

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

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# ARLIS/NY News

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## Letter from the Chair

by Lisa Ryan, LIM College

It was a privilege to serve as Chair of ARLIS/NY for 2010. I would like to thank my fellow 2010 board members for all of their work this year: Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Holly Hatheway; Past Chair, Christina Peter; Secretary, Erin Elliott; Treasurer, Melissa Wagner; Development Coordinator, Charlotte Priddle; Web Editor, Suz Massen; and News Editor, Karyn Hinkle. It was a pleasure to work with such a wonderful group of colleagues the past two years and I look forward to continuing to work with them this year.

I am very impressed with the number of ARLIS/NY members who have provided their expertise, insight, and assistance over the past year. With approximately 200 members, we are the largest chapter of ARLIS/NA. As most of you know, the members are both active and generous. Because of this generosity of members, we had a very busy year. Here is a recap:

*Newsletter, Website, and Social Networking:* The ARLIS/NY website has a new look and new capabilities thanks to Suz Massen. She redesigned the ARLIS/NY website and launched it in September. Suz also created a Flickr site. Members can view photos and contribute their own photos at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/arlisny>. The Board appointed Elizabeth Lane as Social Networking Coordinator. It is a newly created position and Liz tweeted the first ARLIS/NY tweet from the holiday party on December 16th. You can follow ARLIS/NY on twitter @ARLIS\_NY. I'd like to extend special thanks to Sherman Clarke for continuing to manage and host the ARLIS/NY listserv, and a special thank you goes to Karyn Hinkle for once again publishing two ARLIS/NY newsletters. She is a wonderful editor and I appreciate her skill in recruiting authors and documenting the past year's events.

*Student Outreach Initiatives:* One event and one initiative focused specifically on students. On February 5th, Ken Soehner, Amy Lucker, Sandy Brooke, Tula Giannini, and I participated on a panel moderated by Karyn Anonia that discussed challenges and opportunities for students considering art librarianship. The event

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was held at Pratt Institute and Pratt SILS hosted a reception after the panel presentation. Charlotte Priddle organized the *Student Voices* essay contest. The *Student Voices* committee unanimously Pratt SILS student, Kat Savage's paper, "The Importance of Controlled Vocabularies in Art Collections" as the winning paper. Rutgers student Teresa Slobuski and Pratt Institute student Ryan Evans earned special mention. Karyn Hinkle published a newsletter highlighting these initiatives where Kat Savage's paper was published. I would like to welcome Karyn Anonia to the ARLIS/NY Board as Coordinator or Student and Professional Development. Some of her responsibilities will include outreach to students in library and information science programs in the area.

*Finance Committee and Nominating Committee:* ARLIS/NY members are very generous and volunteered their time and expertise. Past board members Ross Day, Ted Goodman, and Elizabeth Darocha Berenz served along with current board members on a finance committee, and Kristine Paulus served for the second year as a member of the nominating committee.

*ARLIS/NY Events in 2010:* Ken Soehner graciously provided wonderful venues for seven of the ARLIS/NY events this year at the Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Each presentation was followed by a wine reception at the Thomas J. Watson Library. Nancy Mandel provided invaluable assistance in coordinating all of these events. In addition to the ARLIS/NY Annual Business Meeting, the Met hosted the following presentations in 2010:

- *IFAR Resources: Catalogues Raisonnés and Art Law and Cultural Property* presented by Sharon Flescher, Executive Director of the International Foundation for Art Research
- *Rhizome* presented by Lauren Cornell, Executive Director, Rhizome, and Adjunct Curator, the New Museum of Contemporary Art and joined by Kristin Lucas and Joe McKay, artists commissioned through Rhizome's grant program
- *A Second Life for Dutch Museum Libraries* presented by Michiel Nijhoff, Head of Library and Collection Registration at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam
- *Donald Judd Library Project* presented by Ryan Tainter, Principal info.design.build
- *Preserving the Web Content of the 21st Century through Collection, Collaboration, and Curation* presented by Kristine Hanna, Director of Web Archiving Services at Archive-It
- *American Art Museum Architecture: Documents and Design* presented by Eric Wolf, Head Librarian at the Menil Collection

