the South Court of the NYPL Humanities and Social Sciences Library on October 24, 2005.

We were warmly welcomed by Clayton Kirking, Chief of Art Information Resources at the library, followed by introductory remarks by Chapter Chair Ken Soehner.

Erin Elliot reported on membership:

200 total members this year, up by 9 from 2004, and from only 133 in 2003.

This now includes 24 students, up from 12 last year; thanks especially to the recruitment efforts of Ken Soehner and Tony White, who are each teaching a section of the Art Librarianship class at the Pratt Institute. There are also a few student members from the library studies programs at Queens College and Rutgers.

Three new members in attendance introduced themselves, including Francine Snyder, Manager of the Library and Archive at the Guggenheim Museum.

Past-Chair Judy Connorton presented the Treasurer's report, subbing for Caitlin Kilgallen, who is on maternity leave. Current balance is \$11,688.67.

Vice Chair Jenny Tobias announced the candidates for open chapter offices.

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: Zimra Panitz [unopposed]

Treasurer: Meg Black and Holly Hatheway

Member-at-Large for Membership: Charlotte Priddle and Eric Wolf

The floor was opened for additional nominations, and none were received. If no more are received by Jenny by [soon], ballots will be mailed as such to all chapter members.

Jenny also mentioned that the board is considering proposing a bylaws revision to allow electronic voting. If so, it will be announced at next year's business meeting.

Ken Soehner returned to the podium to announce the few remaining chapter events for the year:

RLG representatives will make presentations at the Metropolitan Museum tomorrow morning on their arts-related databases and projects.

Tony White is organizing a trip to Yale to see his exhibition of offset-printed artists books, on Nov. 19.

The holiday party will be held Dec. 7 at the Accompanied Library in the National Arts Club building.

From the floor, AnnaMaria Poma-Swank also offered to host ARLIS members at an event at The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, at Columbia University's Casa Italiana, where she is the librarian.

Jenny Tobias concluded the program with a short presentation on images of librarians in contemporary TV ads. Though most were from Europe, the use of traditional stereotypes made their messages more than clear. Librarians continue to be popularly portrayed as musty, old, slow, and desirous of silence. Young people hopped up on sugary treats continue to shake things up.

Followed by wine and cheese, and sandwiches, graciously hosted, and bartended, by Clayton Kirking, with a little help from Sharon Chickanzeff. Our thanks to them.

Pratt SILS in Florence

By Viktoria Paranyuk

For three weeks, May 28 to June 18, 2005, I attended the summer institute entitled “Florentine Art and Culture: Resources and Documentation” in Florence, Italy, offered by the School of Information and Library Science of Pratt Institute. The program was conceived and developed by AnnaMaria Poma-Swank, Adjunct Associate Professor at Pratt-SILS and Librarian at the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, with the participation of Tula Giannini, Acting Dean of Pratt-SILS. It was developed in collaboration with Antonio Paolucci, Soprintendente per I Beni Artistici e Storici di Firenze, Pistoia e Prato, Claudio di Benedetto, Director of the Uffizi Library, and Antonia Ida Fontana, Director of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze.

Fifteen participants, who came from different parts of the country, represented working academic, public, and special librarians as well as library and art history students. The intensive schedule consisted of lectures, seminars, and tours of libraries, archives, and museums in the morning and afternoon. Each day offered discovery and intellectual stimulation. The students had the privilege of hearing lectures from eminent professionals in the field of librarianship and museum research; among them were Claudio di Benedetto, Director of the Uffizi Library, Sabina Magrini from Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, and Beatrice Paolozzo Strozzi, Director of Museo del Bargello.

All students received access to the major research libraries, including Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, the Library of Bernard Berenson’s Villa I Tatti, and the Uffizi Library. The participants were also issued passes for the duration of the course that allowed free admission to any of the state museums of the Firenze Musei network. Thanks to AnnaMaria’s close associations with her distinguished colleagues in Florence, the group gained entrance to places that ordinary tour groups do not see. Two such examples were the walk, guided by architect Antonio Godoli, through the Corridoio Vasariano with its magnificent collection of self-portraits and the comprehensive tour of the private rooms of the Medici in the Palazzo Vecchio led by a young art historian. During the weekends the students worked on their own projects, which consisted of researching artworks or topics in the history of art of Florence.

