



MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE

CURRENT EVENTS

Laguna Museum of Art's *Best Kept Secret: UCI and the Development of Contemporary Art in Southern California 1964-71* opened in October. Part of the Getty's Pacific Standard Time initiative, the exhibit highlights the contributions of CTSA's Studio Art Department to the art of Southern California. The exhibit runs through January 22, 2012. <http://lagunaartmuseum.org/best-kept-secret>

The debut of 68 exhibitions that comprise the Getty Museum's Pacific Standard Time initiative serves as an occasion to appreciate the central role artists associated with CTSA's department of Studio Art have played in the story of Southern California's establishment as a global art center. Twenty-four of the 68 exhibitions feature work of either faculty or alumni of UC Irvine. <http://www.pacificstandardtime.org/>

RECENT EVENTS

Over 300 guests joined us to celebrate the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of our new Contemporary Arts Center. Chancellor Michael Drake, Irvine Mayor Sukhee Kang and the building's architect Steven Ehrlich joined Dean Joe Lewis in cutting the ribbon to officially



(L to R): Building architect Steven Ehrlich, Chancellor Michael Drake, Irvine Mayor Sukhee Kang, Dean Joseph Lewis.

open this technological wonder. Guests were treated to a variety of exhibits in dance, drama, music and studio art, as well as site-specific



demonstrations in each of the building's spaces, and a performance by the 100-person choir **Men in Blaque**. We thank everyone who participated, as well as all of you who helped us celebrate this exciting milestone!

See more on the CTSA website: <http://www.arts.uci.edu/story/celebrating-official-opening-contemporary-arts-center>

We'd like to express our appreciation to the **Leo Freedman Foundation** (Trustee **Ellis Stern** attended with his wife and son, a current UCI student), and **Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.** (represented by **Todd Meier**, director of design services and a CTSA Drama alum, and **Jodi Hughes**, marketing manager) for being at our event and for their generous naming gifts to the School.

This fall also saw the Grand Opening of the newly christened Robert Cohen Theatre. The Ribbon



Lorna and Robert Cohen cut the ribbon of the Robert Cohen Theatre

ceremony of this venue marked the culmination of a two-day festival that included workshops, presentations, an alumni brunch and performances of *The Misanthrope* and *Waiting for Godot* (directed by **Robert Cohen**). The overwhelming response to the festival and the SRO performances were a testament to the esteem



(L to R): Dan Aldrich, Chancellor Michael Drake, Mayor Sukhee Kang, Lorna and Robert Cohen, Dean Joseph Lewis, Eli Simon, Cam Harvey

in which **Professor Cohen** is held! See more on the CTSA website: <http://www.arts.uci.edu/story/robert-cohen-honored-festival-theatre-naming>

CTSA's **Dean Joe Lewis** was recently named one of the 25 Hottest People in Orange County by *OC Metro Magazine* and was honored during a ceremony at the Island Hotel in Newport Beach: <http://digital.ocmetro.com/publication/?m=10213&l=1>

The Beall Center for Art + Technology's most recent Family Day attracted hundreds of people from the community who got a chance to view demonstrations in robotics, modeling and laser technology, as well as the current exhibition by Golan Levin.

In October, eight students of Assistant Dance Professor **Jeff Russell's** Dance Science Research Group joined him to give presentations at the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science annual conference in Washington, D.C. The work was universally applauded, and



CTSA had more student papers presented than any other institution except the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. CTSA students involved were: **Evan Johnston, Kumiyo Kai, Tomasz Quack, Professor Rainers** presented his paper "Magnetic Resonance Imaging Applications for Ankle Anatomy and Pathoanatomy in Female Ballet Dancers." In addition, **Kumiyo Kai's** "Application of Basic Principles of Biomechanics to Dancers Using Accessible Language and Examples" won the Best of Session Award for an Educational Poster, and **Tiffany Yu's** "Comparison of Static Stability between Dancers and Non-dancers as a Prelude to Identifying Helpful Balance Training Strategies" won the Dr. Marjorie J. Moore Student Poster Award.