Several other ARLIS/NY members organized and/or hosted events this year. Heidi Hass hosted a curator led tour by Roger S. Wieck of *Demons and Devotion: The Hours of Catherine of Cleves* at the Morgan Library & Museum. Milan Hughston graciously hosted two events at the Museum of Modern Art. At the first MOMA event, Rachael Morrison gave a talk and tour of *Lost and Found: The Work of Bern Porter from the Collection of the Museum of Modern Art*. The second event, *Fluxus Women: Now & Then*, included the speakers Midori Yoshimoto, Alison Knowles, and Julia Robinson. Both MoMA events included a lovely reception afterwards. Holly Hatheway organized an a weekend outing and artist led tour by Malin Abrahamsson of her permanent art installation at the Valley Stream LIRR Station, Valley Stream, NY. Robert Lobe organized a viewing, talk, and lovely reception in conjunction with the exhibition, *Where Is My Vote? Posters for the Green Movement in Iran* at the Visual Arts Gallery of the School of Visual Arts (SVA). Visual Arts Gallery director Francis Di Tommaso and Iranian-American activist and founder Banafsheh Zand-Bonazzi of the Farsi website *Iran Press News* and English language site *Planet Iran* spoke at the event. The annual holiday party was hosted at my institution in the

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newly renovated Maxwell Hall at LIM College. Librarians gave tours of the Adrian G. Marcuse Library. The event was sponsored by LIM College and the LIM College Library and hosted by George Sanchez, Director of Library Services. We hit the ground running in 2011 with an event organized by Virginia Millington at StoryCorps at the New Museum in conjunction with StoryCorps partnership with the New Museum in *The Last Newspaper* exhibition.

*ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Boston:* The ARLIS/NY Board decided to award three travel grants this year. Congratulations to our three Celine Palatsky Travel Award recipients: Rosemary Davis, a student at Pratt Institute; Deirdre Donohue, the Stephanie Shuman Librarian at the International Center of Photography; and Clayton Kirking, the Chief of Art Information Resources at NYPL. Each received a \$500 award towards travel to the 2010 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Boston. ARLIS/NY was well represented at the Boston conference and many of our members were panel organizers and participants.

Best Wishes for the New Year! ❖

## Editor's Note

by Karyn Hinkle, Bard Graduate Center

After the last special student issue of ARLIS/NY News (volume 29:1, Spring/Summer 2010) we back up a bit in this issue to catch up on three conference reports from our chapter conference award letters. Elizabeth Broman, our 2010 winner of the ARLIS/NY Professional Development Award, reports on her experience at Rare Book School, and Deirdre Donohue and Rosemary Davis, our conference award winners, report on the 2010 ARLIS/NA conference in Boston. Clayton Kirking also won a conference award. The Executive Board had the good fortune to award three smaller conference awards this year instead of one large award, which made sense to us since the Boston conference was closer to New York and only a short train ride away.

In this issue, we also return to our regularly-scheduled program of ARLIS/NY event descriptions with Liz Lane's report and great photos of our recent chapter trip to the New Museum. Enjoy, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to be published in the next ARLIS/NY News. We accept submissions on all ARLIS/NY events and any other topics of interest to our membership. I look forward to receiving them! ❖

## Reach ARLIS/NY members through ARLIS/NY News

Contact board member Charlotte Priddle, ARLIS/NY Development Coordinator, if you'd like to place a newsletter ad with us ([cpriddle@nyss.org](mailto:cpriddle@nyss.org)).

# Rare Book School

by Elizabeth Broman, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Library,  
Recipient of the 2010 ARLIS/NY Professional Development Award

I first attended the Rare Book School of the University of Virginia back in the winter of 2007 here in New York City at the Grolier Club. The class was an entire week, Monday to Friday, 9 to 5, and it had been quite a while since I sat in a classroom all day long, but it was one of the most intense, exciting and revelatory experiences I had ever experienced. That first class I took was *The Printed Book in the West to 1800*, taught by Martin Antonetti, who was at the time Curator of Rare Books at Smith College.

