



THE TEMPORARY DEPARTMENT FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Communications Division
PIFAS Project Space
1712 North Second Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122
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Temporary Department Constructs Working Classroom in PIFAS Gallery

Workshops, Discussions, and Scholars Come to Fishtown this August

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This August, the Philadelphia Institute for Advanced Study (PIFAS) proudly welcomes visiting fellows Sarah Jacoby, James Weissinger, and Oliver Wunsch, founding members of the Temporary Department for Academic Research (TDAR). The resident fellows will construct a provisional classroom within the PIFAS gallery space. The classroom will act as an investigatory platform for researching the intersection between academic and aesthetic culture. An event series throughout the month includes workshops, roundtable discussions, and lectures from visiting scholars. The public is cordially invited to participate.

Events Schedule:

Saturday, August 2, 7pm: Departmental Tea; Opening Reception

Thursday, August 7, 7pm: Special Philosophical Research Group Discussion: "Each One Teach One", with keynote speakers Brandon Joyce & Richard Lee Davis, PIFAS co-founders

Thursday August 14, 7pm: "Test-Taking, Test-Making": a discussion-workshop w/special guest Dr. John Muse

Thursday, August 21, 7pm: "Comic Books or Graphic Novels? The Politics of Nomenclature," a talk by Dr. N.C. Christopher Couch

Saturday, August 30, 7pm: FINAL EXAM: The Art/Test; Closing Reception

The Philadelphia Institute for Advanced Study is located at 1712 N Second Street in Fishtown, Philadelphia. Admission is free and open to the public.

ABOUT TDAR

The Temporary Department for Academic Research (TDAR) is a perpetually ad-hoc working group dedicated to an investigation of academia. Exploring the aesthetics of the academic via installation, conversation, and other media, the fellows at the Temporary Department variously resist, appropriate, and acquiesce to the formalized parameters, institutional rituals, and conceptual boundaries of the classroom itself.

BIOS

N. C. Christopher Couch

Lecturer, B.A., Columbia, 1976; M.A., 1980; Ph.D., 1987

N. C. Christopher Couch holds a Ph.D. in art history from Columbia University. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Latin American art and on graphic novels and comic art, including *The Will Eisner Companion: The Pioneering Spirit of the Father of the Graphic Novel* (with Stephen Weiner), *Will Eisner: A Retrospective* (with Peter Myer), *Faces of Eternity: Masks of the Pre-Columbian Americas*, and *The Festival Cycle of the Aztec Codex Borbonicus*. He curated exhibitions at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library American Museum of Natural History, the Americas Society, the Oklahoma Air and Space Museum and the Smith College Museum of Art. He was senior editor at Kitchen Sink Press (Northampton), editor in chief at CPM Manga (New York), and has taught at Amherst, Columbia, Hampshire, Haverford, Smith and Mount Holyoke Colleges, and the School of Visual Arts. Publications he edited won or were nominated for 17 Eisner and Harvey Awards, and he has held fellowships at the Institute for Advanced Study, Dumbarton Oaks of Harvard University, and the Newberry Library. Current publications include the edited volume *Conversations with Harvey Kurtzman*, and a book on Batman artist and editorial cartoonist Jerry Robinson.

Sarah Jacoby

Temporary Fellow, BA, Haverford, 2006

Since gaining a degree in English at Haverford and Cinema studies at Bryn Mawr colleges, Sarah has found her niche at the University of Pennsylvania's Vitale Digital Media lab. Additionally, she works as a freelance writer, illustrator, and designer. Her works have appeared in the Philadelphia Weekly, Rockpile Magazine, The Bryn Mawr Film Institute's Preview magazine, Spur Journal, and will soon appear on the bodies of Philadelphia Live Arts and Fringe festival patrons. An active musician, she plays synthesizers Golden Ball, a Philadelphia band most recently commissioned by the 2008 Philadelphia Film festival to score a 1929 original reel cut of John Barrymore's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

John Muse

Lecturer, B.S., Cornell, 1985; M.F.A., San Francisco Art Institute, 1988; Ph.D., Rhetoric, 2006

John Muse is currently Haverford College's Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow for 2007-09 in the Fine Arts Department. In 2006 he received a Ph.D. in Rhetoric from U.C. Berkeley. His dissertation, *The Rhetorical Afterlife of Photographic Evidence: Roland Barthes, Avital Ronell, Roni Horn*, co-chaired by Judith Butler and Kaja Silverman, analyzes Barthes' numerous writings on photography, an artwork by Horn entitled *Another Water* (the River Thames, for Example), and an essay by Ronell on the videotaped beating of Rodney King, "TraumaTV: Twelve Steps Beyond the Pleasure Principle." Muse shows how these works use photographs to promulgate a crisis of the evident. His single-channel videotapes and multi-media installations have been exhibited throughout the United States and Europe. In 2003 New Langton Arts in San Francisco staged a mid-career retrospective of the installation works that he and frequent collaborator Jeanne C. Finley have created. In 2001 Muse and Finley received a Rockefeller Foundation Media Arts Fellowship for their experimental documentary project, *Age of Consent*. In 1999 they received a Creative Capital Foundation Award. In 1995 they received Artist in Residence fellowships from the Xerox Palo Alto

Research Center. The Patricia Sweetow Gallery in San Francisco represents his installation works, and the Video Data Bank distributes his single-channel works. For information about Finley+Muse, please visit: <http://www.finleymuse.com/>

James Weissinger

Temporary Fellow, BA, Haverford, 2006

James Weissinger is a Philadelphia-based DJ and freelance writer. He studied English Literature at Haverford College in Haverford, PA, later holding a two-year post-bac fellowship at the College's Hurford Humanities Center; he continues to work at the Center as its Associate Director. In August 2006, James helped form the Broadzilla DJ collective with friends Thomas Roland, Michael Kassler-Taub, and fellow TDAR member Sarah Jacoby. With Broadzilla, James has thrown events and performed with such artists as MIA, Hot Chip, Holy Ghost!, Bonde Do Role, Sal Principato (Liquid Liquid), and many others; the group currently holds a residency at the Making Time dance party in Philadelphia.

Oliver Wunsch

Temporary Fellow, BA, Haverford, 2007

Oliver Wunsch is an artist based in Philadelphia. He studied Fine Arts at Haverford College, in Haverford, PA. In the summer of 2006, he worked with the artist-run space Sparwasser HQ in Berlin, Germany, where he started a radio station based in the gallery basement (*Rundfunk der Sparwasser HQ*). He served as a member of the core group of the alt.SPACE Network of Artist-run Research Groups and collaborated on the 2007 alt.SPACE festival in venues throughout greater London (South Hill Park Arts Centre, South London Gallery, Gasworks, and gallery:space). During the winter and spring of 2007, he co-organized reading and research groups at Basekamp in Philadelphia. He currently works at the Painted Bride Art Center.

For photos and additional information, please contact Oliver Wunsch, at owunsch@gmail.com.