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President's Column

The end of the year is quickly approaching and with it, my tenure as Chapter President will also come to an end. I am grateful to my fellow members for giving me the opportunity to serve in that capacity. It has been a great experience that has given me a better understanding of the role chapters play in ARLIS/NA and the work behind the scenes needed to keep ARLIS/NA and the chapters running smoothly. Working with Shari Salisbury, Secretary, Laura Schwartz, Treasurer and Tara Spies Smith, Vice President/President Elect was a pleasure and I look forward to continue my involvement with chapter in years to come. My thanks also go to Beverly Mitchell, Past President, for answering my interminable questions; I hope to be able to do the same for Tara.

Planning the 2012 ARLIS/NA Chapter Meeting in Marfa was an important part of my activities as Chapter President. I had been in Marfa twice before and I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to make it out there one more time. This visit was particularly enriched by sharing it with my fellow chapter members. We had wonderful and knowledgeable guides at the Chinati and Judd Foundation; like me, they appreciated having a group that was clearly engaged and thrilled to experience Judd’s vision of how art should be displayed.

We had a very busy business meeting during our visit to Marfa. If you were unable to attend, please, take a moment to review the minutes also published in this issue of The Medium. You will find the ARLIS/NA Executive Board Report that was presented by Jon Evans, ARLIS/NA Past President. Some of the highlights are positive news regarding TEI, our management company, and Art Documentation. If you want further background on these issues, take a look at the latest issue of News From the President on the ARLIS/NA website.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Pasadena, California for the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference from April 25-29, 2013 and later in the year at our Annual Chapter Meeting in San Antonio, in what promises to be another great gathering of colleagues from across the region.

Martha González Palacios
2012 President, Art Libraries Society of North America, Texas-Mexico Chapter
Hello Texas-Mexico Chapter!

The Executive Board had our mid-year meeting on September 13-14, 2012, at the Frick Collection in New York. We have also had a couple of conference calls since then. I wanted to share some highlights from our discussions that might be of interest.

1. Strategic planning

The Board would like chapters to review the strategic plan and consider the goals and actions outlined within (see the committee website at http://www.arlisna.org/organization/com/stratplan/index.html). Each chapter should let me know about any goals and objectives that have already been met, but also how the chapter is working to reach other goals set forth.

2. Conferences

- Pasadena 2013: We discussed the program content, tours, locations of special events, and the budget. Details are coming together on schedule. I am totally biased, but it really looks like it will be a fabulous conference.
- Washington, DC 2014: The co-chairs are working with TEI on a contract with a conference hotel and are firming up dates.
- Future conferences: the Board has been exploring options for 2015 and beyond, and there are some exciting possibilities under discussion.

3. Scheduling webinars and virtual meetings

Guadalupe Rodriguez at TEI (g.rodriguez@arlisna.org or (414) 768-8000 x136) is able to set up hosted webinars and virtual meetings for chapters using the GoToMeeting software, but needs 3-4 weeks lead time. We're looking at ways for chapter chairs to be able to self-schedule these meetings.

4. Basecamp subscription

The Board has decided to subscribe to Basecamp for project management of ARLIS/NA activities. Once the account is set up, chapters will have the opportunity to use the software to manage and track activities.

5. ARLIS/NA website (AWS)

The Communications & Publications Committee is currently accepting bids for a redesign of the AWS. They are hoping the design work can be done this spring with migrations of content to Joomla over the summer. I think we're all looking forward to a new and improved AWS.
That's all for now! Feel free to contact me at l bliss@rohan.sdsu.edu if you have any questions.

Happy holidays,

Laurel Bliss
ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison
Fine Arts Librarian
San Diego State University
Annual Meeting 2012: Business Meeting Minutes

ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter
Marfa, Texas
November 10, 2012, Austin Street Café, Marfa

Executive Committee of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter
Martha Gonzalez Palacios, President
Tara Spies Smith, Vice-President/President Elect
Shari Salisbury, Secretary
Laura Schwartz, Treasurer

Minutes
I. Call to order (President Gonzalez Palacios)

The Art Libraries Society of North America, Texas-Mexico Chapter's Annual Business Meeting was held at the Austin Street Café, Marfa, Texas on Saturday, November 10, 2012. The meeting was called to order by President Gonzalez Palacios.