The Cooper-Hewitt Library has a great collection of Special Collections, so I kept up with the course offerings posted on the Rare Book School website (<http://www.rarebookschool.org/>) ever since. There were certainly many courses of personal and professional interest, but until this past year I hadn't seen anything that I had a burning desire to commit that amount of time and money to. I saw on the RBS 2010 schedule a course titled "The American Book in the Industrial Era, 1820-1940." This class piqued my interest because in recent years we've been broadening the scope of our collections to include more material published and printed in America. One of our strengths has become 19th century design, World's Fair material, and children's books, and we are actively collecting more resources about early- to mid-20th century design and decorative arts. I thought this class would increase my knowledge about what we already own, and help me make some informed decisions about what we might acquire now and in the future. This particular course was being given at one of the greatest American universities and in the renowned Alderman Library. I *really* wanted to go, but had to stop and think a minute ... *Virginia?* In *July??*

I applied for the ARLIS/NY Professional Development Award and was delighted to receive it and put it towards the tuition at Rare Book School. I was thrilled to be in that hallowed environment, steeped in history, academia, tradition, and among so many expert and knowledgeable people – instructors and attendees alike. We came from all disciplines and professions: in my class there was one rare book librarian, one English professor, one professor of early 19th century American history, two Ph.D. students, two book collectors, two antiquarian booksellers, one general librarian with rare book duties, and three conservators.

The class taught me great deal about the early history of printing and publishing in the U.S., with hands-on examination and comparisons of various editions of printed books from various time periods. Technical aspects of typography, printing presses, and the snowballing effect of improvements in patented processes and manufacturing that improved and speeded up the mechanized processes of printing shed light on how we came to be a literate nation of readers of all kinds of printed materials.

Charlottesville is charming, the Rare Book School faculty and attendees are friendly and offer a family atmosphere if you wish it, and after this winter, my memory of the heat tells me it wasn't THAT bad.

I wish to thank the ARLIS/NY Professional Development Award committee and am grateful to them for granting me this opportunity to pursue this course of personal and professional interest. ❖

# Boston 2010 ARLIS/NA Conference Reports

by Deirdre Donohue, International Center of Photography  
and Rosemary K. Davis, Pratt Institute student

Recipients of the 2010 ARLIS/NY Celine Palatsky Travel Awards

**Deirdre Donohue:**

Before the conference started, Maureen Melton, Susan Morse Hilles Director of Libraries and Archives and Museum Historian, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, generously gave me a tour of the archives and the museum's brand new building, and Mary Clare Altenhofen of Harvard University Fine Arts Library graciously showed me the relocated library. Both answered my many questions about transitions of the kind.

There were also memorable sessions at the conference itself, such as "Confronting the Future, Articulating Purpose, Documenting Value" and "The New Deal: Reforming the Discrete Practices of Libraries, Archives and Museums," which both spoke to work I am doing presently.

My last day was spent growing fond of MIT: a campus tour of the MIT Public Art Collection conducted by their educator Mark Linga was beautiful and inspiring and was followed by Michael Mittelman (Associate Director, MIT Center for Advanced Visual Studies) and Peter Blank (Stanford University Fine Arts Library) both speaking on what interests me most – "animating the archive."

Great conversations enjoyed in the interstitial moments at the ARLIS conferences continue to inspire me. I treasured the opportunity to speak about the most fulfilling aspects of what we do with Suzanna Simor, Eric Wolf, Susan Chute, Peter Blank, and so many others. ❖

**Rosemary K. Davis:**

I was nervous about attending the 2010 ARLIS/NA conference – nervous as a young, still-in-training professional, nervous as a student with a lot to learn, nervous as a generally shy person who's used to observing social situations instead of actively engaging. And yet, somehow I ended up with a bunch of folks like me, eating pizza in a hotel room with some ARLIS luminaries. There was a pretty palpable excitement since most of us were newbies, still exploring our new fields and brimming with questions. I thought maybe it was just us kids (greenhorns!), but throughout the weekend, this brand of enthusiasm continued as a common theme: a bright, curious energy kind of suffused almost everyone I met, whether they were presenting on intellectual property or metadata schemas.

