ARLIS/NA Decorative Arts Round Table (DART)

Sunday May 4, 2008 9:00-10:30 am

Co-Chairs: Rebecca Friedman, rfriedma@princeton.edu
           Karyn Hinkle, hinkle@bgc.bard.edu

Denver, CO at the Grand Hyatt Hotel restaurant "1876"

Attending:

Cheryl Costello; Rebecca Friedman; Inga Hakanson; Jennifer Hehman; Karyn Hinkle; Beth Hylen; Joy Kestenbaum; Christina Peter; Barbara Reed; Kristen Regina; Linda Seckelson; Mary Stark; Kathy Woodrell & Chris Mees and Mark Horner from Design Research Publications

DART Website

We’re ready to get something up on the ARLIS/NA website. Rebecca Friedman and Karyn Hinkle will form the Task Force. They’ll do a basic website consisting of a list of links: institutions, academic programs, links of interest, news, etc. Some additional ideas were noted on paper by attendees. If anyone has suggestions, please contact the Task Force. Rebecca suggested the Task Force work on a DART promotional brochure as well.

Institutional Updates

- Stephen Van Dyk from the Cooper Hewitt: sent a message via Rebecca. He suggested a session on World’s Fairs for the 2009 ARLIS/NA conference in Indianapolis.
- Joy Kestenbaum: A new fashion theory course has been established at Parsons School of Design.
- Linda Seckelson: the MET is considering slowly digitizing their trade catalog collection. Currently, trade catalogs are held in two places: the library and the print department. Many are in poor condition, so the project is vital for preservation as well as access.
- Karyn Hinkle: Bard Graduate Center will be closed to the public until June 2009 while they double their space by expanding into a new additional building
- Jennifer Hehman: is working on tours for the 2009 conference. She hopes to include decorative arts-related sites such as:
  - Kokomo Opalescent Glass Co
  - American Art & Clay Co
  - Indiana Historical Society
  - The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
  - And more!
She also discussed how race-related objects could be considered in a decorative arts context (fashion, logos, car design, etc.)
Current exhibits in Indianapolis include: Indianapolis Museum of Art “Breaking the Mode: Contemporary Fashion from the Permanent Collection, Los Angeles County Museum of Art,” March 16-June 1, 2008; Indiana State Museum, “Quilting Blocks and Binding Threads,” February 9 - June 15, 2008 and “Radical Lace and Subversive Knitting,” April 25 - August 24, 2008 (traveling exhibit of unusual textiles; includes a catalog)

**Design Index Retrospective**

Chris Mees joined the group. He created Design & Applied Arts Index for 18 years until CSA bought him out. Now, he is in the process of creating an online database, Design Index Retrospective, that will be distributed by ProQuest. He has invested in long runs of magazines (up to 1910) and is indexing them and adding abstracts. Design Profiles is a parallel project that provides biographies of the artists, designers and architects who are indexed in the retrospective. There will be one subscription price for both publications. He will keep us informed of his progress with the project. One suggestion from the group was whether it might be possible to create a supplementary database to DAAI for decorative arts collections. To contact him: info@researchdesign.co.uk

Matt Kibble from ProQuest also briefly attended the meeting. ProQuest is investigating the possibility of introducing a fashion index. Grove Art/Oxford is also planning to add design content to the online Grove Dictionary of Art.

**2009 Conference Ideas**

- World’s Fairs. There is a new website relating to fairs. Can we get them to participate?
- Decorative arts traditions in the Indianapolis/Indiana area – Kathy Woodrell will submit a proposal (furniture, glass, etc.)
- The inadequacy of decorative arts searching methods/lack of decorative arts terms at present – could include image databases, vocabulary, iconographical searching. Look at the Tate Modern’s subject indexing and the Getty Cultural Object Name Authority project as models. Kristen Regina suggested the
online database of digitized images created by the Hillwood Museum’s registrar may be of interest. Eileen Fry, conference co-chair for Indianapolis in 2009 (present briefly), mentioned the potential of social tagging of images as one possible solution to enrich decorative arts subject access, e.g. to objects of various kinds present within a particular work of art. ArtStor, CAMIO, others currently allow such searching.

The deadline for submissions is May 31. Eileen Fry will be sending an email to the ARLIS listserv with forms and additional information.

Study Trips

Kristen Regina announced that the ARLIS/NA International Relations Committee will sponsor trips to the Netherlands in 2008 and to Germany in 2009.

Please contact Beth Hylen if you have any changes or additions to the minutes: hylenej@cmog.org or 607-974-8215