II. Introductions

President Gonzalez Palacios asked those present to introduce themselves. In attendance were Martha Gonzalez Palacios (UT Austin), Sam Duncan (Amon Carter Museum), Shari Salisbury (UTSA), Edward Lukasek (MFAH), Selene Hinojosa (Texas State), Tara Spies Smith (Texas State), Rebecca Barham (UNT), Eric Wolf (Menil), Elizabeth Schaub (UT Austin), Laura Schwartz (UT Austin), Jon Evans (MFAH), Beth Dodd (UT Austin), Mark Pompeia (RISD), Sarah Long (MFAH). President Gonzalez Palacios thanked everyone for their help in assuring such a fine chapter meeting. Beth Dodd thanked President Gonzalez Palacios for all her hard work. Vice-President Spies Smith concurred.

III. Secretary's Report and Approval of 2011 Business Meeting Minutes (Secretary Salisbury)

Minutes from the 2011 meeting had previously been submitted by email to Chapter members for comments. Only one minor correction was made changing the affiliation for those in attendance at the meeting from UT to UT Austin. If approved, the corrected minutes would be posted online. Secretary Salisbury moved to have the 2011 Business Meeting Minutes approved by the members. Vice-President Spies Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report (Treasurer Schwartz)

Treasurer Schwartz informed those present that she opened a new bank account at United Heritage Credit Union on behalf of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter in January of 2012 since she needed the ability to transact chapter financial business in Austin. Treasurer Schwartz also reported that the ARLIS Texas-Mexico Chapter currently has 33 members. Attendance at the Annual Chapter Meeting totaled 15. Prior to chapter meeting registration and membership renewal, there was a balance of $2,158.04. After the collection of
chapter meeting registration fees and member renewals and expenditures for the meeting, there is currently a balance of $2,744.46 in the account. A number of chapter members have not yet renewed. Treasurer Schwartz will work with President Gonzalez Palacios on contacting members who were not present about membership renewal. $332.88 in donations has been received thus far earmarked for the Lois Swan Jones Award.

V. Editor’s Report for The Medium (Vice President/President Elect Spies Smith)

Vice President Spies Smith reported that the spring issue of The Medium has been published. A call for articles has already been sent out for the fall issue pertaining to the Annual Chapter Meeting in Marfa. Vice President Spies Smith suggested that if anyone wanted to write about one particular aspect of a tour that would be fine. The deadline for submissions is November 26, 2012.

VI. Lois Swan Jones Award Committee Report (Sam Duncan)

Committee Chair Sam Duncan thanked the membership for trusting him with the responsibility of chair. Sam also wished to recognize the efforts of committee members Rebecca Barham and Edward Lukasek. The committee received two applications for the Lois Swan Jones Award this year. The award went to Mark Pompelia to defray expenses related to his attendance at the 40th ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Toronto.

VII. Proposed changes to Lois Swan Jones Award application instructions, procedures, policies, and affected Chapter Bylaws (Sam Duncan)

During the course of serving as Committee Chair, Sam Duncan found some issues he wished to have discussed at the Annual Chapter Meeting. Sam stated that there is no clear language concerning who may serve on the Lois Swan Jones Committee. When this year’s committee was elected at the 2011 chapter meeting, it was believed by various members that Tara Spies Smith’s position on the committee and her election to Vice President/President Elect was a conflict of interest and Rebecca Barham was elected to serve on the committee in her place. Discussion followed as to whether this is a conflict. ARLIS/NA Past President Evans stated that he believes it is a conflict. Eric Wolf stated that he believes it is not and noted that some groups actually require an officer to be represented on such a committee. One of the main points that came out of the discussion was that many agree that it might be preferable to distribute the committee responsibilities to other members who are not officers. Those in attendance agreed that officers should not be on the committee. Sam will write some guidelines concerning who should be on the committee and will send these out to the membership via email for everyone’s approval.

