



# sofam in brief

school of fine art and music

a periodical review of  
**SOFAM**  
It's Faculty, Students,  
Alumni, & Staff

Art History

Music

Studio Art

Grad  
Programs

Galleries

Alumni

Student  
Groups

Welcome to the **SOFAM Brief**! Though there is rarely a time on the calendar that is not busy for the School of Fine Arts and Music, the past few months have been both exhilarating and hectic for SOFAM faculty, students and alumni. As is typical for a school that prides itself on the excellence and national renown of its faculty and alums, October and November saw it share of important exhibitions, concerts, lectures and articles, many of which are cited in this edition of **Brief**. November also saw the opening of our new gallery space in Toronto, **G: A Guelph Goodwater Project**, and with it the promise of a dynamic new concept in exhibition and pedagogy, co-curated by SOFAM and gallerist **John Goodwin**. Located at Queen East and Sherbourne, the space will be administered by Guelph MFA alumna **Beth Stuart** and will host a variety of international shows in the coming year. Finally, the new **Art History MA** program in Art and Visual Culture also got off the ground this Fall, with the welcoming of its first class of six graduate students. All in all, it is an exciting time to be connected to SOFAM!

Please help us keep in touch! If you have exhibitions, performances, articles or events you wish to announce to fellow alumni, let us know. The plan is to make the Brief a quarterly e-publication, designed to keep University of Guelph arts community (and all our friends and supporters) abreast of what's going on in our world. We love images too! Information can be sent to Matt Baker at [mbaker02@uoguelph.ca](mailto:mbaker02@uoguelph.ca)

Season's Greetings!

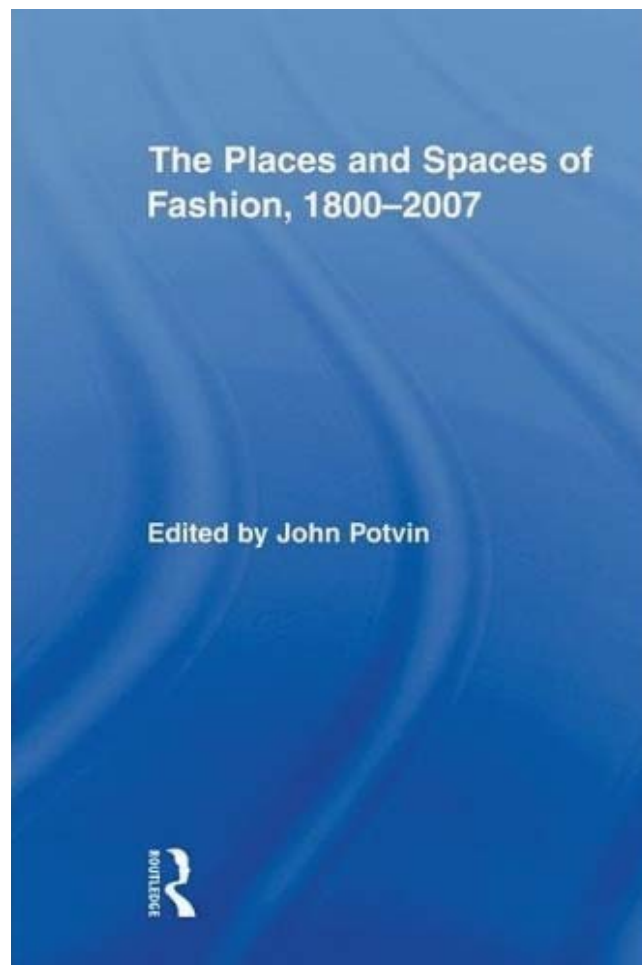
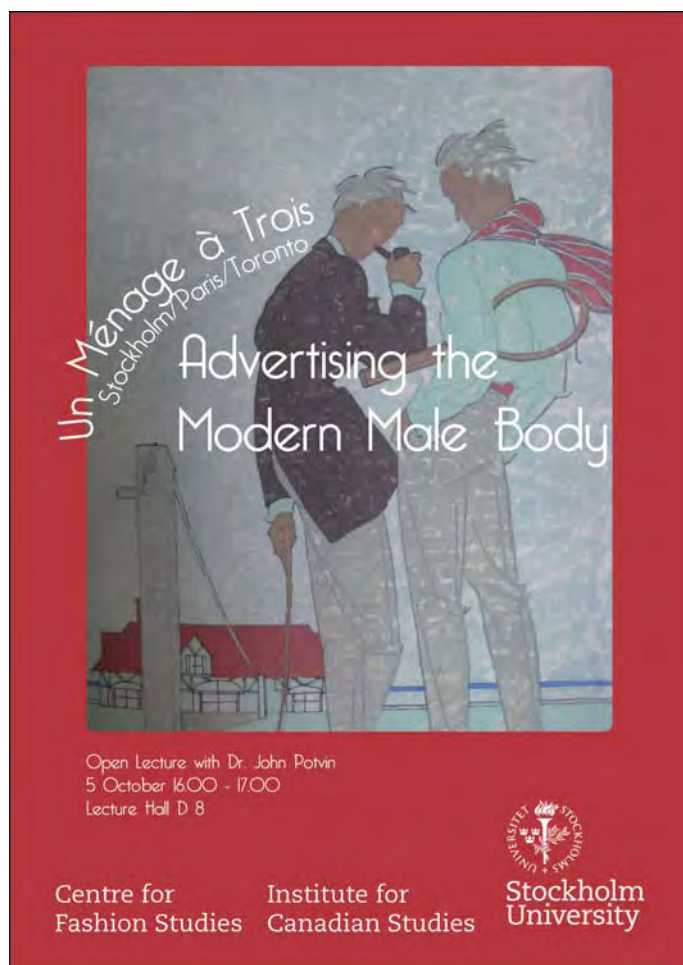
**John Kissick**

