Collaborating to Create A Digital Humanities Center at Oklahoma State University

2016 Digital Humanities @ OU
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As a collaborative of art historians and students of visual culture, Material Collective seeks to foster a safe space for alternative ways of thinking about objects. Read more about us.

FROM THE BLOG Posts and contributions

#ArtHistoryEngaged at SECAC 2015 and CAA 2016!
January 14, 2016

Jennifer Borland recaps the exciting collaboration between Material Collective and Art History that at SECAC and gives a preview of upcoming projects.

CALLING ALL HORDES AND HOARDERS!
November 10, 2015

We’re very excited to launch our first crowd review of the essays to be included in Hoarders and Hordes: Responses to the Staffordshire Hoard, a special issue of postmedieval: a journal.

BABEL 2015: Off The Books Wrapup
October 27, 2015

The year marked the fourth BABEL Working Group Conference, held at the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto. This was, by many accounts, the best yet. While atten-
Manifesto

We are the Material Collective, a group of medievalists interrogating visual materials. We seek to:

- cooperate
- encourage
- share
- promote transparency
- touch
- desire
- destabilize
- amuse
- and blunder

As a collaborative of students of visual culture, Material Collective seeks to foster a safe space for alternative ways of thinking about objects.

We strive for transparency in our practice, and we encourage the same in our institutional surroundings.

Our project touches upon both form and content, as we pursue a lyrical and experimental style of writing along with a more humane, collaborative, and supportive process of scholarship.

We encourage spontaneity in writing art history, including an acknowledgement of our subject positions; therefore we embrace the incorporation of personal narrative and reflection in our historical interpretations.

Our specific interests vary, but we are all committed to prioritizing the materiality of things, the relationships between those things and the human beings who experience them, and the intimacy of past and present moments in time.

As we celebrate, dwell in, and embrace the basic materiality of our objects, we work to find ways to foreground the material of the objects themselves into larger historical analysis.

Central to this effort is a desire to support each other as we attempt to create experimental approaches, and to embrace both the successes and potential failures of our ventures into new ways of thinking.

We are also working to increase the legitimacy of these approaches in the academic world, primarily by practicing them, loudly and often.

We are as much a support group as a scholarly group. We share the joys and sorrows of career, life and our academic work.

For us, this is not a mere exercise — we stand by our manifesto. And we revel in this opportunity to raise a glass with all y’all, right here and now.

We value:

- experimental processes
- risk-taking
- transparency, revelation
- a blank space
- joy in faltering, together

So say we all.
So say we all.

thefinalcollectiv.org
(Shared with permission; apologies for cross-posting): Canadian dissertation prize--please note deadline, and share widely with anyone who might have an eligible project!

The yearly competition for The Leonard Boyle Dissertation Prize for Medieval Studies is currently open. This prize is awarded to a deserving doctoral dissertation in any field of medieval studies. The dissertation must be written by a Canadian or by someone resident in Canada. Entries are adjudicated by the ... See More
The University Network on Community Engagement

At Oklahoma State University

*Coordinated by the Division of International Studies and Outreach*

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**Purpose of the Network**

To advance a vision and understanding of community engagement at Oklahoma State University and the role it plays in

- Advancing the *instruction* mission – Additional value to the student experience via engagement
- Advancing the *scholarship* mission – Fostering discovery, innovation and creativity in using the best minds to solve the toughest problems of the state, nation and the world
- Advancing the *service* mission-- Demonstrating to people living and working in Oklahoma and beyond that the University contributes to their well-being – a contribution far beyond enrolling Oklahoma’s best and brightest students.

**To think collectively about how OSU can better tell the story of its contribution to the public good**

- How do we tell the story within the University community?
- How do we tell the story to decision makers and the public?

**To think collectively about tacit strategies to accomplish the goals listed above**

- How can we better support faculty members?
- How can we increase opportunities for students?
- How do we engage staff, the public, and other university stakeholders?
GOALS OF A DIGITAL HUMANITIES CENTER?

• Visibility of the Humanities

• Outreach and Community Engagement

• What IS Digital Humanities?

• Undermining Disciplinary Divides

• Promotion and Tenure Recognition
WHAT SHOULD A CENTER INCLUDE?

- Website(s)
- Methods for Sharing Existing Projects
- Establish Network of People
- Events Programming
- Support through Funding
- Technological Support and Personnel
- Spaces
Edmon Low Library, OSU
Creative Studios