Committee Chair Sam Duncan indicated that there was some question with regard to the recent award applications concerning whether or not applicants expected to receive institutional funding. Sam suggested that the application needs to say that they “must” indicate other funding, as opposed to the current wording which says what the application letter “should” include. Sam will compose the wording and send it to the membership for approval.

Sam asked for clarification concerning whether it is acceptable for an applicant to live geographically outside of the Texas-Mexico region of our Chapter since there is no mention of this in the current award guidelines.
Those present agreed that it is acceptable for an applicant to live outside the region as long as they pay dues to ARLIS/NA and the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter.

Another discussion point concerning the Lois Swan Jones Award that arose was over whether the Chapter could make the award available to enable the recipient to attend any one of several options such as the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference, the Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources and Image Management (SEI), or the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter Meeting. It was pointed out, however, that the purpose of the award is written to support attendance especially of those actively participating at the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference. It was agreed to make no changes at present but to look at the founding documents for clarification and to look at other avenues to support professional development such as raising membership dues. President Gonzalez Palacios tabled the discussion for now.

In addition, Committee Chair Sam Duncan asked those in attendance whether there should be guidelines for instances that may arise in which a committee member is asked to vet an applicant from the same institution. Those in attendance agreed this was not necessary.

Treasurer Laura Schwartz moved that the Lois Swan Jones Award be set at $500.00. Edward Lukasek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VIII. Call for new Lois Swan Jones Award Committee Volunteers (President Gonzalez Palacios)

Mark Pompelia began the discussion by asking whether there should be a soft policy that the award winner should subsequently serve on the committee. Beth Dodd stated that she believed such a policy is in the guidelines and Tara Spies Smith stated that this policy is included in the guidelines spreadsheet available to the award committee. (Secretary’s note: Looking at the online “Conditions of the Award” on the chapter website, there is no mention of the recipient subsequently serving on the committee. However, the "Lois Swan Jones Committee Guidelines” spreadsheet includes a note on the “Guidelines” tab that reads: "Remind awardee(s) of reporting obligations and encourage current recipient(s) to chair/serve on the LSJ committee for the upcoming year.") It was agreed that a statement to the effect that the award recipient is expected to renew their membership should be included in the award guidelines. Sam Duncan can address this in the guidelines he intends to write. President Gonzalez Palacios made a call for volunteers to serve on this committee. Mark Pompelia volunteered to serve and Rebecca Barham and Sam Duncan volunteered to continue on the committee. Since Rebecca Barham was later elected to the position of Secretary, Selene Hinojosa will serve in her place. Sam Duncan agreed to continue as chair. The committee was unanimously approved.

IX. Institutional transition plans for migrating to RDA (Sam Duncan)

Struck from agenda. President Gonzalez Palacios believed this was a more suitable topic for discussion on the listserv.

X. Collection policies related to digital catalogs produced by local galleries (Sam Duncan)
Struck from agenda. President Gonzalez Palacios believed this was a more suitable topic for discussion on the listserv.

XI. ARLIS/NA Executive Board Report (ARLIS/NA Past President Evans)

ARLIS/NA Past President Evans reported on the meeting of the Executive Board this fall in New York City at the Frick. The Executive Board had the opportunity to meet Guadalupe Rodriguez, the Society’s new representative from TEI. ARLIS/NA Past President Evans said that Ms. Rodriguez is “stepping up to the plate and doing good job.”

ARLIS/NA Past President Evans reported that the Executive Board is interested in the idea of virtual conferencing as a supplement to in-person attendance at Annual Conference. They received a proposal submitted by the committee appointed to look into the matter as to what a virtual conference would look like. Mark Pompelia stated that one big challenge is to educate the membership as to the costs involved; virtual conferencing is not free. He added that a second challenge concerns the logistics involved in basically running a second conference. One good aspect would be that TEI would assist in making that happen.