## Faculty Retirement

This past October SOFAM commemorated 22 years the teaching career of **Mary Woodside** in the music department. The celebration was held at Manhattans Jazz Club and included both spoken and musical tributes to her lifelong passion and commitment to Music, the Arts and teaching. Both colleagues and past and present students were in attendance, to bid Professor Woodside a fond farewell and much success in her future endeavors. Though her talent and experience will be missed she leaves a legacy of selfless mentoring to both her students and fellow faculty members.



**Dr. John Potvin** was invited to Stockholm University by the Institute for Canadian Studies and the Centre for Fashion Studies to give an open lecture 'Un Ménage à Trois – Stockholm/Paris/Toronto: Advertising the Modern Male Body'. Part of this lecture is to be published as a refereed article, 'The Vaseline Mafia: Rolf de Maré and a Certain Monsieur', in a special issue on queer fashion in *Lambda Nordica: Journal for GLBT – Studies* (Vol. 14, Issue 3/4 January 2010). In September 2009, he was awarded his fifth book contract for the manuscript *Giorgio Armani: Empire of the Senses* to be published with Ashgate (UK/USA). Also, in late August his edited volume *The Places and Spaces of Fashion*, (Routledge) was made available in paperback, less than one year after its initial release.







**James Harley** been busy with the following projects and performances.

**Performances:**

"Raindown (MegMix)" for two-channel electroacoustics. Presented as part of Audiospace 2009 (Open Space, Victoria, BC, openspace.ca), Fall 2009. Presented in concert at SUNY Stonybrook, 8 November.

"Birding" for amplified flute and multi-channel electroacoustics. Ellen Waterman – flutes, James Harley – electronics. Faculty Showcase, Guelph, 16 October 2009.

"Chaotika" for percussion and interactive electronics. Presented by Groundswell, Winnipeg, 20 November, Ben Reimer – percussion, James Harley - electronics. Broadcast on CBC Radio 2 The Signal, 3 December 2009.

"Wild Fruits 2" and other improvisations. ~spin~ (Ellen Waterman – flutes, James Harley – electronics). Presented by Somewhere There, Toronto, 6 December 2009.

**Publications:**

"Computational approaches to composition of notated instrumental music: Xenakis and the other pioneers," in Oxford Handbook of Computer Music, ed. Roger Dean (2009).

**Invited Presentations:**

"Kraanerg by Iannis Xenakis: A Canadian Premiere," for Xenakis: Past, Present, Future Colloquium, Brooklyn Experimental Media Center, 28-30 January 2010.

"Xenakis in Canada," Graduate Center, City University of New York, 16 March 2010.