Presenters, moderators, and vendors all treated me with respect and patience as I worked my way through sessions and events. I learned a lot and, probably even more importantly, I came home with a lot of questions. Questions are always good.

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The Boston conference was a delightful train ride away this year!  
Photo by K. Hinkle

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I was lucky enough to attend the conference with the help of a Celine Palatsky Travel Award from ARLIS/NY, my local branch. And thank goodness. Conferences like ARLIS/NA are expensive but also kind of vital. They provide a break from routine, a chance to refocus and expand your vision, and, of course, the chance to meet other people who revel in the dorkiness and splendor of your profession just as much as you do.

Nervousness often arises from the fear of being alone, stranded without connection. I am still shy. I am still learning. But just knowing that there's a warm, questioning, supportive professional community out there gives me a rooted feeling and helps me gain surer footing as I move forward. This year's conference will be easier and more familiar, but I think it will still be exciting. Just in a different way, since there will be a lot fewer strangers and a lot more ideas I'll understand, which is nice. Definitely nice. ❖

## Newsworthy Librarians: ARLIS/NY & StoryCorps at the New Museum

by Elizabeth Lane, Frick Art Reference Library

On January 5, 2011, a small coterie of ARLIS/NY members assembled in the middle of *The Last Newspaper* exhibition space in the New Museum to learn more about StoryCorps, one of the show's partner organizations. The exhibition explored the ways in which artists have incorporated the news into their oeuvres, with one such example heard immediately by the ARLIS/NY visitors as they awaited the commencement of the presentation. Directly behind the assembled stools, a work by Hans Haacke (b. 1936), appropriately titled "News" 1969/2008, intermittently printed out news blurbs from thirty RSS feeds onto continuous feed paper. The resulting mountain of information set the mood for an interesting afternoon.

StoryCorps records, preserves, and shares information. Rather than dealing with information on a grand scale, they share the personal stories of people from around the country. Heartfelt and touching, the resultant oral archive includes over 30,000 interviews and 60,000 participants, bringing our citizenry to life. StoryCorp's Talya Cooper, Senior Coordinator, Archive, and Virginia Millington, Manager, Recording & Archive, spoke about StoryCorp's part in the exhibition as well as the exciting activities that make up the day-to-day work of fellow StoryCorps employees. They have an active blog, with staff posts coming from Birmingham, Alabama, to Fargo, North Dakota, and beyond. Ms. Millington also invited interested parties to add their own story to the archive. If you are interested, please check out their current NYC StoryBooth location in Foley Square via <http://storycorps.org/record-your-story/locations/new-york-ny/>. To the delight of the information professionals in attendance, Ms. Cooper spoke at length about the development of a web-based content management system that will house their interview archive.

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After the formal presentation, attendees descended to another floor of the exhibition and were greeted by a very iconic library motif. Smack in the middle of the exhibition space, a reference desk with StoryCorps staffers assisted museum visitors who wanted to search and listen to a myriad of unedited interviews using a variety of technology's latest toys. The space was very inviting, and was the highlight of the afternoon. ARLIS/NY members and museum visitors alike wished for more time to search and listen to the archive as museum guards reminded us of the impending closing time. Luckily, we all have the opportunity to listen to more interviews via the StoryCorps website and every Friday on NPR's *Morning Edition*. ❖



The artwork titled "News" 1969/2008 by Hans Haacke (b. 1936) added a lively up-to-the-minute ambience during the presentation. Photo by E. Lane



ARLIS/NY boardmember Suz Massen listens to a StoryCorps interview as ARLIS/NY boardmember Lisa Ryan chats with StoryCorps's Virginia Millington and Talya Cooper at the reference desk in the background. Photo by E. Lane



StoryCorps's Talya Cooper during the presentation. Photo by E. Lane