

THE OBSERVER

April 26, 2021

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear all,

I want to thank the Fridays@3 committee for a great year of virtual events, and a finale featuring two relatively new CUNY presidents, Frank H. Wu of Queens College, who was introduced by Robin Garrell of The Graduate Center. We had a great turnout for a scholarly talk on the evolution of “Asian-American” identity and much on Japanese internment during World War II. As member Michael Kessler wrote in a follow up email exchange, “President Wu brought new insight and perspective on this story and also the equally sad history of our Chinese and other Asian immigrants.” If you joined us, we very much appreciate your feedback by way of the post-event survey. Your responses help shape our upcoming lineup. If you missed it, we will soon make available the event recording and will share the links for all Fridays@3 of this academic year.

Over the past weeks, Olena and I have been working with the Orientation and Mentor committee to welcome new members in the Fall with a wraparound approach, providing resources to get them off on the right foot and ready to jump into the LP² community. We know that the “welcome wagon” is larger than just the committee and our office staff, and thank in advance the mentors and other members who will be friendly faces and guides for newcomers.

As we look ahead, I extend thanks to the Curriculum Committee for all of their work this semester in organizing summer and fall study groups and schedules. Summer registration opens tomorrow! Look out for an email from our office with the link to the study group grid and the registration form. Fall registration will open next week – we will be in touch with those details after launching the Summer registration period.

Best,
Mariel

Our office contact information:

engagement@gc.cuny.edu

212-817-2474

Important Notice: Zine Password Change

To protect your personal information on the Zine, **effective Tuesday April 27th** the password protected portions of the Zine will require the following password: **LP2CUNY**. **Please edit your records to reflect this change.** Thank you for your cooperation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

So, You Want to Get Together . . .

One of the major themes in the Town Hall meetings was the desire to get together informally – outdoors – with other LP² members. During pre-vaccine Covid, in-person connections with friends and acquaintances and chances to meet new members and make new friends were hard to come by. Now, though, we can relocate the camaraderie of the hallways, lunches and after-class coffee or drinks to the great outdoors.

Pour at Four has morphed into “Pour at 4 Outdoors.” The beverage is having to morph too, but the mood remains frothy. Our first outdoor gathering took place this past Thursday. Ten intrepid members, undeterred by the cold, wind and last-minute date change gathered by the fountain in Madison Square Park, chatting and catching up on life and current study groups. (We will return to this park to include those who didn’t make it.)

Another “Pour” is scheduled for Dumbo/Brooklyn Bridge Park on May 14th. (See below.)

It may take some time for a “Pour” to come to a location convenient for you, which is why **we encourage members to organize their own get-togethers**. One of the easiest ways is to organize by zip code. Either alone or with a friend you can

- check the Zine Directory or contact the office (engagement@gc.cuny.edu) for a list of the LP² members in your zip code and a map showing adjacent zip codes;
- then, once you've settled on a time and location, post a notice in The Observer (e-mail Susan Rauch at srauch@gc.cuny.edu) and/or send your own e-mail invitations to those in your vicinity.

We're Actually Meeting in Person! Another Pour at 4 is OUTDOORS!

Date: Friday, May 14th

Location: Brooklyn

Time: 4:30 - 5:00

Meeting Location: Montague St./ Court St.

Benches are available in front of the Supreme Court building and fountain.

Myriam Bucatinsky will lead a 15-minute walk to Dumbo/Brooklyn Bridge Park, where we can have a drink and/or dine *al fresco*. There are lots of wonderful options.

Transportation

Subway: #2, 3 & 4 - to Borough Hal

R – to Court St.

A, C & F - to Jay St. Metrotech

Contact Myriam with any questions at mbucatinsky@gc.cuny.edu or call her at 347-563-1861.

We hope that Spring will grace us with blue skies and warm breezes, but **if it pours, we don't. We always cancel for rain!**

As Spring warms and blooms, Susan Rubens continues to scout outdoor neighborhood meeting locations. Do you know a spot with outdoor seating? Maybe you would be willing to be the host. Choose your day and location. Send your suggestions to Susan at srubens@gc.cuny.edu.

Got the Blahs? Join the Crowd. (The Docs call it “languishing.”).

And if you're feeling too blah to read this *New York Times* article, it conveniently links to the 9+-minute podcast version.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/19/well/mind/covid-mental-health-languishing.html>

BREAK ACTIVITIES

More *Shtisel* with Jenny Ross and Susie Herman, Wednesdays from 2PM to 3PM.: May 12, 19, and 26.

Season 3 is now streaming on Netflix, Jenny and Susie invite you to join them in discussion of the whole season (9 episodes this time) in three sessions, if you would like to join us, please send an e-mail to Jenny at Jross3@gc.cuny.edu and you will receive a zoom invite before the first session.

Film discussion with Robert Sholiton *Tickled: A Quirky Investigative Documentary* Tuesday, May 25th, 1PM

When a New Zealand journalist specializing in the weird and the bizarre comes across an online video of “competitive endurance tickling,” he decides to write an article about this subculture that is little-known except to its devoted internet followers. However, he immediately runs into a wall of resistance that raises his suspicions and leads him to embark on an investigation that takes him across the US from LA to the Midwest to Florida to Garden City, NY. His discoveries become ever more surprising and even sinister. Manohla Dargis of the NY Times named it a Critic’s Pick. Watch it on Amazon Prime before the discussion.

If you are interested, e-mail Robert Sholiton at rsholiton@gc.cuny.edu and you’ll receive a zoom invite before the event.