FACULTY & STUDENT ACCOLADES

In a private ceremony in New York earlier this year, Yoko Ono Lennon presented Studio Art Professor MacArthur Fellow **Yvonne Rainer** with a 2011 Courage Award for the Arts. Established in 2009, this award honors individuals and groups in the arts who have shown extraordinary courage in the face of their visions. The Dia Art Foundation at Dia:Beacon in New York will also be presenting a year-long retrospective of Rainer's work, featuring public performances of her dance works in October 2011, and February & May 2012.

Drama faculty member **Cynthia Bassham** has been designated a Master Teacher of Secondmaurice Voicework and has been elected to a five-year term on the board of Voice and Speech Trainers Association.

Dean Lewis was a panelist for the 2012 National Endowment for the Arts - Museums Grants Program.

In November, Dance Professor **Nancy Ruyter** traveled to Europe for two conferences celebrating the 200 year anniversary of the birth of Francois Delsarte, whose ideas and practices were brought to the United States in the late 19th century and became an important influence on the developments of modern concert dance. **Dr. Ruyter** will also be giving a guest lecture at the Sorbonne.

Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Dance Assistant Professor **Sheron Wray's** Embodiology Research Group performed *Ritual Remix: The Etutu Project*, merging West African performance logic spectacle with contemporary aesthetic.

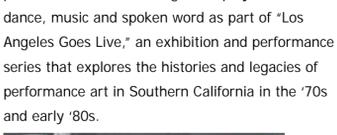
Over the summer, Drama Associate Professor **Jaymi Smith** designed *The Music Man*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Noises Off* for the Utah Shakespeare Festival; and she designed *The Wiz* at the Dallas Theater Center and *Moonlight and Magnolias* at the Clarence Brown Theatre in Knoxville, Tenn.

Studio Art Professor **Kevin Appel** and former CTSA faculty **Deborah Ascheim** received the 2011 California California Foundation Fellowship for the Visual Arts (Mid-Career); **Alison O'Daniel** (MFA '10) also received the CCF Fellowship (Emerging Artist).

October marked the world premiere of Dance Associate Professor **Jodie Gates'** ballet *Rochambeau*, created for Ballet West in Salt Lake City. Gates is also creating a world premiere ballet for Colorado Ballet as a recipient of the Jerome Robbins grant. The premiere will be in Denver in March 2012.

Studio Art Professor **Yong Soon Min** is beginning her year as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in South Korea, researching material for her project "Women in Love: Melodramas of Romance & Intimacy in Korean Television."

Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions recently presented *Black Gold Fever*, Associate Professor of Studio Art **Ulysses Jenkins'** multi-media performance ritual utilizing video projections, dance, music and spoken word as part of "Los Angeles Goes Live," an exhibition and performance series that explores the histories and legacies of performance art in Southern California in the '70s and early '80s.



Studio Art Professor **Catherine Lord** presented a new installation *To Whom It May Concern* at the One National Gay & Lesbian Archives, presented by USC Libraries, and in conjunction with *Cruising the Archive: Rare Looks*.

Studio Art Professor **Bruce Yonemoto** is currently showing at LA <ART, with two featured exhibitions: *The Time Machine and Asexual Clone Mutation*, and (with **Norman Yonemoto**), *A Survey of Selected Soap Operas, 1979-1990*; and was featured in a group exhibition, *Drawing the Line: Japanese American Art, Design & Activism in Post-War Los Angeles* at the Japanese American National Museum.

NEW ON THE BOOKSHELF

Studio Art Professor and MacArthur Fellow **Yvonne Rainer's** new book *Poems* recently debuted at the New York Art Book Fair at MOMA/PS1. Published by Badlands Unlimited in a limited edition, Professor Rainer's first book of published poetry opens a window into work in a form with which she hasn't yet been associated.

Professor **Ketu Katrak**, who is on the roster of the Fulbright Specialist Program, has recently published a new book, *Contemporary Indian Dance: New Creative Choreography in India and the Diaspora*.