**Ellen Waterman** spent her 2008/9 sabbatical in Montreal, where she was Visiting Scholar at the McGill Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies. While there, she organized a conference on Improvisation, the Body, and Listening and gave several guest talks and workshops at the McGill Schulich School of Music. In addition to giving several concerts with James Harley in Montreal and at the Open Ears Festival in Kitchener (May 2009) with their duo ~spin~, Waterman performed in Paris with Pauline Oliveros and Jesse Stewart. In September, she was faculty at the first Chicago Creative Music Workshop along with Roscoe Mitchell, William Parker, and Nicole Mitchell among others. Waterman also gave keynote talks in Austria (May 2009, Forum Klanglandschaft), and Dundee, Scotland (October 2008, Kill Your Timid Notion festival).

This fall she was invited to present her work at the University of Regina and at Trent University's Centre for Theory, Culture and Politics. Waterman was the 2009 recipient of the College of Arts Excellence in Teaching Award.



**The Music Students' Association** (MSA) strives to create a community among music students and faculty at the University of Guelph. We provide an open space where students can drop by with questions, or if they just want to hang-out with fellow music students in the office. We start at the beginning of the semester by holding **Music Orientation Week** events, and continue throughout the year with

biweekly pizza lunches to accompany the **Thursday at Noon Concerts** (TANC), **24 Hour Arts Day** performances, Trick or Eat (in collaboration with Meal Exchange), College Royal activities, Arts Week events, hold jam sessions, Pizza, Pub, and Trivia nights, and one of the ever growing events with the Creative Music Festival and Symposium. **The 4th Annual Symposium** will be held next February and offers an opportunity for students to present a paper, a performance, hold a round table discussion, or present a digital music project. It is done in an open environment that encourages lower and upper year students to attend and participate. The MSA is always working towards expanding its activities with other clubs such as the **Fine Arts Network** (FAN) to get a broader presence on campus. We are also getting involved with the Peer Helper Network to help students with their music classes. If you would like anymore information on our organization please visit our website:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/~musicstu/>.



**Ann Westbere** is the current President of the MSA. The Faculty and Students would like to extend their heart felt thanks for her efforts, as well as those of the executive committee in furthering the Musical community on campus.





*Still from the video  
You Go To My Head  
Diane Borsato, 2009*

**Diane Borsato** is presenting a new video work entitled *You Go To My Head* - where two performers attempt to sing the 1938 song by J. Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie of the same name - by sharing one another's breath. Each singer draws air from the other's lungs as in mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, and throughout the piece they struggle to obtain enough oxygen to continue. The work is currently showing at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Quebec City this Fall, and later in the spring at the Museum of Contemporary Art of the Val-de-Marne, in France. The exhibition *Emporte Moi* looks at ways artists represent the experience of love, curated by Nathalie de Blois and Frank Lamy.

For further information please visit [www.dianebersato.net](http://www.dianebersato.net)  
or email [dborsato@uoguelph.ca](mailto:dborsato@uoguelph.ca)

Recently **Susan Dobson's** work appeared in the Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery Biennial, curated by Nancy Campbell. Currently, her work is on view in the exhibition *BEYOND PLACE: Recent Photography Acquisitions* at the Portland Art Museum in Portland, Oregon.

Susan Dobson's work will be featured on two billboards outside Olympic venues during the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. The billboards are part of a public art project titled *Endlessly Traversed Landscapes*, organized by VANOC and curated by Natalie Doonan. During the Olympics her work can also be seen in an online exhibition titled *Screen 2010*, which is part of CODE and the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad. The exhibition is curated by Milena Placentile and can be viewed at <http://www.vancouver2010.com/code>.

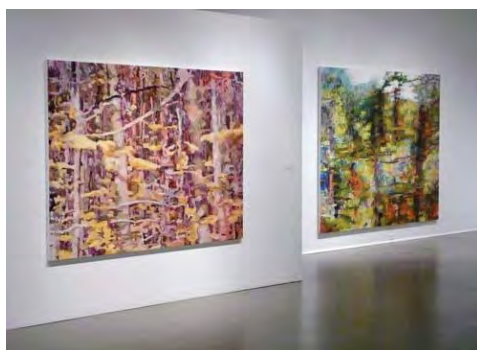


*Moonrise Over Executive Bungalow  
Dura-trans on lightbox  
Susane Dobson, 2009*

