The UAG Looks to a Bold Future

Not long after the University Art Gallery opened 42 years ago, artists as celebrated as Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol were showcased and helped make the gallery one of the most prestigious in the region. Current UAG Director Juli Durbin plans to return the gallery to those glory days.

In 1965, John Coplans—the renowned critic and photographer—was hired by UCI to direct the UAG and teach art history courses. During his tenure, he organized distinguished lectureships with several celebrated artists, Lichtenstein among them. UCI was central in bridging the divide between East Coast and West Coast art, the UAG being the Southern California hub combining the influences.

Coplans was also editor at Artforum; in its fledgling days when it was poised to evolve into one of the art world’s leading journals. While writing criticism and showing the work of emerging artists at the UAG, Coplans was mindful of the art history references to contemporary practice. His shows of emerging artists featured future trailblazers like John McCracken, Tony DeLap, Francis Bacon and Robert Irwin. Another director of the UAG, Hal Glicksman, showed works by Milton Avery and John Baldessari.

The past, and what Coplans and other former UAG directors tried to accomplish, resonates with Carson. Coplans’ tenure at UCI is a poignant working model for Carsons. Before his tenure, the commission of which is a collaboration between the artist and Carsons. The result is an exhibition accompanied by a signature brochure with a critical essay by her on the historical and contemporary relevance of the project for art practice and theory.

This series defines Carson’s passion for contemporary art by intelligent young artists, engaged in contemporary art debates, at the dawn of their practice. Impressively, three of the artists’ projects commissioned by the Room Gallery (Adrià Julià’s This Trang Waits, Sharon Hayes’ After Before and Stephanie Taylor’s Chop Shop) have already received wide international recognition by traveling throughout Europe to such institutions as the Generali Foundation in Vienna and Galerie Nagel in Berlin.

Claire Trevor Faculty Grows by Three

The Claire Trevor School of the Arts has an on-going commitment to bringing the best teaching and creative talent to UC Irvine. That promise continues as the School has added three exceptional professors to its faculty.

Before UCI, Dubin served as an associate professor at San Diego State University. Olivieri’s professional experience includes creating the sound design for August Wilson’s Radio Golf at the Yale Repertory Theatre in 2005 and Gem of the Ocean at the Milwaukee Repertory Barnard College, among other institutions.

In addition to her role as a teacher, Smith has spent several years providing lighting design for the stage and other arts and entertainment areas. Her work has appeared in productions at San Jose Repertory, Chicago’s Goodman Theatre and Steppenwolf Theatre, and the Irish Repertory Theatre in New York City.

Smith is also one of the founders of the Naked Eye Theatre Company in Chicago.
Dear friends,

As I look back at the last year, all that our faculty, students, and staff accomplished is truly impressive: exhibitions, performances, books, considerable creative work, lectures, and many awards! Just to mention a few, Professor Yvonne Rainer (Studio Art) was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; 20 students were named Medici Scholars for Summer 2007 (six more than the previous year); faculty displayed their talents in Buenos Aires, Beijing, Budapest and a multitude of points in between; and our talented staff created extraordinary designs and mentored students along the way.

We dedicated much energy to community engagement. Our ArtsBridge scholars and projects served 14 Orange County Schools and more than 1,100 students; classes and presentations to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute constituency served 1,000 community members; and other activities including the Beall Center’s Family Day and our collaborations with the Orange County High School for the Arts served nearly 600 individuals.

As we begin the 2007-2008 academic year, we anticipate truly exciting times. Our commitment to community engagement will benefit greatly from the recent appointment of Ana Halland as Director of Outreach Programs and our new Development team of Kerry Neal and Mia Martinez. A new, state-of-the-art building has been under development for over a year and we anticipate, with great enthusiasm, the ground-breaking to occur early in 2008. That building will contain a visual arts gallery, motion capture studio, and high-tech performance space, as well as much needed classroom, laboratory, and office space.

Come visit us and share in our excitement.

Nohema Fernández

From the Dean’s Desk

The UAG Looks to a Bold Future

But Carson also believes it is equally important for a university gallery to feature established artists alongside emerging ones. This fall, the UAG will begin the first exhibition of the annual Canonical Works of Art series. This series, Carson says, features a solo project by an established artist, generally one who has been working since the ‘60s or ‘70s, again with published literature interpreting the work’s value historically and its relevance to contemporary art practice. The renowned conceptual artist and feminist Mary Kelly (featured in this year’s Documenta 12), one of the world’s most important exhibitions of modern and contemporary art that occurs every five years in Kassel, Germany will inaugurate the series with her work Circa 68. This work recently premiered at the Whitney Biennial in New York but has yet to be shown on the West Coast. Drawing on her artwork’s rich historical import combined with their contemporary notoriety, each exhibition featured in the Canonical Works of Art series is designed to service both local students as well as the larger community of art goers from Orange County, San Diego and Los Angeles, Carson notes.

