



ARLIS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Canvas Newsletter

Chair's Corner



From my corner of Southern California, San Diego, things are bright as usual which also describes the state of our Southern California chapter. We've had two engaging and well-attended meetings/events so far this year at the Cerritos Public Library and at the Banff Springs Hotel and others in the planning stages. Our Vice Chair, Kathleen Svetlik is doing a smashing job of planning relevant and fun gatherings for our group which gives me, as Chapter Chair, time to look at the bigger picture and consider more long term needs for our chapter.

Having been involved at the board level for the past three and a half years, (first as Treasurer for two years, Vice Chair for one and now Chair) I've had the opportunity to work with a great group of colleagues in our profession and help evolve the chapter in new directions. I have learned that historically our chapter has provided a leadership role in ARLIS/NA. It was the first chapter to be established and many of our chapter's early founders were instrumental in getting ARLIS/NA off the ground. I see no reason why this leadership shouldn't continue since we remain an active and growing chapter (15 new members were added this year).

Financially, our chapter is doing quite well thanks to the enormous success of the Artists' Book Conference (ABC) held in Los Angeles in May of 2005. This provides

us with an opportunity to raise the chapter's profile and do more for our members as evidenced by the additional travel award that was provided this year to the national conference in Banff.

We're also looking to do more outreach to students who have historically been somewhat under represented in our chapter. Kathleen Svetlik has developed a committee that will provide a \$300 scholarship to a student interested in art library and visual resource work. Nancy Norris, our past Chair, is working with some UCLA students who want to set up a student chapter of ARLIS/NA. We hope these efforts, along with continued attendance at library school classes and career days, will increase our student membership and encourage more people to the profession.

A primary need I would like to address this coming year is communication to our members. Communication should be more timely and available in more than one medium. Currently, our primary means of communication is through the California listserv which is shared by ARLIS/NC and ARLIS/SC. Our chapter website has supplemented this listserv but its content has not been kept as up to date as it should be and has been difficult to maintain over the years as those member's involved in hosting it and updating its content have come and gone. While exploring solutions for this problem I happened to see the announcement about the Texas-Mexico Chapter's revamped website <http://www.arlis-txmx.org>. Their chapter's webpages are being generated from a content management system (aka CMS). A CMS allows for

easier creation and updating of webpages as well as enhanced functionality. Its functionality could include the ability for many members to provide content, comment on posts, add profiles of our institutions, and announce events. It will also allow us to provide members only access to our membership directory (in which members could update themselves!). So it will not only address our need to update content regularly, it can also enable a more collaborative environment for our members so that we can interact virtually when we cannot interact physically. Most importantly, it will give our chapter's Web presence a more streamlined look and feel which translates into a more professional face to our potential members.

Redesigning our website via a CMS or some other means, in addition to finding a commercial site to host our webpages, will be my top goal as Chapter Chair for 2006.

One of our chapter members, Kris Donovan, has graciously offered to help me work on this initiative. I welcome other members to get involved as well so if you have interest or just some good ideas please contact me trrose@ucsd.edu

My experience has been that successful organizations rely on active members so that as membership fluctuates there is a continuity of energy. I am feeling very energized by the possibilities for how our chapter could grow and I hope you are too!

Your Chapter Chair,
Trish Rose

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In Remembrance of Joan Hugo and Cal Davis

Joan Hugo, a founding member of ARLIS/NA and the Southern California chapter, passed away on Tuesday 7 February. She was the librarian of Otis College of Art for 25 years, having a prescience for that which was important in contemporary art far ahead of most archivists and librarians. She collected the contemporary art ephemera that has now become the resources of major research in the field including artist books, artist periodicals, multiples and so much more. She also was an art critic for Artweek and other publications. She then went to work as assistant to the Provost at Cal Arts for several years, always writing critical essays about performance art, contemporary art and California art. She was a Francophile and spoke French as a native, translating articles, translation interviews, and forwarding the cause of connections between French artists and California artists. I think the Southern California chapter should participate in some way of honoring her.

At ARLIS/NA Conferences, she forwarded the cause of single librarian libraries and art school libraries and created sessions on the subject. I had the great pleasure of counting her among my colleagues and friends, and wrote about her for Library Journal as one of the most prescient contemporary art librarians in the country. Her clairvoyance made the Otis Library a stellar partner in the preservation of the record of contemporary art in the second half of the 20th century.

