



## ThinkTank II

### Teaching the 3 C's: Critical Theory, Critical Thinking, Critique Strategies.

Workshop Organizers

Richard Siegesmund, University of Georgia

Mary Stewart, Florida State University

Georgia Center for Continuing Education

University of Georgia, Athens

May 22-24, 2007

How are undergraduates entering the visual arts major prepared for understanding art as a process of analysis and inquiry? How can graduate students, who frequently are the instructor of record in foundations courses, be better prepared for teaching linguistic tools for developing and refining visual thinking?

The title for this two day workshop is "Teaching the 3 C's: Critical Theory, Critical Thinking, Critique Strategies." We are inviting a core group of people (not to exceed 35 individuals) to participate. Mary and I hope that out of this meeting we can come up with a clear agenda of curriculum modifications that affect the content of both foundations programs and graduate seminars on teaching in visual art. By working collectively, we believe we can build a critical mass that can challenge complacent conceptions toward the preparation of undergraduates who are entering our field, and address the serious need for better training of MFA candidates in strategies for teaching critical theory, critical thinking, and critique in the visual art/design classroom.

In addition, Thinktank II has clear implications for the preparation of high school art students who wish to pursue undergraduate study in art, as well as consideration for the teaching of art appreciation to non-art majors. These are important connections worth considering as well

#### OBJECTIVES

- Develop a list of skills, knowledge and experiences undergrads need in the 3 C's
- Determine which of these skills, knowledge and experiences can best be taught at the foundations level
- Develop list of "best practices" currently in use by teachers
- Articulate a matrix of approaches to practice, that could be the foundation for a course in an introduction to curriculum and pedagogy course for MFA students
- Determine how to best train GTAs in teaching this material

#### INTENDED RESULTS

- Short-term: Based on discussions, prepare a concise list of conclusions and brief description as a white paper of best practices. Add white paper to the FATE standards package that is being developed for presentation at NASAD. Prepare brief articles in NAEA Journal, FATE in Review, and CAA.
- -Long-term: Development of national consortium of teacher-training programs for higher ed. Possible summer institute (INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATIVE ART TEACHING) leading to a certificate of teaching preparation of higher education.

## FOCUS: the 3 Cs

- Critical Theory is focused on issues of civic engagement and social justice. It is concerned with individuals developing a critical analytic stance toward society, social institutions, governance, and authority. Critical theory is an essential part of contemporary art making and civic participation. Artists situate their work in terms of service and social context. How do foundations prepare students for entering this domain of thought?
- Critical Thinking, put simply, is the ability to recognize choices and justify a selection. Visual art is a realm of non-linguistic choice and selection. How do we structure lessons and curriculum that do not simply require repetition of preconceived outcomes, but engage students in authentic problem solving?
- Critique is the process of translating visual non-linguistic thinking into language. The purpose of critique is to make artists more skillful at the manipulation of visual non-linguistic thinking. We have multiple strategies for accomplishing this. What are these strategies? One size does not fit all. How do we know when to apply the correct critique strategies for a given situation?

## PROPOSED SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, May 22:

- Arrive Athens. Check into lodging.
- 3:00 -4:30: Registration
- 5:00: Exhibition Opening and Lecture by ThinkTank participant Martha MacLeish. Main Gallery, Lamar Dodd School of Art. Reception to follow

Wednesday, May 23:

- 7:30-8:30: Registration
- 8:30-9:00: Introductions. Welcome by Georgia Strange, Director UGA, Lamar Dodd School of Art
- 9:00-9:45: Big picture. Delineating targets, forming teams, introduce team facilitators:
  - Critical Theory
  - Critical Thinking
  - Critique:

---Short break (coffee and breakfast snacks available)---

- 10:00-11:15: Initial work by teams:
- 11:15-12:15: Initial reports by teams

---12:30-1:15: lunch provided---

- 1:30-3:30: Work in teams

---Afternoon snacks and refreshments available---

- 3:30-4:30: Presentation of results.
- 5:30: Reception at Ciné, downtown Athens' new arthouse movie theatre.

---Evening free---

Thursday, May 24:

- 8:30-12:00 Teams complete work, create very rough outline for final report.

--- 9:30 Short break (coffee and breakfast snacks available)---

---12:15-1:15: lunch provided---

- 1:30-3:00: Presentation of results.

---Afternoon snacks and refreshments available---

- 3:15-4: Wrap up and discuss ideas for Thinktank III 2008.