Carson stresses that the complete program for the UAG / Ross Gallery is only just beginning. With the anticipated building of a new gallery space, featuring a robust program of local and traveling exhibitions (of both young and established artists), the UAG will finally hit its stride – as it did in the past under such directors as Coplans, Glickman, Melinda Worte and others. Carson looks forward to hosting world-class exhibitions from across the nation and abroad as well as a distinguished residency program and artist’s lecture series for traveling artists.

Carson says that it is an exciting time for the UAG, as it looks to its past to recall its achievements and to the future in its pedagogical and artistic aims. In the meantime, the UAG / Room Gallery will continue to grow and, in turn, encourage a dialogue among a diverse group of artists from around the country, the world and the local community.

In the Spotlight

Haroutune Bedelian (Music) launched his new DVD, J.S. Bach Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin, with performances in Rio de Janeiro and Trandientes, Brazil in April. In Summer 2007 he performed and taught master classes at the Schlern International Music Festival, Italy (the father in the Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning play, The Signal Tribune said that Brestoff’s Robert gets better and better until a heart-break ing second act climax results in audible gasps.” In March he was an invited guest lecturer on acting methods at Texas State University, San Marcos.

McGraw-Hill recently published the fifth edition of Rob ert Cohen’s (Drama) Acting One, as well as a newly combined book called Acting One/Acting Two, spanning both realistic acting and acting in stylized, verse and period plays. In March, Cohen was the Dramorec Leturer at Casper College (WY) and in May, stayed by Ryan Reynolds’ (Drama) Blue Shade, which subsequently toured to Prague and three cities in Poland.

Michael Dessen (Music) toured Belgium and Holland in March with the Cosmologic Quartet, performing their unique blend of composed and improvised music. In June he collaborated on a telematic duo with computer musician Shahrokh Yadgar for Prague’s “Scenofest 2007” Festival.

On April 1st, Lorna Griffitt and Haroutune Bedeli an (Music) performed in The London Chamber Music Society Series, one of the oldest and most prestigious music society series in London, England. In June and July, Lorna Griffitt was an artist faculty member for the Schlern International Music Festival, Italy.

Daphne Lei (Drama) had her “The Virtual Chinatown and New Racial Formation: Performance of Cantonese Opera in the Bay Area” published in Critical Theory and Performance by University of Michigan Press. As part of her “Multicultural Spring” series, she brought artists and scholars from various cultures for mini residencies on campus. Pictured from left to right: Contemporary Legend of Theatre Wu Hising-Kuo (Artistic Director), Daphne Lei and Wei Hai Min (Leading Chinese Opera Artist) in Beijing.

In the Spring, Loretta Livingston (Dance) was a guest artist in Singapore at the LaSalle College of Arts; a guest and judge at the Dance Camera Istanbul Festival in Turkey; and visited the Korean National University of Arts in Seoul where she taught Choreography students and established a collaboration with noted Korean choreographer and performer, Dr. Sam-Jin Kim.

FACULTY

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In May, costumer Margaret Parkins (Music) performed in New York City at the Look and Listen Festival, a festival of 20th and 21st century works. Ms. Parkins’ new music string quartet, Eclipse, was also a featured ensemble at the Robert Miller Gallery in New York City, performing pieces by Philip Glass, Carla Khistidest and Fred Frith.

Nancy Lee Nuyten (Dance) presented a paper on the work of international dance artist La Meri (Russell Meriwether Hughes, 1898-1988), for the Joint Congress on Research in Dance and Society of Dance History Scholars conference at the Centre National de la Danse in Pantin (France) in June. She also presented a paper on the ritual Mexican Danza de los Concheros at the International Council for Traditional Music held in Vienna in July.

Distinguished Professor of Studio Art Vonnne Rainer was appointed a fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences as well as Officer of l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture and Communication. She completed a new work, RUS (Indecisive), which was performed as “Documenta” in Kassel, Germany.

Fremst Nina Scolnik (Music) was a guest recitalist and lecturer at Tulane University’s Keyboard Festival in New Orleans on February 24, 2007.

In May 2007, Eli Simon’s (Drama) newly formed clown troupe, “Clownzil,” featuring UC Irvine actors (picked from left to right) Adrian Alita (MFA Drama 2007), Dena Sven- ninsen (MFA Drama 2007), RJ Romero, Betsy Mungavero, and Adrienne Mueller (MFA Drama 2007), performed Clownzilla: A Love Story at the Rude Guerrilla theater in Santa Ana. The show, designed by Michael Hooker (Drama), Jess Chunggave, and Chip Hansen, is Claire’s Choice in the LA Clowns. Clownzilla then toured to Italy where it received acclaim at the Anezzo International Theatre festival and venues across Tuscany.