Associate Professor of Drama **Daphne Lei** had a new book published, *Alternative Chinese Opera in the Age of Globalization: Performing Zero*, and gave a keynote speech at the University of Reading in the UK and a talk at the Asian Performing Arts Forum in London.

ON STAGE

Eric Weaver (BA Drama/Honors in Music Theatre '09) is currently starring in the national tour of *Young Frankenstein*.



Andrew Samonsky (MFA Drama '03) is featured in *Queen of the Mist* at The Transport Group, Off-Broadway.



Cindy Goldfield (BA Drama '85), is playing Adult Female in *Spring Awakening* at San Jose Repertory.



Quinn VanAntwerp (Drama/Honors in Music Theatre '08) is featured as Bob Gaudio in *Jersey Boys* at the August Wilson Theatre on Broadway.



Perry Young (B.A. Drama '10) stars in the leading role of Usnavi in the upcoming national tour of *In the Heights*. Also pictured is Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote the music and lyrics.



GRANTS & GIFTS

Nina Becker (Studio Art '09) was recently awarded the inaugural David Fellowship, a \$40,000 award to develop new works with Jewish themes and content over a next two years. Six Points will also provide the artists with ongoing professional development workshops, retreats and a variety of Jewish learning opportunities. The Fellows will act as a catalyst to engage large audiences in their 20s and 30s, many of whom would not otherwise be exposed to Jewish arts and culture.

CTSA DEPARTMENTS

The Department of Music is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Nicole Grimes** as a Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow for 2011-13 under the mentorship of Music Department Chair **David Brodbeck**. A Ph.D. graduate of the University of Dublin, Trinity College (2008), Dr. Grimes specializes in the music of the nineteenth century, particularly that of Brahms, Schumann, and Mendelssohn.

Contemporary Dance Immersion (CDI), a new program organized by Associate Professor of Dance **Molly Lynch** in collaboration with the Irvine Barclay Theatre, kicked off in October. Within the CDI program, 15 CTSA and five high school students get to participate in a "behind the scenes" experience with four professional dance companies during the 2011-12 IBT season beginning with *Eastman: Babel*. Students participated in a master class, backstage tour, conversation with the company manager and rehearsal director, and attended the performance.

State of the Art, created by **Allison Zema** (Senior, Music), is a student showcase documentary web series that plans to highlight each department within CTSA. Throughout each episode, performers and artists such as **Care'n Chato** (vocal), **Ian Parmenter** (drama) and **Amy Quanbeck** (dance) describe a typical rehearsal and explain their passion for the craft. The collaboration between director **Allison Zema** and her interviewees helps to shape and define the growing field of digital arts and how it applies to existing artistic media. She also hopes that her web series will inspire others to shift the paradigm of

student spotlights from sitdown interviews into more interactive views of students practicing their craft. <http://www.facebook.com/stateoftheartuci>

ACCOMPLISHED ALUMNI



Steven Lam is a curator, artist, educator, and is the Associate Dean at The Cooper Union. He has an M.F.A. from the University of California, Irvine

and has taught performance and sound theory in the Art History and Theory Department at the School of Visual Arts, NYC. Lam has developed exhibitions primarily for non-profit institutions and universities, often prioritizing his experience working in such pedagogical programs. His recent curatorial projects have focused on geo-zones outside Euro-America (such as China and Hong Kong) including his involvement with the curatorial team for the Third Guangzhou Triennial. Lam was a Helena Rubinstein Curatorial Fellow at the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program as well as a Lori Ledis Curatorial Fellow at Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn. Recent curatorial work and collaborations in New York include *Tainted Love* with critic Virginia Solomon at La MaMa Galleria, NYC; *For Reasons of State* at the Kitchen, NYC; and *Spectral Evidence* at Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY.

Several Studio Art alumni have recently landed teaching posts, including: **Hong-an Truong** (MFA '09), Assistant Professor UNC Chapel Hill; **David Kelley** (MFA '08), Assistant Professor Wellesley College; **Jeff Sheng** (MFA '07), Visiting Professor Harvard University; and **Betsy Seder** (MFA '10), Visiting Lecturer, UC Riverside.