Other items discussed at the Executive Board meeting included encouragement for committees and chapters to use “Go to Meeting” for webinars; the establishment of a new Special Interest Group on Digital Humanities; the desire to do a website redesign with the intent of using Joomla (bids are being taken); the need for chapters to report back to the Society regarding their accomplishments respecting implementation of the strategic plan; membership discounts to current members as incentives to encourage others to join; the desire for another joint conference with VRA as soon as 2016 (the financial model is in the process of approval); plans to update the ARLIS/NA policy manual as well as the conference planning manual; consideration of project management software Basecamp; announcement that the 2014 Annual Conference will take place May 1-5 in Washington, DC; work being done to ensure free unfettered wifi access at our conferences, likely resulting in increased registration fees (including the Pasadena conference); report about subscriptions to Art Documentation up 34% during the first full year since it moved to the University of Chicago Press; and an update from ARLIS/NA Treasurer which indicated that any deficit in the Society’s finances for 2012 was mostly due to expenses incurred in the transition of Art Documentation to the University of Chicago Press and that over time revenues are expected to increase with increased subscriptions.

In addition to these matters, ARLIS/NA Past President Evans pointed out particular items that involved ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter members. The Executive Board especially noted the professional development provided by SEI and acknowledged the leadership of Elizabeth Schaub in that regard. Two ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter members are represented on the next slate of officers put forward by the ARLIS/NA Nominating Committee: Eric Wolf for Secretary and Martha Gonzalez Palacios for Membership and Development Liaison.

XII. ARLIS/NA Annual Conference 2015 (ARLIS/NA Past President Evans)

ARLIS/NA Past President Evans made those present aware that a number of possible chapter hosts for the 2015 Annual Conference have fallen through, and he asked if our chapter is interested. The New York chapter has offered to host in Brooklyn but this would make our conference locations not as geographically diverse,
since 2014 will be in Washington, DC. If our chapter were interested, the Society would like to know by the end of this year. A lengthy discussion ensued. Treasurer Schwartz asked which city would be the stronger candidate to put forth for Texas. Beth Dodd asked what is involved as far as local planning. ARLIS/NA Past President Evans said four people: two program chairs and two local planning chairs would be needed, along with others to assist. There would be a role for all chapter members. A strict timeline would need to be followed. TEI has a very hands-on role with financial issues and registration. Coordinating with the Executive Board, the Chapter President is very involved. Treasurer Schwartz said it is a lot of work, but it is our turn. Treasurer Schwartz asked if anyone was opposed to us hosting in 2015. No one expressed opposition. Vice President Spies Smith suggested Austin as a location. Mark Pompelia suggested that culturally Fort Worth has a lot to offer. Others also offered Fort Worth, but concern was expressed over suggesting Fort Worth since many of our Fort Worth members were not present at the meeting. ARLIS/NA Past President Evans stated that finding a hotel with adequate meeting room spaces would be a challenge and suggested that we first needed to figure out which city to recommend. Mark Pompelia suggested we have three members create a document to send to the Executive Board with recommendations pertaining to both Austin and Fort Worth. Elizabeth Schaub moved that we contact the Executive Board asserting a positive response with regard to hosting the 2015 Annual Conference in either Austin or Fort Worth. Eric Wolf seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. President Gonzalez Palacios will email members for volunteers so that she can work with a member from Austin and a member from Fort Worth to draw up recommendations.

XIII. ARLIS/NA 2011-2015 Action Plan (President Gonzalez Palacios)

The Chair of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Planning Committee got in touch with President Gonzalez Palacios to encourage us to discuss what our involvement could be in implementing the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan and Action Plan in our chapter. President Gonzalez Palacios had sent members a link via email to the plan document prior to the annual meeting. Two of the document’s goals were briefly mentioned as possibilities for our chapter to work on: Goal III. A.1, Promoting art librarianship as a career, which could involve greater outreach to library or art graduate students; and Goal I.B.1, Developing outreach efforts to increase membership recruitment and retention. The implementation of these goals on the chapter level would fall more on Vice President Spies Smith as the next president. Vice President Spies Smith suggested establishing a committee via email. Beth Dodd moved that we establish a committee via email in order to open it up to the rest of the members. ARLIS/NA Past President Evans seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. President Gonzalez Palacios will send an email to the membership. Beth Dodd volunteered to help.

