THE LEFT FRONT
RADICAL ART IN THE “RED DECADE,” 1929–1940

MFA THESIS EXHIBITION
DEPARTMENT OF ART THEORY & PRACTICE

IN THE MIND OF THE BEHOLDER
AN EXPERIMENT IN PERCEPTION

REVENGE AND REPOSE
CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY FROM THE COLLECTION

SPRING 2014 EXHIBITIONS

The Left Front: Radical Art in the “Red Decade,” 1929–1940
Through June 22, 2014 • Main Gallery
The Left Front: Radical Art in the “Red Decade,” 1929–1940 revisits a moment in American history when visual artists joined forces to make socially conscious art. Organized by the Block Museum, the exhibition explores the visual culture of the John Reed Club and the American Artists’ Congress through prints, drawings, paintings, and publications.
Support is provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art, as well as the Terra Foundation on behalf of William Osborn and David Kahler and the Myers Foundations. Additional funding comes from the Carlyle Anderson Endowment, the Louise G. Shapleigh Fund, the Kessel Fund at the Block Museum, and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

MFA Thesis Exhibition: Department of Art Theory & Practice
May 1–June 22, 2014 • Alsdorf Gallery
This exhibition presents the work of Caroline Carlsmith, Jason Dixon, Raphaël Fleuriet, TJ Proechel, and Nicole Wilson in the culmination of their MFA studies in Northwestern’s Department of Art Theory & Practice. Bringing together five distinct practices, the exhibition acknowledges the artists’ shared foundations, including research, experimentation, environment, and experience.
Co-organized by the Department of Art Theory & Practice and the Block Museum, Northwestern University. Support provided by the Norton S. Walbridge Fund; Cary Lane Art Supply Fund courtesy of Dr. Madeleine Wing Adler; Myers Foundations; the Mary and Leigh Block Endowment Fund; and the Alsdorf Endowment.

In the Mind of the Beholder: An Experiment in Perception
March 25–May 4, 2014 • Katz Gallery
Curated by Aleksandra Sherman, PhD candidate in psychology, this experimental exhibition explores how the subjective experience of viewing art may be “in the eye of the beholder.”

Revenge and Repose: Classical Mythology from the Collection
May 13–June 22, 2014 • Katz Gallery
Curated by Joe Semkau, an undergraduate Italian and art history major, this exhibition looks at early modern prints and drawings with a focus on figural representation, warfare, and passion.
Support for Katz Gallery exhibitions is provided by the Elise Phelps Katz and Howard C. Katz Endowment and from contributors to the Annual Fund.
Art Theory & Practice Visiting Artist Talk: Denise Markonish
A Spaceship, Wonder and Lots of Canadians: Curating at MASS MoCA
Wednesday, April 9, 6:00 p.m.
Denise Markonish, curator at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, will discuss her work and curatorial projects.

Visiting Artist Lecture: Candice Breitz, “From A to B and Back Again”
Saturday, April 12, 2:00 p.m.
Candice Breitz is a Berlin-based South African artist whose video installations address stereotypes and visual conventions in film and popular culture. Her talk coincides with the Block’s recent Stieglitz/Warhol: Picturing Fame exhibition.

Lecture: Andrew Hemingway, “Style of the New Era”
Wednesday, April 16, 6:00 p.m.
An emeritus professor in art history at University College London, Hemingway is a preeminent scholar on American artists and the 1930s. He will speak on the culture of the John Reed Club and proletarian art.

Warnock Lecture: Kerry James Marshall
Wednesday, April 30, 5:00 p.m.
Join Northwestern’s Department of Art History for a lecture by renowned Chicago-based artist Kerry James Marshall, a MacArthur “genius grant” recipient. Marshall’s work reflects his upbringing in Birmingham, Alabama, and early exposure to the black power and civil rights movements in Los Angeles.

MFA Thesis Exhibition: Department of Art Theory & Practice
Exhibition Opening Reception and Program
Thursday, May 1, 5:00 p.m.
Join Northwestern’s art theory & practice graduates as they celebrate the opening of their MFA thesis exhibition.

Lecture: Biro-Bidjan Prints Explored with Dr. Nathan Harpaz
A Gift to Biro-Bidjan: Chicago, 1937—From Despair to New Hope
Sunday, May 4, 1:00 p.m.
In response to the Left Front, Koehnline Museum director Nathan Harpaz will illuminate a lesser-known period of history and share rare archival photographs of Biro-Bidjan, a region originally established as an autonomous Jewish settlement in the former Soviet Union.

Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities:
Artist-in-Residence Lecture with Christopher Cozier
Wednesday, May 7, 5:15 p.m.
The work of Trinidadian artist, curator, and writer Christopher Cozier examines the contemporary Caribbean experience through drawing, printmaking, sound, and installation. A 2013 Prince Claus Award recipient, Cozier will discuss his practice within a broader temporal, geographic, and transcultural context.

Art Theory & Practice Visiting Artist Talk: Kerry Tribe
The Talking Dead: Index, Amnesia, and the Afterlife of Film
Wednesday, May 14, 6:00 p.m.
Award-winning artist Kerry Tribe joins the Block as part of the Department of Art Theory & Practice’s Visiting Artist Lecture Series. Tribe’s film, video, and installation works serve as meditations on cognition, using image, text, and sound to explore what she calls “the phenomenology of memory.”

An Artists’ Congress
Saturday, May 17, 1:00–5:00 p.m. with social to follow
A contemporary take on the historical American Artists’ Congress meetings from the 1930s, this 2014 Chicago-based Artists’ Congress will consider forms, systems, organizations, and relationships focused on art and concerned with social transformation.

Art Theory & Practice Visiting Artist Talk: Lucía Sanromán
Wednesday, May 21, 6:00 p.m.
Lucía Sanromán, cocurator of SITE Santa Fe’s SITElines 2014: Unsettled Landscape, discusses her practice.

Photography and the Archive in the African Diaspora
Thursday, May 22, 1:00 p.m.
Leading scholars and artists, including Deborah Willis, Tina Campt, Saidiya Hartman, Roshini Kempadoo, and Jacqueline Stewart, explore how photographic archives inform historical, artistic, photographic, memory, and performative practices in the African diaspora while more generally offering new perspectives on photography.

**BLOCK CINEMA**

This season at Block Cinema features a second companion series to the Left Front exhibition, highlighting socially conscious films of the 1930s. Block Cinema will also present a retrospective of the work of Moroccan director Moumen Smihi, and much more! For a full schedule of films, visit www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/view/cinema.