In addition to the regular program, this year the course sponsored several very special events. Among them were the visit to the Museo degli Argenti at the Pitti Palace to see the exhibition “Maria dei Medici, Florentine Princess on the Throne of France” accompanied by a talk given by Director Dr. Ornella Casazza, the lecture by Director Paolo Galluzzi at the Museo di Storia della Scienza, the viewing of the exhibition “Michelangelo and Vittoria Colonna” at Casa Buonarroti under AnnaMaria’s expert guidance, and the excursion to and tour of Casa Editrice Giunti, the oldest publishing house in Italy.

The group stayed at Hotel Bonifacio located in a quiet area of the city near San Marco. The garden of the hotel was often a gathering place in the evening for sharing the impressions of the day, discussing projects or simply relaxing.

Two weeks into the course, Pratt Institute sponsored a party which was held at the Bonifacio garden and to which the lecturers and presenters were cordially invited. The evening offered a wonderful opportunity to socialize with the Italian colleagues in an informal atmosphere. The party generated many fond memories.

The summer institute in Florence was a unique, enriching experience that left the participants inspired and energized. One of the students wrote to AnnaMaria, “I had one of the best times of my life and I wanted to thank you for making the whole experience unforgettable. We all enjoyed the class thoroughly. I can’t thank you and Tula enough for giving us the opportunity to experience so much art and beauty and to meet so many interesting people.” I believe many of us share this sentiment.



Photo courtesy of Viktoria Paranyuk.

Member News

Andrew Gessner has been appointed as Chief Librarian in the Image Library (formerly known as the Photo & Slide Library) at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Among other library and visual resources positions he has held in New York, Andy was most recently the Director of the Adam & Sophie Gimbel Design Library at Parsons School of Design.

Sharon Chickanzeff has taken a newly created position at NYU's Fales Library, where she will be working to enhance the fine arts holdings of their Downtown Collection. Sharon had served as Head of the Institute of Fine Arts Library at NYU since 1989.

Jonathan Lill has accepted a position as Services Coordinator at the IFA Library. Jonathan was recently a Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship at Yale University's Arts Library.

Yvette Cortes, Reference Librarian at the Parsons School of Design's Adam & Sophie Gimbel Library, gave birth on June 16 to a daughter, Elena Sofia, weighing 6 lbs. 7 ounces.



ARLIS/NY Meets at the Brooklyn Museum

By Karyn Hinkle, Library Associate, Brooklyn Museum Libraries and Archives

ARLIS/NY members attended a multi-faceted program at the Brooklyn Museum on Thursday, October 6. The afternoon started with a talk by Deirdre Lawrence, Principal Librarian at the Brooklyn Museum, held in the recently refinished reading room at the Library. With Laura Peimer, new Archivist at the Brooklyn Museum, Deirdre explained the new digital resources the Library has now made available through its website, and invited questions from the group. Satisfying our collective curiosity about how things work in other art libraries, we had a good discussion of other museums' digitization projects, and of efforts to integrate digital images from museum object cataloguing systems like TMS with the library OPACs. (So far, we agreed, this has not been easy, but is certainly something we'd like to see happen if differences in the systems' metadata requirements can be reconciled.)

The discussion was followed by a tour of the stacks of the Library, which many had not seen since before its renovation in 2003. Then we moved upstairs to tour a new exhibition at the Museum entitled "Egypt Through Other Eyes: the Popularization of Egypt." Curated by Deirdre Lawrence and Mary Gow, Assistant Librarian at the Brooklyn Museum, the exhibit is drawn primarily from the holdings of the Wilbour Library of Egyptology. Deirdre and Mary, who led the tour, brought along several books from the Library collections to further illustrate the exhibit's themes to the ARLIS/NY group, among them new editions of *Belzoni's Travels* published by the British Museum, and *The Description of Egypt* published by Taschen.

Back in the Library reading room, a small ARLIS/NY reception followed the Egypt Through Other Eyes tour, and finally, to finish off the evening, the group was invited to join the Brooklyn Museum's opening reception for its show "Manufactured Landscapes: the Photographs of Edward Burtynsky," which will be on view through January 15, 2006.