XIV. Nominations and Elections of Secretary and Vice President/President-elect (President Gonzalez Palacios)

President Gonzalez Palacios represented the Nominating Committee in the absence of the other committee members. The Nominating Committee members consisting of President Gonzalez Palacios, Past President Mitchell, and Craig Bunch put forward a slate of nominees for two open positions. Nominated for Secretary was Rebecca Barham; nominated for Vice President/President-elect was Edward Lukasek. There was a call to see if there were any others interested in serving in one of these capacities and there were none. Both were unanimously elected.

XV. Chapter Welcome Party Donation (Treasurer Schwartz)
Treasurer Schwartz stated that the chapter contributed $300.00 last year to the Welcome Party for the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference. However, based on our current and expected budget we cannot afford to do that this year. She suggested a lower amount and asked ARLIS/NA Past President Evans what the average chapter donation is. He stated that $150 is roughly the average. After brief discussion those in attendance agreed. Beth Dodd moved that we donate $150. Vice President Spies Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

XVI. Annual Chapter Meeting Travel Award (President Gonzalez Palacios)

President Gonzalez Palacios stated that this item was already discussed in agenda item VII.

XVII. Planning for 2013 Meeting (Vice President/President-elect Spies Smith)

Vice President Spies Smith suggested San Antonio as the venue for next year’s annual meeting. She expressed a desire to have the meeting October 31-November 2 to take advantage of the first Friday art walk, particularly since it will fall on the Day of the Dead and there are likely to be many holiday-related art exhibitions at that time in San Antonio. Other locations she is contemplating including on the itinerary are the McNay, since Craig Bunch works at the library there, and the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University in San Marcos. The Business Meeting would be held on November 2. There was discussion among those present about the difficulty some might have in attending events on Halloween, although Vice President Spies Smith pointed out that the chapter has had the annual meeting at that time before. ARLIS/NA Past President Evans remarked concerning not only our next chapter meeting, but concerning chapter meetings in the future, that it is difficult to get institutional funding for meeting attendance if there is not sufficient programming for professional development. He encouraged those planning for this and all future conferences to be sure to include such programming. Several in attendance suggested doing a survey of members via Survey Monkey regarding dates and content. Vice President Spies Smith responded that she could do a survey.

XVIII. New Business (President Gonzalez Palacios)

President Gonzalez Palacios asked if there was any new business. Sam Duncan stated that a lot of new content has been added to our website and there has also been an update to the WYSIWYG interface. He can send an email out to the members about that. In addition, Sam said that The Medium archive has a number of extant digital copies in various locations, so he is comfortable with where we are on that.

Eric Wolf asked who of our members is presenting at the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Pasadena. Eric Wolf and Edward Lukasek are presenting and Mark Pompelia is working with a Special Interest Group.

XIX. Adjournment (President Gonzalez Palacios)

Treasurer Schwartz thanked President Gonzalez Palacios for a wonderful year. President Gonzalez Palacios thanked both Treasurer Schwartz and Secretary Salisbury for their service. President Gonzalez Palacios called the meeting adjourned.
Chamberlain at Marfa

Thank you Marfa – I get it! No, thank you Donald Judd for not using the three hangar-size buildings in the town center – formally the Marfa Wool and Mohair Buildings – where you intended to house your mind-boggling 100 milled aluminum boxes. But instead, you allowed John Chamberlain to fill the gigantic space with his automobile scrap metal compositions dating from 1972 to 1982. Before Marfa, I would occasionally encounter a Chamberlain sculpture on exhibit somewhere and always pick up on the calculated use of car junk noting the original paint jobs on a mangled door or trunk lid while usually spotting a giant contorted fender embedded as an integral element of the composition. But there and then in Marfa, among so many, the assemblage looked stunning in the progressive buildings. Each unique space with high ceilings lined with wooden beams is divided by Judd’s signature swinging doors that pivot on a rotating axis. The 22 works, definitely on a human scale, are placed to create a flowing spatial rhythm with a striking cohesive visual effect.