Philip Thompson (Drama) returned this summer for his eighth year as resident voice and text coach for the Utah Shakespearean Festival, where he coached actors in productions of Coriolanus, King Lear, Twelfth Night and The Green Show. He also coached a production of Othello at the Cincinnati Playhouse,Ohio.

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Greetings Alumni, Faculty and Friends!

It is a pleasure and an honor to lead the development charge here at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. I look forward to an exciting career at the School and embrace the extraordinary challenge of championing the fundraising vision of the dean.

Previously, I served as the director of development for the College of Business and Public Administration at Cal State San Bernardino, home of the country’s top-ranked graduate program in entrepreneurship among public institutions. Prior to CSUSB, I spent five years at UC Riverside in two capacities: special assistant to the chancellor/director of principal gifts and the director of development for the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. In addition, I spent over seven years at both the City of Hope (Los Angeles) and the Art Center College of Design (Pasadena) as a development officer. As for my creative side, I enjoy music and draw cartoons.

I am also happy to introduce Mia Martinez, the new assistant director of development. Mia and I worked as a team at CSUSB. She previously worked at the CSU Chancellor’s Office in Business Planning and Development, Auditing and Academic Resources. She is a bit of an extrovert in her spare time—she enjoys kayaking, hiking, scuba diving and, when time permits, traveling and exploring new places.

There are a number of ways to support our School—from cash donations to legacy planned gifts. You can make a philanthropic impact. Mia and I look forward to working closely with all of you as we try to raise the bar of excellence for private support here at the School.

Finally, we are also excited about our new Chair of the Dean’s Leadership Council, Dr. Jay M. Young. He brings years of experience and expertise in fundraising and has previously served on the council.

We are looking forward to the academic year by holding a retreat for the Dean’s Leadership Council to officially launch our strategic plan for some ambitious fundraising goals for the year. We are working with the chairs of each department to bring a visionary approach to create and expand programs and to prepare for a future of excellence at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

You Can Make A Difference!

Support the Arts with an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift

Qualified charitable distributions from your individual retirement account can provide up to $100,000 of support to the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. These charitable distributions count toward your IRA required minimum distribution. You must be at least 70 1/2 years old at the time of distribution. Be sure to carefully consult with legal and financial advisors. Distribution must be completed prior to December 31, 2007.

For more information, please call the UCI Office of Legacy Planning – (949) 824-6454, e-mail legacyplan@uci.edu or visit www.giftlegacy.uci.edu.

The Master Series

Featuring world leading artists on the Claire Trevor School of the Arts campus.

Oct 8
Art Song & Artistry Series
Master Class: Christine Seitz, soprano
Christine Seitz is an established dramatic soprano, singing operatic roles throughout the United States and in Europe.
Winifred Smith Hall, 1 pm Free

Oct 9
Art Song & Artistry Series
Recital: The Forces of Nature
Christine Seitz, soprano
Jesseca Paul, piano
“Seitz has a huge voice which she deployed with consistent confidence and artistry. She has all the earmarks of a major dramatic soprano, a rare species these days.” – Detroit Free Press
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm Free

Oct 25-27
African Performance Conference
Malcolm Purkey, the artistic director of the Market Theatre (South Africa) Lecture, TBA

Oct 31
Master Series Concert
Recital: All Beethoven
Peter Takács, pianist
Hailed by the New York Times as “a marvelous pianist,” Peter Takács has performed widely, receiving critical and audience acclaim for his penetrating and communicative musical interpretations.
Winifred Smith Hall, 8 pm Free

Nov 2
Master Series Lecture
The Mind of Beethoven
Peter Takács, pianist
Winifred Smith Hall, 1pm Free

Nov 16
Master Series Recital
Late Chopin
Aleck Kerr, pianist
Winifred Smith Hall, 1pm Free

Young to Head Dean’s Leadership Council

Dr. Jay M. Young, a leader in Orange County philanthropy and ardent believer in the value of the arts, has agreed to serve as Chair of the Dean’s Leadership Council for the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

“The arts greatly improve the quality of our lives,” Young says of his involvement with the School. “Serving as the Chair of the Council gives me the opportunity of sharing and promoting the quality of our most prestigious programs to our community.”

A long-time member of the Dean’s Leadership Council, Young has served on the Executive Committee of the Laguna Art Museum and the Newport Harbor Art Museum, and he is currently on CalDance’s Board of Directors. The Laguna Beach resident has demonstrated significant philanthropic leadership in the community, serving as the Chairman of the Saddleback Memorial Hospital Foundation, Chair of School Power in Laguna Beach, and dedicating his efforts to the American Cancer Society.

Young, a urologist, holds a Diplomate of the American Board of Urology and is one of the founders of a 10-person solo practice group in southern Orange County. He is also one of the founders and past chairman of the Urology Governing Board for a leading medical research consortium. Young served as Chief of Staff at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center in Laguna Hills. He graduated from the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University in Chicago and performed his internship and residency training at the Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Medical Center in Los Angeles.

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