

Minutes of the Design Studies Forum business meeting

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Salon A, Imperial Ballroom

In attendance:

Carma Gorman	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Rebecca Targ	University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Elizabeth Guffey	SUNY Purchase
Ann Schoenfeld	Pratt Institute
Michael Schmidt	University of Memphis / Center for Multimedia Arts
David Raizman	Drexel University

The meeting was called to order at 12:37 pm.

Introductions were made.

A handout advertising David Raizman's evening session was distributed.

Calls for papers

Calls for papers for the 2006 CAA special session and 2007 sponsored session will be sent out in the next month. Please consider putting a session proposal forth and spread the word.

Elizabeth and Carma plan to co-chair a panel in a CAA standard session on contemporary issues in the studio tentatively called Design(ing) Criticism.

The Listserv

371 people are signed up for the DSF listserv as of February 14, 2005. The listserv has gained over 100 subscribers in the last year. Currently the listserv exists on Carma's laptop computer, which is becoming inconvenient for a number of reasons; the server at her home won't allow mass emails, the list can't be transferred easily and isn't recorded elsewhere, etc. She would thus like to apply to have the list hosted on H-Net (Humanities Net, [www.h-net.msu.edu](http://www.h-net.msu.edu)), which is housed at Michigan State University. [more on

listserv, below]

Unscheduled visit from Andrea Norris, Vice President for Committees of CAA

She will take suggestions regarding the conference; what DSF members would like to see more or less of, for example. Carma mentioned that she had spoken recently with Emmanuel Lemakis, Director of Programs for CAA, about making the equipment request process for special sessions clearer in the future (the forms that have been used for the past few years make it somewhat difficult to request multimedia equipment, and the request must be made many months in advance). The good news is that starting next year, every room will have multimedia options available, so a special request (and fee) will no longer be necessary.

> Scheduling of design-related activities during CAA

Ann liked it that all DSF activities and sessions were on one day of CAA this year; it made it easy to attend them all without having to spend the time or money to stay for the entire conference. However, according to Andrea, next year the conference will start on Wednesday and there will be no evening sessions, which will allow for more museum/gallery receptions, institutional receptions, and down time in the evenings. This means it is less likely that all design events will be on one day in the future. Putting all the design activities on one day this year was a purposeful move and she's gotten mixed reactions (for example, the AIGA business meeting was at the same time as the DSF business meeting, which probably resulted in decreased attendance for both). Michael suggests that the business meeting for DSF might be on one day, and all other design sessions on the next day.

> Location of meeting

Elizabeth asks if CAA's location is New York City once every three years, or once every four years. Andrea explained that it varies, and that now it's one in four. The Hilton was a problem in NYC and CAA is skipping a year to let them solve some of the problems; the Hilton is the only place in NYC that suits both multimedia and size needs for CAA. Elizabeth notes that it's hard to get folks to Atlanta especially with Boston and NYC coming up next, and we need the momentum of the energy and numbers that happen particularly in NYC to get the journal and other projects going strong. Andrea notes that this is the first time CAA is being held in the southeast.

#### David Raizman's session

David hopes everyone can come, and mentions that the panelists were gracious about the edits he made to their papers. After the session, he has invited the speakers to get together for dinner at Dailey's on Peachtree and that all present DSF members are invited to join them.

#### Listserv revisited

H-Net requires that its listservs have at least two co-editors and six advisory board members (to weigh in on any controversies over policies, list content, etc.), which would require some changes to the DSF list's structure, namely the addition of more people to its day-to-day operations. Michael notes that the PHD-DESIGN listserv has been very busy back and forth with complaints; however, Carma notes that PHD-DESIGN is primarily a discussion list, rather than a moderated announcement list like DSF, which does tend to make a difference in the list's tone. Carma suggests that a motion to approve an application to H-Net be made, which, if approved, will help make the list safer from accident or theft (which her laptop-located system is not) and which will allow members to subscribe and unsubscribe by themselves (which saves DSF administrative work). Carma notes that H-Net is free; there is no membership fee. Elizabeth moves to switch the listserv from Carma's laptop to H-Net. Ann seconds the motion, and the vote is unanimous.

#### DSF Website

Carma has purchased the domain name <http://designstudiesforum.org>. Currently, Southern Illinois University's server is the hosting site, which can be changed to UT-Chattanooga easily, and we can keep the address constant at less than ten dollars per year (which Carma has been covering herself). Rebecca has already secured a spot on UTC's server, and expects the site to be up in a few weeks with the minutes of the CAA 2005 business meeting. Ann asks if all 371 people on the listserv know about the DSF website. Rebecca can send an announcement of the new website to the listserv to remind people of its existence. Carma mentions that all list postings are archived on H-Net, which is another asset--a link could be provided from the DSF page to the list archive. Including an archive of CAA paper abstracts and possibly full papers on the DSF website is also suggested.