Chamberlain was a literary sort who loved giving his work crazy titles. There are two “gondolas” – one called William Carlos Williams and the other Ezra Pound – which are low-built, long-framed, constructions instead of the usual vertical forms. My favorite was the black & white structure called Tongue Pictures from 1979. The title is elusive, but on standing in close proximity it has a seductive animal magnetism and inner power – sort of like a mutation between a giant winged insect (or extra-terrestrial) crossed with Darth Vader! A foreboding sense of powerful potential energy seethes under its compression ready at any moment to explode (now talking kinetic energy here) in order to restore itself to its original shape or perhaps to morph into another entity altogether...

Thank you John Chamberlain – I got it!!

Submitted by Edward Lukasek
Chinati Foundation Tour

It takes a great deal of time and thought to install work carefully. This should not always be thrown away. Most art is fragile and some should be placed and never moved again. Somewhere a portion of contemporary art has to exist as an example of what the art and its context were meant to be. Somewhere, just as the platinum-iridium meter guarantees the tape measure, a strict measure must exist for the art of this time and place. ~ Donald Judd

Marfa may seem an unlikely place for one of the most important modern art collections in the U.S. outside of Los Angeles and New York. But it was precisely its isolation, clear skies and the vast expanses of land that, at least in the 1970s, were available for sale at extremely affordable prices that allowed Donald Judd to realize his vision for how art should exist.

During the 2012 ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter meeting last November, we visited the Chinati Foundation. Our group was lead by Eugene Binder, an art dealer that divides his time between Marfa and New York City, just like Donald Judd did for over two decades. Eugene began by talking to us about the history of the area. He provided plenty of time for contemplation interspersed with a wealth of facts and insisted on limiting anything that could be construed as his personal interpretation but his many insightful comments were well received by all of us.

The first clue to the history of the site now occupied by the Chinati Foundation comes from its address: 1 Cavalry Row. The former Fort D.A. Russell began as a base for cavalry in 1911 was originally founded to defend the U.S. border with Mexico. As the needs for the military changed, so did the activity at the base where horses were eventually replaced by motorized vehicles and airplanes. During WWII German prisoners of war were housed in two artillery sheds now occupied by *100 untitled works in mill aluminum*, 1982-1986.
In 1979, Donald Judd began renovating and adapting various building at the fort in order to accommodate large-scale art installations. The project was initially supported financially by the Dia Art Foundation but by 1986, when the Chinati Foundation first opened to the public, it had became an independent non-profit institution. Judd’s original plan was to have works by himself, as well as John Chamberlain, and Dan Flavin but over the years the works by another 12 artists were added: Carl Andre, Ingolfur Arnarrson, Roni Horn, Richard Long, Ilya Kabakov, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, David Rabinowitch, and John Wesley. Descriptions of these works can be found on the Foundation’s collection webpage.

For my part, I will just focus on some of my impressions of two pieces; Donald Judd’s 100 untitled works in mill aluminum, 1982-1986 and Dan Flavin’s untitled (Marfa project), 1996.