**Martin Pearce** will be showing his recent works in a show entitled "This Was a Place" at the Kelowna Art Gallery. Pearce is a painter who also has a practice in drawing, which will be the focus of this installation of recent works. A grid of twenty drawings based on the industrial suburbs of Montreal will be included, as well as a ten-foot-long fanciful drawing of invented cities. The Quebec works all began with a photo-transfer of a found photograph of the selected scene, then the artist worked into this armature with both ink and conté, as well as erasure, and created free-form works, some of which are barely recognizable as representational images. The imagery in the ten-foot long cities-themed work exists more in the realm of invented fantasy, in which a world of small installations or towns occupy a shifting and disjointed landscape, so that our eye cannot journey across the long sheet of paper without encountering a rupture of one kind or another. This exhibition runs from Sept. 5 to Nov. 1, 2009







Rodman Hall - installation  
Monica Tap 2009,

## Monica Tap and Michel Daigneault: Unnatural September 26, 2009 – January 3, 2010

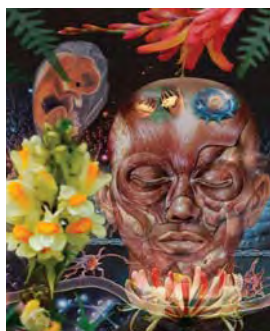
This exhibition brings together the work of Monica Tap and Michel Daigneault, two painters who explore issues of perception and representation through abstracted representations of natural and synthetic landscapes. Working from projected QuickTime video stills, Tap's paintings are rooted in her experience as a commuter watching the landscape whip by through the windows of buses, cars and trains. Each brushstroke traces a pixel of the still, giving the impression

that the paint is pulled across the canvas by sheer speed. In contrast, Daigneault works with a personal vocabulary of motifs and approaches to painting, recombining and reconfiguring them in dreamlike images of an internal landscape populated by seemingly architectural constructs and broad fields of colour. Their affinity lies not only in the large scale of their abstracted landscapes, but also in the simultaneous construction & deconstruction of their source material. An essay by Pete Smith (MFA 2005) will be published by Rodman Hall in January, in conjunction with the closing of the show.



Between Winter and Summer  
Monica Tap 2009,  
oil on canvas, 60" x 80"

## "This View of Life: Evolutionary Art for the Year of Darwin"



Solar Anatomy  
Silkscreene  
Jean Maddison 2009

**Professor Jean Maddison** recently participated in the exhibition "This View of Life: Evolutionary Art for the Year of Darwin", a group exhibition that presented recent work from contemporary Canadian artists and featured collaborative projects created with scientists from the University of Guelph. Forms of artistic expression can be compared to instruments of observation, magnifying some aspects of evolution while masking or distorting others. The exhibits offered unique perspectives into the nature and scope of biological forms, organic variation, and evolving life forms. Jean Maddison showed 5 silk screen prints based on computer generated images. The works were shown at the Ed Video Gallery, 40 Baker Street, Guelph Ontario and in the Science Complex Atrium, University of Guelph.



Blind Watchmaker  
Silkscreene  
Jean Maddison 2009



Deer  
Oil on Panel, 2009  
12" x 16"

For **Will Gorlitz**, the fall semester, which was the busiest ever, will continue into the winter.

In the months of September and October, his travelling survey exhibition was presented in an updated version at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre. A monographic publication that accompanied the exhibition includes essays by Bruce Ferguson, Peggy Gale, Jeffery Spalding and Guelph Alumnus **David Urban**.

The current issue of **Border Crossings** magazine includes a feature length interview with Gorlitz conducted by **Robert Enright**.  
<http://www.bordercrossingsmag.com/issue111/article/2671>

As well as being represented at several booths at the Toronto International Art Fair in October, two of Will Gorlitz's paintings were included in *Heartland*, the fair's curated 10th anniversary flagship project.

In November, the Michael Gibson Gallery held an exhibition of new paintings, some revisiting earlier themes, others involving new explorations. A full colour catalogue with an essay by Art Green was produced for the exhibition.

[http://www.gibsongallery.com/artists\\_pages/gorlitz/gorltizindex.html](http://www.gibsongallery.com/artists_pages/gorlitz/gorltizindex.html)

Gorlitz was a guest speaker at the University of Western Ontario in November where he gave an illustrated presentation of his work.

In the New Year, Gorlitz's survey exhibition will be presented in Toronto with the addition of a new thematic work for the 'Project Room' at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art.

<http://www.mocca.ca/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions/>

On Saturday, February 13th, the week following Will's MOCCA opening, another exhibition of new (probably not yet dry) paintings is scheduled to open at the Toronto gallery Birch Libralato.



Arboretum Larix sibirica  
Oil on Canvas, 2009  
54" x 74"

Upcoming:

**James Carl** will be showing new work at The Power Plant in Toronto in a group show entitled "Nothing to Declare" from December 11 2009 to March 7 2010.