**Participation in ThinkTank II is by invitation only. The cost of this two-day workshop is \$125 plus room and transportation to and from Athens. The workshop will be held at The Georgia Center for Continuing Education. The Center is holding a block of rooms at the workshop rate of \$84 plus 7% sales tax. To hold your place, please return the attached reservation form to the Georgia Center with your workshop registration fee before March 23. If you have not reserved your space by March 23, we will consider offering your spot at ThinkTank II to another individual.**

## Georgia Center Information

The Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center & Hotel, located on the beautiful, historic campus of the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, provides innovative lifelong learning opportunities that develop intellectual and human potential. A full-service living and learning environment, the Georgia Center includes a 200-room hotel, restaurants, banquet areas, conference rooms, auditoriums, a fitness center, and computer labs—all under one roof. As a unit of UGA's Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, the Center brings the University's teaching, research, and service expertise to the people of Georgia and beyond! For more information, visit [www.georgiacenter.uga.edu](http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu).

**Special Needs:** If you require special services, facilities, or dietary considerations, contact Jean Mann at 706.542.2237 or [Jean.Mann@georgiacenter.uga.edu](mailto:Jean.Mann@georgiacenter.uga.edu) by Monday, May 14, 2007.

**Lodging (Georgia Center Hotel):** A block of rooms is being held for your conference until **5:00 p.m. ET, April 30, 2007.**

**Policies:** (1) *Tax Exemption* – The State of Georgia only allows tax-exempt charges for a payment by a state-issued credit card or check or by a direct bill to a state agency (with a Georgia State Tax Exemption Certificate). (2) *Lodging Cancellation* – Cancel your reservation by **4:00 p.m. ET the day prior** to your scheduled arrival to avoid being charged one night's room and tax. (3) At check-in, you must present your credit card or a completed credit card authorization form (for a copy, call 800-884-1381, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET). **Note: The Georgia Center is a smoke-free building; all lodging rooms are nonsmoking.**

**Travel Information:** Athens, Georgia, is located about 60 miles northeast of Atlanta. For directions, see [www.georgiacenter.uga.edu](http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu). A parking deck is located adjacent to the Center (hourly rates, maximum \$8 each 24-hour period; vehicle height limit, 7 feet). Athens is served by two airports. Athens-Ben Epps Airport offers connecting flights to and from Charlotte, NC. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is located about 90 minutes southwest of Athens, with scheduled ground shuttle service and rental car service available between the airport and the Georgia Center.

**Program Cancellation Policies:** (1) Full refunds are available for cancellations made by **5:00 p.m. ET, May 14, 2007.** No refunds will be issued thereafter; substitutions will be allowed. (2) If a program is cancelled for any reason, the Georgia Center will not be responsible for any charges related to travel.

**Conference Registration/Hotel Reservation Form**

**May 22-23, 2007**

**Three ways to register:**

*Fax:* 706-542-6596 or 800-884-1419 – *Credit Card Only*

*Mail:* **Think Tank II, #63238**

Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center & Hotel

The University of Georgia

Athens, Georgia 30602-3603

*Phone:* 706-542-2134 or 800-884-1381 – *Credit Card Only*

*(Mon.-Fri. from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET)*

Name – Please print or type \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred name for name badge \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date (for transcript retrieval) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Check if home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Organization/Employer \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Registration**

***Your registration will not be processed until payment is received.***

Registration Fee.....\$125

**Method of payment to process conference registration:**

Enclosed is a check payable to *The University of Georgia*.

Enclosed is a purchase order payable to *The University of Georgia* (Federal ID No. 58-6001998) and/or an authorization letter to bill employer/organization.

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
UGA Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Billing Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Reservation**

Complete the following to request a room reservation at the Georgia Center Hotel. **If your lodging preference is unavailable, the best alternative will be confirmed.** Do not send checks for lodging until receipt of confirmation. *A reservation must be guaranteed by a credit card at the time of the reservation or by an advance deposit within 14 days of the reservation confirmation. The Georgia Center is a smoke-free building; all lodging rooms are nonsmoking.*

Choose Occupancy:      Single      Double  
Choose Room Type:      Classic Queen Bed...\$84 plus 7% sales tax  
Arrival Day/Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Day/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of roommate for shared room \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of payment to guarantee hotel reservation:**

***PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHECKS FOR LODGING UNTIL RECEIPT OF CONFIRMATION.***

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Billing Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

*At check-in, you must present your credit card or complete a credit card authorization form (for a copy, call the Georgia Center at 800-884-1381, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET).*