More Stories Aloud

Sharon Girard and Helene Schiffman invite you to Stories Aloud during the two summer breaks. Participants read stories aloud or just listen. We'll meet (zoom) on Mondays at 3pm: May (17, 24), July (19, 26) and Aug (9, 16). Sessions last for about an hour and a half. Stories are sent in advance by e-mail.

The fun and emphasis are in our live reading as well as brief discussion. E-mail Sharon at sgirard@gc.cuny.edu for the zoom link. Please indicate whether you would like to read aloud.

REMINDERS

Call for Break Activities before and after Summer Semester

The Community Building Initiative is seeking volunteers to lead activities during the next two breaks. The first break is from May 17th to May 28th and the second break is from July 13th to September 3rd. Your break activity can meet once, twice or multiple times. Whether it's a book or movie discussion, a current events discussion, a travel adventure or art presentation or a one-session encore presentation selected from a prior study group you coordinated, your colleagues will appreciate your efforts. Tech help is available to set up and assist you in running the zoom session. You'll receive a zoom link to send to participants. Contact Jane Case Einbender at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu to propose your activity

Open Call for *Voices Online* Submissions

Deadline: May 31, 2021

Voices Online presents the written and photographic work of our members, the deadline for our upcoming issue is May 31. For a copy of the guidelines for submissions send an e-mail to Charles Troob at lp2voicesonline@gmail.com.

If you are interested in being a judge of the submissions, please contact the editors as follows:

Prose—Mary Houts at mhouts@gc.cuny.edu and Eric Roper at eroper@gc.cuny.edu

Poetry—Irene Sax at isax@gc.cuny.edu and Mark Fischweicher at mfishwords@gmail.com

Photography—Jerry Vogel at gvoegel@gc.cuny.edu

ONLINE ART SHOW

From: Mary Padilla

Title: Fluidity



Mary says: This sculpture is one of a series of terra cotta biomorphic forms I have been working on.

Attention Water Colorists, Sculptors, Block Printers, Photographers, Painters, Collagists and Needleworkers! Contact cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu with a title and brief statement about how or where or why you made it, and your work will appear in the Online Art Show.

MEMBER FORUM

Mireya Perez Bustillo will be reading from her debut novel, *Back to El Dorado* (Florcanto, 2020).

Date: Thursday, April 29th,

Time: 7:45PM to 9:30PM

To Join:

<https://zoom.us/j/95855883220?pwd=OEJzd1JXOUJ0MWxLVERQMUJDOFJXdz09> [zoom.us] ([map](#) [google.com]); or

Join with Google Meet meet.google.com/ecj-wdvb-ctt [meet.google.com];

Or Join by phone (US) [+1 316-302-5826](tel:+13163025826) (PIN: 249341887)

From Nancy Small: A video view of the New York art scene

Karl Bodmer: North American Portraits

Metropolitan Museum of Art

American Wing, Gallery #746

On view until July 25, 2021

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDw_sbuhUYk

Karl Bodmer, (1809-1893) was Swiss-French artist best known as the painter who captured the American West of the 19th century. From 1833-1834, he accompanied the German explorer, scientist and naturalist, Prince [Maximilian zu Wied-Neuwied](#), to document what he regarded as a vanishing culture. Upon returning from their almost 5000-mile adventure, Maximilian organized a book that included 81 aquatint prints, selected from Bodmer's 400+ original watercolor portraits. The book helped to shape the European view of Native Americans, and the pictures were valued for both research purposes and their aesthetic beauty.

A keen observer and great artist, Bodmer created a "faithful and vivid picture" of some of America's indigenous peoples living along the Missouri River. His drawings of the northern Plains Indians, invite the viewer into a world that was relatively untouched by the chaos that would follow. Changes in fur trade practices, and the mass arrival of European settlers causing devastating diseases such as cholera, meant that the Indian life that Bodmer painted, was forever changed. His portraits were the first, and probably the greatest portrayal of western Indians in their

homelands. They are remarkable for the attention to detail and sensitivity to the personalities of his sitters. His paintings are considered to be the most perceptive and compelling visual accounts ever made of Native Americans, their culture and artifacts.

Upon his return from America, Bodmer moved to France, and became a member of the Barbizon School, and was made a Knight in the French Legion of Honor.

In the video, Thayer Tolles, curator of American painting and sculpture at the Met, details Maxmillian and Bodmer's journey and their friendly interactions with the Omaha, Mandan, Blackfeet and Hidatsa peoples, and highlights Bodmer's artistic accomplishments.

ONGOING LP2 EVENTS

All things covid, hosted by Barry Levine and Steve Kalinsky, will be held every three weeks until the end of the semester (absent a need for an earlier update). The next session is Friday, April 30 at 3PM.

The Women's Group meets at 3:45PM on Thursdays. Contact Arlyne LeSchack at aleschack@qc.cuny.edu

The Men's Group meets at 3:45PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jay Fleishman at efleishman@qc.cuny.edu.

Stitch Away Stress meets at 4PM Tuesdays. Members share skills and enjoy the meditative benefits of handwork. Contact Michelle Harris at mharris@qc.cuny.edu

CUNY EVENTS

For upcoming CUNY events, click here: <https://gc.cuny.edu/All-GC-Events/Calendar> and across the University, click here: <https://events.cuny.edu/>

Observer Submissions Send items for the next week's Observer to Susan Rauch at srauch@gc.cuny.edu by 5PM on Friday. Send Online Art Show entries and suggestions for virtual tours to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu.

Member Forum If you have something to share with the LP² community, *e.g.*, a photo, an article, a book or a web site that you've discovered that you think would be interesting to members, send it to Susan at srauch@gc.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.