**Sandra Rechico** & Gwen MacGregor present the results of their shared investigation into the recording and mapping of their movements in cities. The show is a collaborative installation that critiques widely-held cultural assumptions about the surveying and understanding of our inhabited landscape. Their work questions what it means to map accurately or objectively, interpreting data collected in four cities traversed recently by both artists: Toronto, Montreal, Münster and Kassel.

To some, pulling a face is just simple fun. But to artist **Arthur Renwick**, it can mean confronting years of First Nations' history. With a show of photographs on at Toronto's Leo Kamen Gallery (shots that will travel to the Vancouver Olympics), Renwick tells Leah Sandals about the politics of posing in this National Post featured interview.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/related/topics/story.html?id=2266928#ixzz0Z1UTzSPc>



**Christian Giroux** was recently featured in FENONEM IKEA at MUSEUM FÜR KUNST UND GEWERBE HAMBURG. The show included 250 exhibits, including IKEA products spanning six decades, design classics by Thonet, Panton, Henningsen and others, mous Frankfurt kitchen from 1926. NON IKEA is the name of a special section within FENOMEN IKEA which brings together some 25 works of art and design objects by international designers and artists. These objects take up the concepts, materials and products of IKEA and create something completely new out of them:

taking aesthetic principles to extremes, introducing new functions, alienating the designs to make them subversive and provocative.





On November 24, 2009, **Maryse Larivière** participated in presentation of Unique Trajectories in Graduate Studies—a café discussion with local arts professionals currently in, or recently graduated from, Masters programs in the visual arts, sponsored by the Education and Outreach Committee (part of the University of Toronto Hart House Art Committee). The discussion identified a growing trend of unorthodox approaches to graduate studies in art, including studio art, curatorial studies, art history, or combination programs.

The panel consisted of Jennifer Matotek, Maryse Larivière, and Andrew Lochhead. Matotek is an MBA candidate at the Schulich School of Business. She holds a MA in Art History from York University (2008), and completed her undergraduate studies in the Art and Art History program at the University of Toronto Mississauga and Sheridan College (2001). Larivière, a student in the University of Guelph's Master of Fine Arts program, has exhibited her work at SKOL and Centre Clark. Larivière is co-founder of the independent curatorial collective Pavilion Projects, and initiated the Montreal Off-Biennale and the MTL ART MAP. Lochhead is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, curator, and arts administrator interested in contemporary visual culture. He received his BA in Art History from the University of Windsor (2006), and his Masters Degree in Visual and Critical Studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2008).

The Education and Outreach Committee, a sub-committee of the Hart House Art Committee, works with the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery to develop programmes that offer an educational approach to art; it connects with artists, art students and the wider community beyond the University of Toronto.



## ROSS BELL: STRIP CUBE Opening Saturday, Nov. 21 - Dec. 19, 2009

Artist in Attendance Nov. 21 from 2-5pm

**Georgia Scherman Projects** Guelph MFA Alumnus is pleased to present Strip Cube the second solo exhibition by **Ross Bell**. Upon entering the gallery, viewers will be confronted with an eight foot 'hypercube', invited to interact with the obstructed space, and lured into stepping inside it. With left over materials from art packers' strip-crates and ubiquitous housing construction materials, the artist has built a series of exaggerated cubes, which playfully confound perceptions. It is a quirky, tongue-in-cheek exercise typical of Bell's ongoing and lovingly crafted explorations of twentieth century modernist sculpture. By reshaping enclosed visual space and creating a metaphysical conjunction of axes with maple and mirror, walnut and stainless steel, the viewer's presence is both sneakily erased and

momentously evoked. Such personal dislocation draws on viewer-object interaction by appropriating notions of Smithson's dislocation, Judd's concerns for reductive form and Brancusi's exploration of space.

PLEASE ALSO JOIN US FOR THE CATALOGUE LAUNCH OF "PROJECT FOR A NEW AMERICAN CENTURY, Jennifer Marman & Daniel Borins, Essay by Philip Monk Saturday, November 28, 3-5pm

Exhibition hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10am to 5pm, Saturday, 11am to 5 pm, or by appointment. To schedule an interview, request images or obtain more information on the exhibition, please contact the gallery: 416.554.4112 or [info@georgiascherman.com](mailto:info@georgiascherman.com).