— Judith Hoffberg, 2/9/06

Sunday, January 29, I lost a friend and so did you. L. Clarice Davis, librarian extraordinaire and book dealer even higher in standards, passed away after a long struggle with cancer. She was a smoker--please, please do everything you can to stop smoking. She couldn't until it was too late. But she was a friend to so many of us. She was an assistant to Jean Moore in the UCLA Art Library when I first met you 50 years ago. She then became the Art Librarian at that institution, and then the Los Angeles County Museum of Art director of the library. She was a very, very good librarian and art historian.

And then she decided to open up a bookstore--and it was a great art bookstore in Westwood Village, the home of UCLA and other wonderful people too. The openings, the parties, the launchings, and the art gallery promoted what she believed in--the best art books, the best art, and the best parties.

And then she closed the shop and worked out of her beautiful home which seemed to accommodate a book collection beyond imagination, as well as many cats, dogs, and a few people. It was in San Fernando Valley. She took me out to see the poppies in the spring one year. She was one of the first members of ARLIS/NA because she always believed in what I was doing, independent and aggressive as I was. She supported me through all the ups and the downs of ARLIS in its first years, and I hear her deep voice even now--which turned into a rasp, a scratch, and then silence, because of so much radiation. She stood out and she stood up for independent bookstores. For careful and meticulous expertise in describing antiquarian books and used books, she taught me high standards and scruples.

Tonight, if you could, raise a glass to Cal--and perhaps we shall honor her at UCLA with some kind of gesture that will memorialize her presence in our lives.

On the eve of my own sister's memorial,

—Judith Hoffberg, 2/2/06

Changes to the Bylaws

Memorializing Late Members

In the past year, two very special members of ARLIS/SC passed away, Cal Davis and Joan Hugo, prompting a discussion on ways to memorialize late members. During the Cerritos meeting, it was unanimously approved to create a dedicated page on the Chapter Website for obituaries, memories, and pictures. In addition, ARLIS/SC will donate \$50 to the most significant institution in the person's career for the purchase of a book into which an ARLIS/SC Chapter bookplate will be laid.

Travel Awards

Resolutions were passed during the Cerritos meeting setting the sum of \$400 for the Judith Hoffberg Travel Award and clarifying who may apply so as not to exclude Judy or any current ARLIS/SC board member in need. Also formalized was the practice of awarding travel monies to help ARLIS/SC board members attend the national conference. Members unanimously approved that a pool of \$600 be set, \$400 for the Chair and \$200 for the Vice-Chair with the monies being re-divided depending on need and including the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Past Chair.

ABC—LA the Artists' Book Conference

Creating, Collecting, Cataloging, Conserving, Collaborating

Don't miss the article in Art Doc Vol.25, no. 1, by Lynne S. Vieth entitled *The Artist's Book Challenges Academic Convention*, which drew inspiration from the *Artist's Book Conference, Los Angeles* (ABC-LA May 21-24, 2005). The conference's lectures, workshops, vendors, exhibitions, and discussions took place over four days in four different venues: the MOCA; Otis Art Institute; the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library; and the Getty Research Institute. Many thanks go out to the individuals and institutions whose generous support made the conference such an amazing success.

Topics included historical perspectives, conservation, cataloging, access, marketing and acquisitions, and education.

For conference notes and more pictures of the events, visit our website at www.arlis-sc.org.



The William Andrews Clark Library Photo by Allwyn O'Mara

NEW! Scholarships for Students

Not long ago I was a student in library school lucky enough to have wonderful mentors who ushered me into the Art Library community and introduced me to ARLIS. Now, ARLIS/SC wants to help introduce other students to the benefits of membership by offering a \$300 scholarship to a Southern California student enrolled in a library/information science program who is pursuing a career in Art Librarianship or Visual Resources Curatorship.

The Plan Takes Shape

Although we are still in the planning stages, a committee has been formed and a rough-draft of a mission statement has been made. We want to present the first award this fall.

Although there are two library schools in Southern California, we are hoping to be able to reach students who reside in California but are in distance programs.

Mission Statement

The ARLIS/SC Student Award is offered to students pursuing a career in Library Science with an emphasis in art or art-related libraries, or as a Visual Resources Curator. The purpose of the award is to reward/recognize an individual that has demonstrated a sincere interest in and commitment to the profession and encourage students to participate in ARLIS and become an active member of the art

\$300 has been set aside as a scholarship for students interested in pursuing a career as an Art Librarian or Visual Resources Curator

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library community. The person receiving the award must reside in Southern California and must attend an accredited library school.

The Committee

The committee to establish the scholarship consists of Kathleen Svetlik (chair), Cathy Billings, Robert Gore, and Lauren McKinsey.

