

NOTES AND NOTICES

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2004

The year 2004 has been challenging for the SSLA. As a multi-disciplinary society, we face the difficulty of attracting and retaining the interest of a wide range of scholars, philosophers, researchers and writers in a time of intense academic specialisation. Attendance at SSLA conferences and seminars, and subscriptions to *Literature and Aesthetics* have dropped across the last several years. At the same time, however, the Society and its journal have received more national and international recognition than ever before. The possibility exists, then, for rebuilding the SSLA into a strong, vital, well-supported organisation, but it will take the efforts of several energetic people.

Thanks entirely to the incredible hard work of Catherine Runcie, the SSLA held two conferences again this year, as it has since its inception nearly fifteen years ago. The first of these conferences brought several new faces before us, including Paolo Bartoloni, Janelle Ravine, Sean Gurd, Catherine Abell, Tara Forrest, Chris Danta, Phil Quadrio, and Hamish McDougall. The second, a special conference honouring the work of Professor Grazia Marchiano, completed a cycle of international symposia in transcultural aesthetics that began with the SSLA's first Pacific Rim Conference in 1997. A volume of papers from this conference will be published as a special issue of *Literature and Aesthetics* in 2005.

For their efforts on behalf of the SSLA this year I would like to thank Catherine Runcie (program chair, associate editor and foundation president), John Bacon (treasurer and secretary), Heather Johnson (associate editor, images editor, and representative to the IAA conference in Rio de Janeiro), Melissa McMahan (book reviews editor and copy-editor), and Kate Griffiths (copy-editor and typesetter). I would also like to thank Will Christie (former editor) and David Brooks (former book reviews editor), whose support for SSLA and *Literature and Aesthetics* over many years is immeasurable.

Literature and Aesthetics has been supported for the last two years by a generous grant from the Chancellor's Committee, University of Sydney. Without that support, the journal could not have continued past 2002. For giving us the ability to publish all the articles, poetry, stories and reviews that have appeared since, and for those still to come, we are grateful to the Chancellor's Committee.

Eugenio Benitez
President, SSLA; Executive, ANZALA

SSLA ACTIVITIES 2004

SSLA Evening Seminars

Associate Professor Ahmad Shboul AM (Arabic and Islamic Studies, The University of Sydney):
"On the Aesthetics of Place in Classical Arabic Poetry", 7 April 2004.

Dr. David Macarthur (Philosophy, The University of Sydney):
"Philosophy as Architecture: The Case of Wittgenstein", 2 June 2004.

Associate Professor Dominic McIver Lopes (Philosophy, University of British Columbia, Canada),
"Conceptual Art Is Not What It Seems", 12 October 2004.

SSLA Conference

17 & 18 June 2004

Thursday, 17 June 2003

- 9:30am Dr Paolo Bartoloni (The University of Sydney):
"Memory in Language: Benjamin and Ungaretti"
Chair: Dr Rick Benitez
- 10:40am Janelle K. Ravine (The University of Sydney):
"Beethoven: the Absolute"
Chair: Dr Catherine Runcie
- 11:30am Dr Sean Gurd (University of Cincinnati, USA):
"The Beauty of the Undeciphered"
Chair: Dr Paolo Bartoloni
- 2:00pm Dr Jean-Philippe Deranty (Macquarie University):
"Jacques Rancière: Aesthetics and Democracy"
Chair: Associate Professor Paul Redding
- 3:00pm Dr Catherine Abell (Macquarie University):
"The Picture/Text Analogy in Philosophy and Art History"
Chair: Dr. Rick Benitez

- 4:00pm Tara Forrest (The University of NSW):
"On the Future of the Past in the Film and Literary Work
of Alexander Kluge"
Chair: Dr Michael Nelson
- 4:50pm Chris Danta (Monash University):
"The Absolutely Dark Moment of the Plot: Blanchot's
Abraham"
Chair: Dr Luke Forrester

Friday, 18 June 2004

- 9:30am Phil Quadrio (The University of Sydney):
"Idealism, Aesthetics and Mythology: Romantic Idealism
and the Need for an Aesthetic Rationalism in Politics"
Chair: Dr Will Christie
- 11:00am Dr Jim Tulip (The University of Sydney):
"Shakespeare, Bacon and Jonson: Theatre versus Essay"
Chair: Dr Liam Semler
- 11:50am Hamish McDougall (The University of Sydney):
"A Short Word on the Absurd: Beckett, Ionesco and their
Grappling with Irrationality in a Wayward World"
Chair: Dr Jim Tulip
- 2:00pm Dr Pamela Bell (The University of Sydney and the
Chancellor's Committee) to launch *Literature and Aesthetics*
vol. 14 no. 1 (June 2004).
- 2:20pm Dr Alistair Rolls (The University of Newcastle):
"Seduction, Pleasure and a Laying On of Hands: A Hands
On Reading of Sartre's *Nausea*"
Chair: Dr Elizabeth Rechniewski
- 3:00pm Dr Morgan Thomas (The University of Queensland):
"Transatlantic Transfers: the French Connection and the
Painting of the New York School"
Chair: Dr Mick Carter