In the 2010-2011 season, **Nicole Dominguez** (Drama '09) directed at Hunger Artists, Cabrillo, McKinney Theatre, Stages, Long Beach Playhouse and Theatre of Note. She also worked the last two seasons on the crew of the television show *Criminal Minds*, doing off-camera dialogue with the actors.

Alumna **Emily Rumack** has been accepted as the new dance programming intern at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Dance Programming serves three primary functions: presenting the ballet and contemporary dance seasons, producing The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, and supporting the local dance community via performances on the Millennium Stage and the Local Dance Commissioning Project.

Alison O'Daniel's (MFA '10) film *Night Sky*, initially developed as her thesis project, recently made its New York debut as part of the Performa 11, a New Visual Art Performance Biennial hosted by Art In General.

Sean Sullivan (MFA '09) recently had an opening reception at LACE in Los Angeles for his show *Grand Pale Maw*.



Aaron Valenzuela (MFA Studio Art) presented "Swatch: The Dematerialization of a Wardrobe" and performed *Mountain* at the annual Queer Studies Conference at UCLA.



Alexis Disselkoen (MFA Studio Art '11) and **Paul Pescador** (MFA Studio Art) were among the six artists featured in a performance event *What Have I Done to Deserve This* at Workspace Art, Los Angeles. ...Paul Pescador also curated the event.

Studio Art alum **Ruben Ochoa's** exhibit Cores and Cutouts is currently featured at locustprojects in Miami, FL.



CTSA IN THE NEWS

CTSA has been the focus of numerous articles in a variety of media. Here are some of them:

Los Angeles Times / Nov. 17
PST, A to Z: The Radicalization of a '50s Housewife, "Best Kept Secret" When the University Art Galleries at UC Irvine decided to call their Pacific Standard Time contribution "The Radicalization of a '50s Housewife," they weren't kidding. In 1951... [\(more\)](#)

BroadwayWorld.com / Nov. 17
BWW Student Center's School in the Spotlight: University of California, Irvine This week, we're excited to announce that The Drama Department at the University of California, Irvine, has earned a mention in BWW's School in the Spotlight! Housed within the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, the Drama Department emphasizes an all-inclusive learning experience connecting the study of drama to historical, political and social components, as well as encouraging cross-disciplinary activities with other departments on campus. [\(more\)](#)

MEDILL Reports / Nov. 16
Dancing Around Injury It's a lovely image: The denouement of a great dance, the crowd rising to its feet, clapping in appreciation and the curtain slowly falling to the stage. The illusion of beauty and ease hardly ever shatters for the audience. It is the dancers, this is their passion, their life. It is also their job. [\(more\)](#)

Calit2 Research Highlights / Nov. 14
Students Make the Grade at Conference Calit2 academic affiliate **Jeff Russell**, assistant professor of dance science, couldn't be prouder. [\(more\)](#)

OC Metro / Nov. 9
Claire Trevor School of the Arts cuts ribbon on new Contemporary Arts Center This evening UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts will celebrate the grand opening of a new Contemporary Arts Center. [\(more\)](#)

Huffington Post / Nov. 4
PST: Best Kept Secret Back in 1969, when I first visited the University of California, Irvine campus, it looked like some futurist outpost set in isolated architectural splendor among the largely barren hills of the Irvine Ranch. [\(more\)](#)

Los Angeles Times / Sept. 18
PST: Barbara T. Smith's life in the avant-garde shadows. The coffee table in Barbara T. Smith's Venice home is piled high with aging cassette tapes. She's been sorting through audio from a 1981 performance piece called "Birthdaze" in preparation for "The Radicalization of a '50s Housewife," her upcoming solo show at UC Irvine's University Art Gallery. [\(more\)](#)

We've posted many others and their links on our website: <http://www.arts.uci.edu/content/in-the-news>