If you are interested in being a member of the award committee, reading applications and determining who should receive the award, please contact me at:

kathleensvetlik@earthlink.net.

Thank you for being a part of our community.

Kathleen
Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Business Meeting and Tour of Cerritos Library



The first business meeting of 2006 was held Wednesday, March 29 at the Cerritos Library. Twenty-one members attended the meeting including several new members. To read the meeting minutes please visit our website at www.arlis-sc.org.

After the meeting, Stanley Strauss, the Director of the Cerritos Library showed us the prototype of his Web-based catalog for access to the Artists' Book Collection. In designing the database Mr. Strauss and his team paid particular attention to how the

public library patrons might access the information.

This user centered focus was also evident as the discussion turned to the planning and architecture of the library building. The intent right from the start was to create an interactive experience that entertains as well as informs. By combining the concept of the *Experience Economy* with the theories of emotional intelligence, Cerritos has created a library where



A full-sized dinosaur skeleton resides in the Children's Room
Photo by Kathleen Svetlik

patrons, subtly or not so subtly, respond with all of their senses.

Not only is the library hi-tech with up-to-the-minute computer labs and stations, but it has a 15,000 gallon saltwater aquarium, a full-sized replica T-Rex skeleton, an Old-World reading room and much more. If you have not been to see the library yet, make plans to go!

The library is located at
**18025 Bloomfield Avenue
Cerritos, California 90703**

Travel Award Recipients: Lorraine Perrota and Judith Hoffberg

The ARLIS/SC Judith A. Hoffberg Travel Award was given to Lorraine Perrota, Head of Technical Services, at The Huntington Library. Lorraine has been very active in the chapter having been a member since 1989. She served as Vice Chair in 1996 and Chair in 1997. In 2000 she was one of the co-chairs for the very successful annual conference in LA. Since Lorraine hasn't been able to attend an ARLIS conference for the past five years we're happy to be able to support her attendance in Banff this year.



Lorraine Perrota accepts her award from Alyssa Resnick

In addition, the board funded an award (this year only), simply named the ARLIS/SC Travel Award. This award was given to Judith Hoffberg, Editor and Publisher of *Umbrella*. Judith founded the Southern California chapter in 1972. From 1973-1977 she was the Founding Executive Secretary of ARLIS/NA, organized 5 national conferences, and served as editor of the ARLIS/NA newsletter. She holds honorary lifetime memberships in ARLIS/NA, ARLIS/SC and in ARLIS/UK. The ARLIS/SC Chapter is proud to count Judy Hoffberg as one of its own, and to honor her many achievements, especially her contributions to art librarianship in North America.



Judith Hoffberg accepts her award from Alyssa Resnick
Photos by Trish Rose

34th Annual ARLIS National Conference in Banff, Canada

This year, the ARLIS National Conference was held in the majestic beauty of Banff National Park in Canada, a World Heritage Site. Breathtaking views set the stage for a lively and information filled conference.

It was wonderful as a Southern Californian not only to see the pristine mountains and clear skies, but also to share in the culture of Canada with other Art Librarians. Several of the sessions were dedicated to Indigenous Artists, local and

national history and the Canadian wilderness. In addition, tours and events were arranged in Banff and Calgary that highlighted museums, galleries or artists.

Southern California Chapter members, Dawn Henney and Alyssa Resnick lead a workshop entitled *Collection Development, Acquisitions, and Vendor Relations* which was very well

attended and informational. ARLIS/SC will be hosting this workshop for inter-



The Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel
Photo by Kathleen Svetlik



Mountain Views in Banff
Photo by Kathleen Svetlik

ested ARLIS/SC members this fall. Please keep an eye on your email and snail mailboxes for more information!

For conference proceedings, be sure to check out the ARLIS Website at www.arlisna.org and follow the links to the conference.

Next year's conference, the 35th, will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Hope to see you there!

The ARLIS/SC Board

Trish Rose, Chair

University of California, San Diego
trrose@library.ucsd.edu

Kathleen Svetlik, Vice Chair/ Chair Elect

The Bishop's School, San Diego
kathleensvetlik@earthlink.net

Alyssa Resnick, Treasurer

The Brand Library & Art Center, Glendale

Heather Cleary, Secretary

Otis College of Art and Design
hcleary@otis.edu

Nancy Norris, Past Chair

University of California, Los Angeles
nnorris@library.ucla.edu



L-R: Alyssa Resnick, Kathleen Svetlik, Nancy Norris, Heather Cleary, Trish Rose



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www.arlis-sc.org