Second Pacific Rim Conference in Transcultural Aesthetics
An International Conference Honouring the work of Grazia Marchiano
29 September—1 October 2004

Wednesday, 29 September 2004

- 10:00am Professor Grazia Marchiano (University of Siena, Arezzo):
“The Aesthetic Eye. Bridging the Gaps Between Heart and Mind: A Unitive Vision”
Chair: Dr Rick Benitez
- 11:15am Derek Allan (Australian National University):
“An Aesthetic Revolution: André Malraux and the Modern Transcultural Concept of Art”
Chair: Dr Elizabeth Rechniewski
- 11:45am Dr Babatunde Lawal (Virginia Commonwealth University, USA):
“Divinity, Creativity and Humanity: Art in Yoruba Thought”
Chair: Dr Lowell Lewis
- 2:00pm Dr Elizabeth Coleman (Australian National University):
“Can There Be an Anthropology of Aesthetics?”
Chair: Professor Garry Trompf
- 2:45pm Professor Tomoyuki Kitimura (Fukui Prefectural University, Japan):
“Clean, Clear Mind and Love for Nature”
Chair: Professor Hugh Clarke
- 3:45pm Dr Ross Bowden (LaTrobe University):
“Did Plato Have a Tribal View of Art? An Anthropologist Reads the Republic”
Chair: Dr Rick Benitez
- 4:30pm Associate Professor Vrasidas Karalis (The University of Sydney):
“Mr Gurdjieff and his Discontents: New Age Gurus and their Philosophical Legacy”
Chair: Dr Catherine Runcie
- 5:15pm Dr Okusitino Mahina (University of Auckland, NZ):
“The Poetics of Exile: Love and Death in Tongan Poetry”
Chair: Dr Ross Bowden

Thursday, 30 September 2004

- 9:30am Professor Richard Woodfield (Nottingham Trent University, UK):
“Reflections on Writing the History of Aesthetics”
Chair: Dr David Macarthur
- 10:15am Dr Yasuko Claremont (The University of Sydney):
“Japanese Prose Poetry: Postcards to Donald Evans and Takashi Hiraide”
Chair: Dr Mabel Lee
- 11:00am Dr Liberato Santoro-Brienza (University of Auckland, NZ):
“James Joyce’s Aesthetics: Between Aquinas and Aristotle”
Chair: Paolo Bartoloni
- 11:45pm Professor Kiyohiko Kitamura (Hokkaido University, Japan):
“A Work of Art as Realisation of a Master Plan Without Its Planner: Isamu Noguchi’s Last Work, the Moere-Numa Park”
Chair: Professor Hugh Clarke
- 2:00pm Professor Garry Trompf (The University of Sydney):
“The Art of Payback”
Chair: Dr Elizabeth Coleman
- 2:45pm Patrick Hutchings (The University of Melbourne):
“Australian Aboriginal Art: from Bi-cultural Dancing in *terra nullius* to Australia’s First International Art Movement”
Chair: Dr Elizabeth Coleman
- 3:45pm Professor Keijiro Suga (Meiji University, Japan):
“Omniphone Exilography in Contemporary Japanese Writing”
Chair: Roman Rosenbaum
- 4:30pm Alice Jarratt (Victoria University of Wellington, NZ):
“Moral Evaluation of Emotional Responses to Fiction”
Chair: Dr Catherine Runcie

Friday, 1 October 2004

- 9:15am Dr Rick Benitez (The University of Sydney):
“Artistic Beauty and Artistic Production”
Chair: Professor Richard Woodfield
- 9:45am Professor Masaru Yoneyama (Nagoya University, Japan):
“Beautiful Lotuses and Beautiful Roses”
Chair: Dr Yasuko Claremont

- 10:45am Dr Deborah Walker (University of Auckland, NZ/
ANZALA Executive):
“Representing the Self, Representing the Other, the Ethics
of Ethnicity in Contemporary Film”
Chair: Dr David Macarthur
- 11:30pm Dr Sondra Bacharach and Dr David Eng (Victoria University
of Wellington, NZ):
“Museums for the Masses”
Chair: Dr Michael Carter
- 1:30pm—4:30pm: Special session on Ancient Mediterranean Music
and Dance chaired by Professor Peter Wilson (The University
of Sydney).
Archibald Mackenzie (The University of Sydney):
“Form and Scale in Greek Dancing”
Michael Turner (The University of Sydney):
“Dancing for Dionysus: Satyric Transformations”
Dr Boyo Ockinga (Macquarie University):
“Dancing and Banqueting in 18th Dynasty Egyptian Tomb
Painting”
Lesley Kinney (Macquarie University):
“Ancient Egyptian Dances”