#### Journal report

The title *Design Studies Review* was discarded because of existing titles which are similar. *Design*

*Criticism* was decided on. It was agreed that this title includes interpretation, analysis, classification and critique of design past and present, which covers a lot of ground. Feedback and especially further nominations for the boards are still welcome. Elizabeth will take emailed suggestions (elizabeth.guffey@purchase.edu). The journal has been funded for five years of production, with two issues per year, granted to Elizabeth directly. There was discussion of college or university sponsorship of the journal, and of whether a college or university would take out overhead costs from the granting agency and how to deal with that. David Raizman will send Elizabeth wording he has used in the past to persuade his university that it is a benefit to them to absorb the overhead, which may recede into a complete cessation of overhead charges altogether over time.

> Specialties of the editorial board of Design Criticism

Adamson	craft, furniture, Brooks Stevens show at Milwaukee
Crisp	graphic design
Curedale	auto/industrial design
Gleber	new media
Golec	American design/graphic design history
Gorman	20th-century industrial design history
McQuaid	textile history
Mitrasinovic	architecture/urban planning
Ogata	late 19th c. art history/material culture of childhood
Raizman	history of modern design
Teasley	20th c. Japanese design history
Wright	textile history

> Specialties of the advisory board of Design Criticism

Albrecht	industrial design
Drucker	graphic design
Heller	graphic design
Kirkham	20th c. design history
Meikle	20th industrial design

Zukowsky      architecture/aviation

> Discussion of the board selections

David asks should we think about how to make a less design/design history heavy editor and advisory board? At NASAD, he heard Jacques Giard speak passionately about research as a basis for design studies, and argued with RISD's more artistic views of design. There's a need for dialogue; people working in similar areas don't know of each other. How can we community-build?

> Discussion of the board selections (continued)

Carma says there's not much representation of fashion design. David raises the issue that one can't give a paper at CAA unless you're a member, that CAA makes it hard for other people to be interested in giving a paper in this venue. Michael notes that CAA is very art historian dominated. Ann knows that the president of CAA is an artist who recognizes this domination and has been advocating for studio integration. She has pushed through a lot of initiatives like exhibits for members, etc.

Carma mentions Dennis Ichiyama's support of us, and he magically appears.

Visit from Dennis Ichiyama, CAA board member

Portfolio center is hosting an event tonight from 6:30 to 9:00 pm which is a social event for design educators. Dennis says DSF is doing a wonderful job. There is a discussion of how much Dennis has done for us as a board member, the frustration of AIGA's meeting running concurrent with the DSF meeting, and a suggestion that in 2006 there be a time planned for all design-related affiliated groups to meet with one another.

Dennis asks how many of DSF listserv are CAA members? It would be interesting to know what other CAA-affiliated groups the listserv subscribers are members of (interior design, AIGA, etc.) Carma lets Dennis know that CAA had planned to crosscheck the listserv list. Carma asks about getting outside people (non-CAA members) to be on panels. Dennis wants this kind of suggestion and welcomes emails from DSF members--we should continue to contact him about the issues we care about and he will be our advocate on the CAA board.

Dennis's spot will be opening next year on the CAA board and he's trying to get another design supporter in that spot. Dennis is also working with AIGA Boston already to arrange events for 2006. He wants to know what committees people might be interested in joining, and Ann asks which committees would be important for our group to reach. Dennis suggests Professional Practices and the Student and Emerging Professionals Committees, which is new. Also, he recommends the Publications Committee. He will be happy to support DSF people as board or committee members in the nominating process. Elizabeth supplies Dennis with the handout listing Design Criticism's editorial and advisory board members. Elizabeth asks about the process for joining committees. Dennis says that the letter of nomination goes to the Vice President for Committees who in consultation with the chair decides based on location of members.

Dennis asks if DSF would like to institute a membership fee. Carma answers that it's too hard to manage, at least with our current organizational structure--we would probably need to pursue non-profit status, and create a treasurer position. If we had a membership fee, however, it could be used to support the journal and to pay for non-CAA members to come speak. Some speakers are willing to pay for themselves to travel to CAA and cover the membership, but it would be nice to cover it, especially for international speakers. Dennis says that if there's an international constituency of DSF, we should think about how to develop that.

Ann offers to forward questions/comments to the board because she knows a board member and thinks our suggestions would be received positively. Carma asks her to check on getting non-members as speakers (Michael seconds: especially for international speakers). Elizabeth asks for ideas for the journal, wants them to know about *Design Criticism*.

#### Design Criticism board revisited

Carma thanks Elizabeth for a really strong list of board members for DC. Ann asks if anyone on the DC list is strong in design criticism, and Carma notes that it's hard to separate out who that would be. Elizabeth mentions current DSF members Maud Lavin and Steven Skov Holt, who Ann remembers applied to a panel last year and was editor of *ID* magazine for years. Elizabeth asks everyone to keep their eyes open for notable design critics.

#### Closing Remarks

David says that we should at least have a mixer in Boston, that everyone would have something in common, across the multiple areas of design.

At 1:51 pm Carma moves to adjourn, Michael seconds the motion, and the meeting is adjourned.