Walking amongst Judd’s 100 untitled works in mill aluminum many ideas and images come to mind. There is the sheer scale of the work, the magic of the light coming in and the subtle differences between each box, the way the whole shed, its square windows with square mullions are not just the container for the work; they are part of it. The sun warms up the space and also brings warm tints to the normal cold looking aluminum. The simple and stark grid so prevalent in Judd’s work seems to be infused with other meaning in this piece because of this space’s earlier occupants, cavalry and infantry troops and later German prisoners of war.
DONALD JUDD’S 100 UNTITLED WORKS IN MILL ALUMINUM

Experiencing Dan Flavin’s *untitled (Marfa project)* is a cumulative process. Spread over 6 u-shaped barracks, seeing this piece in its totality requires time. Both vision and sense of space are affected and walking in and out becomes a meditative activity. It is hard to capture the colours of the fluorescent lights in a photograph but even if the colours were accurate, the sensation of walking through the space while getting closer or further from the lights is a true phenomenological experience. It transforms the landscape seen outside, away from the fluorescent lights on the opposite end of the room. The landscape becomes sharper and its colours more dramatic.
I don’t think I could grow tired of visiting the Chinati Foundation. The experience of walking amongst and/or through these works of art is hard to compare with any other I have had. The remoteness of Marfa and dramatic wind swept landscape only add to the art.

Submitted by Martha González Palacios
Donald Judd and Barnett Newman

During our wonderful tour of the Safeway Studio building of the Judd Foundation in Marfa, Christine Olejniczak, Program and Outreach Coordinator, showed us a number of items bequeathed by Barnett Newman to Donald Judd. In addition to painter’s scaffoldings and a lovely antique Philco radio was an artist’s palette complete with various pigments that belonged to Newman at his death. While one would expect a palette full of reds and whites, the pigments on Newman’s palette were predominantly greens.

As Christine was visiting Houston two weeks after our Chapter’s visit to Marfa, I invited her to look at the unfinished Newman paintings here at the Menil Collection and introduced her to Brad Epley, our Chief Conservator who is very experienced treating Newman works (including a seven year long project restoring Be I, now on display in the 20th Century gallery at the Menil). So, on Monday, November 19th, Christine, her husband Ray, Brad and I met in our Barnett Newman gallery and our treasure rooms upstairs and looked at our Newman paintings. Not surprisingly, the greens only appeared on some early work. But all of us were intrigued and we all want to learn more about this palette.

So we can add Newman’s palette at the Judd Foundation to the file of Marfa mysteries along with the Marfa Lights. I will keep the Chapter informed about any further facts that come to light as Christine, Brad and others continue to pursue this.

(LEFT TO RIGHT) BRAD EPLEY, CHIEF CONSERVATOR, THE MENIL COLLECTION; CHRISTINE OLEJNICZAK, PROGRAM AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR, JUDD FOUNDATION; ERIC M. WOLF, HEAD LIBRARIAN, THE MENIL COLLECTION

Submitted by Eric M. Wolf
The Judd Foundation Archives Tour

The Judd Foundation tour continued after lunch with a visit to the Donald Judd Archives. Caitlin Murray, Archivist and Assistant Manager, Marfa Operations, provided an interesting account of the evolution of the archives, which are securely held in the bank building’s vault.

Where Judd’s library hangs in situ as an installation and memorial to his research and personal interests, Judd’s archive stands testament as evolving evidence of his creative processes and relationships and personal life through the visual and textural documents he produced and collected along the way.

Discussion included Caitlin’s current processing work, generously funded by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, and future plans in providing service to the currently closed collection. Unlike Judd’s library, the archive is expected to continue to grow with new material, including an upcoming accession of architectural records.

Current issues in the archival world came up, including the new Encoded Archival Context (EAC-CPF) standard. EAC is expected to turn the approach to research inside out through the exchange of information about individuals, families, and organizations. This standard results in established records with opportunities to link the relationships of "creators"—such as Donald Judd—to the many people he collaborated with. For more information see the Encoded Archival Context Activities page.

We also touched upon the ArchiveGrid, a significant reference tool for archival research recently made freely available to the public. It provides word wide access to millions of finding aids to archival collections.

Caitlin is doing a terrific job of stewardship with the Judd Archive. It was great to see how much work has occurred in preservation and access since our last visit. Scholarship is bound to flourish once the archival finding aid is published online and the archive is opened to research. Enjoy updates to her work here.

Submitted by Beth Dodd