

Editors Note

It is with great pleasure on behalf of AHSA that we introduce the first issue of the *Artful* newsletter. We are a student-run publication featuring the work of students and looking to give voice to people passionate about the arts at UBC and Vancouver.

The creation of this newsletter wouldn't be possible without the help of various people: The Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory, AHSA, Claudia Pedrero, Deana Holmes, Laura Busby (for the design of the newsletter) and our contributors for this month: Julia Huggins and Alison Sinkewicz.

We look forward to continuing on with this project which we hope will provide new insights and dialogue into the world of art in Vancouver.

Ines de Sequera, Nailah King,
Shoshanna Paul
Editorial Staff for *Artful*.

Times... they are a changin'... and I like it

by Julia Huggins

A life size, full colour photo book featuring 60 to 100 distinct and diverse vulvas is an attention-grabber. Nevertheless, this work is not a sensationalized stunt meant purely for shock value. When I spoke with Wrenna Robertson, it became apparent that this artistic endeavor is as thoughtful and socially conscious as its creator.

Robertson was originally hesitant to classify her photo-book as art. It was only after the project's photographer, Katie Huisman, defined art as something that sparks thought, interest and conversation that Robertson concluded: "This absolutely is art."

Art historians and enthusiasts may recall Judy Chicago's 1979 *The Dinner Party*; the feminist art installment with "place settings" arranged to represent the genitalia of 39 notable female figures. Chicago's critics claimed the work was "essentialist" and merely reduced women to their sexuality. With the growing prevalence of practices such as labiaplasty, Robertson does not shy away from criticism and encourages discussion.

By combining photos with text from each model, Robertson hopes to empower women and change the image society imbues. The artist explains, "It [is] about the woman's whole experience and her overall self-image and her interaction with other people, with society, with her partner."

Clearly, this is art made by women and about women but does not necessarily exclude men. "[It] isn't anti-male. Men are victims of society's representations of women [just] as much as women," says Robertson.

More than just an art piece, Robertson hopes this book can become a part of sexual education curriculum. "I would like it to be accessible to as many women and men as possible, so they understand the full range of diversity," says Robertson. She felt that a visual medium would be the best way to represent the boundlessness of variation.

Her hopes and the positive feedback her work has received made me recognize how the art world has changed since 1979. We have advanced regarding gender equality and openness, but should we be moving even faster? Is it discouraging that such a book is still necessary?

Supported by UBC and the Vancouver community, Robertson is optimistic rather than discouraged. "There aren't many places in the world where this kind of communication can happen so openly," she says. "It's great that this project can begin here."

For more information please e-mail Wrenna Robertson at wrenna@showoffbooks.com.

October 21
AHSA Art Films 101
5:00 PM Lassare 105
Basquait – A film about the rise of American artist Jean-Michel Basquait as protégé of Andy Warhol and his tumultuous presence in the New York art world. Everyone welcome! Entrance is free and so is the popcorn!

October 28th
AHSA Careers in the Arts Fair
5:00 PM Lasserre 102
Come hear from four professionals working in the arts about how they got to work where they are. Q&A period will follow and refreshments. Entrance is Free!

November 4th
AHSA Art Films 101
5:00 PM Lassare 105
FILM TBA

Belkin 101
Thursdays 12:30-1:30PM
Take this opportunity to meet with fellow students to discuss ideas central to both film and art.
RSVP:
rsvp.belkin@ubc.ca

Next month's theme:
Work & Careers in the Arts!
Want to write an article and get your work published? E-mail us!
ahsanews@gmail.com

MOA: Renovated & Revamped

by Alison Sinkewicz

You know about the Museum of Anthropology (MOA); it's there and UBC students should go. You don't really have a reason not to go, but you probably haven't really had a reason to go either. Now you do! The Museum of Anthropology is open, in walking distance, newly renovated, and free for members and UBC staff and students. The recent renovations aren't just adding another gallery, the new Multidiversity Gallery at the MOA is an interactive, modern and engaging addition to the Museum.

The Multidiversity Gallery is part of the recent multi-million dollar expansion. The room boasts thousands of ethnographic objects, reconfigured into an easy-access space organized by regions. A walk through the room starts with objects from the North West Coast and B.C. Interior, and then transitions to other regions of the world including Europe, Africa, South Asia, Japan, Australia, the Americas and more. Make sure to check under the Makonde African art case to discover several Ancient Egyptian ushabti figurines and tablets, just a part of this dizzying collection.

The pieces are housed in seamless glass cases with soft fibre-optic lighting illuminating them within the dimly lit room. Underneath all of the display cases are large, heavy drawers filled with small figures, baskets, textiles, jugs, cups and more. Perhaps the most interesting additions are the CAT touch-screen terminals.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery

Mark Boulos - October 8 - December 5, 2010

Or Gallery

Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time

Aleesa Cohene, Alex Da Corte, Jon Pylypchuk, Markus Vater

September 11 - October 23, 2010

Presentation House Gallery

FLAKEY - The Early Works of Glenn Lewis
September 11 to November 14, 2010

Vancouver Art Gallery

Song Dong - Waste Not

October 2, 2010 to January 16, 2011

In Dialogue with Carr: Douglas Coupland, Evan Lee, Liz Magor, Marianne Nicolson

July 1, 2010 to January 3, 2011

Located in every object region, these interactive screens provide an in depth description of each item within the collection: the materials and techniques used are described and Google Maps locates where each item originates.

Also displayed in the Multidiversity Gallery are contemporary artworks that comment on the Museum experience and culture. One piece in particular is *Things That Are Hidden* by Mikael Willie, which displays two Canadian First Nation Masks wrapped in cut cloth, placed upon two wooden boxes and hidden from the viewer. Other contemporary pieces include colorful Portuguese Pop-Art by Manuel Gonçalves Lima and Joaquim Paiva, South African recycled art, and Great Plains contemporary art.

What's most exciting about the new MOA is that there is always something new to discover. The ethnographic objects are presented within an appealing, modern space utilizing interactive, up to date multimedia tools. However, if you still need another reason to go, a new exhibit, *Man Ray, African Art and Modernist Lens*, begins October 30th, 2010 and runs through to the end of January 2011.



Museum of Anthropology

Man Ray, African Art and the Modernist Lens
Opening Reception, Friday, October 29, 7 pm

Multidiversity Galleries Curator Tours

Tuesday October 19th, 26th,

November 2nd, 9th, 16th 2010.

Museum of Anthropology. 1:00-2:00PM

Satellite Gallery

Oct 23 at 6 pm, MOA & Belkin & Presentation House will open the doors to a new, shared gallery space downtown Vancouver. 560 Seymour Street
Opening Reception, Saturday, October 23, 6 pm

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