

Union Voice

Doris Bittar - Lecturer Visual Arts - UC-AFT Recruiter



My activities range from art making and teaching to research and activism. The main theme that ties my activities together is the desire to forge dialogue between the people of the “West” and those of the “East,” in particular, the Middle East. As a young adult I cut my activist teeth as a labor organizer in the early 1980’s at Yale University during the Reagan administration’s war against labor but it was never connected to my art work which focused on decorative art. Since then my activism has included working toward peace and justice issues, such as nuclear disarmament and American policies in the Middle East. I also organized and led with my

husband Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue groups for five years. These dialogues have continued in the form of regional artistic projects such as the Levantine Center and Alternate Focus, a video collaborative group, as well as civic endeavors sponsored by the Rotary Club. Presently, my art work has become my activism. The decorative arts, symbolic of historical trajectories have melded into one story that tells a fuller and human narrative about “East” and “West.” I continue to probe issues that address colonial history and identity, and share them with the art community on an international level as well as regionally. I earned my bachelors degree at the State University of New York at Purchase in 1981 and received a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of California, San Diego in 1993. I was featured in the Arab American National Museum’s inaugural exhibition in 2005 and have had solo exhibits in the United States and Europe. Among the various public collections that house my art I am most proud of a large scale painting recently acquired by the Arab American National Museum and the growing interest in my installation projects abroad. My art work has been reviewed by *Art in America*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *X-tra*, *Bidoun*, and *Alhaya* among others. I write for *Al Jadid*, an Arab American arts publication, *Alternet.Com* and opinion pieces for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. I have been teaching at the University of California, San Diego since 1996 in the Visual Arts Department. Like many adjunct faculty I have taught at other colleges and universities in San Diego County and taught a Color Theory course at the American University of Beirut in 2005. It took me a while to become a union member despite my pro-union and activist background. I thought I would find a secure employment job and would not continue teaching at UCSD. After nearly 12 years, that argument seems quite silly. I have jokingly said that as a new “recruiter” I will take the path of least resistance and simply ask people that I know if they would like to join the union. I think that during the past 12 years I have been very isolated from other adjunct faculty. We are a disjointed group who may think that our problems and aspirations are unique or peculiar, certainly nothing we would want to share with anyone. I have found it to be quite the opposite. I no longer feel isolated and know that when issues arise I have a larger network of people and resources to draw from. Now as a union member, I finally have the work support that I have been seeking at UCSD.

Professional Development Fund
 Professional Development Funds secured in the Memorandum of Understanding for Non-Senate Faculty, Unit 18, instruction will be available again next academic year. We encourage you to apply for funds for research, attending conferences, etc.

The new application deadline will be March 1 of 2009. Guidelines and application forms can be downloaded from our Local’s web site:
www.performanceawd.com/local2034

- LIBRARIANS RATIFY THEIR TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH UC -

The entire contract was open and agreement was reached on 20 different articles. Due to the unknown status of the state budget, negotiations on salary and a few other economic issues are deferred until one month after the adoption of the state budget. See entire article by Mike Rotkin, Chief Negotiator and Karen Sawislak, UC-AFT Executive Director in the *Spring 2008 UC-AFT Perspective*

***Annual Membership Meeting, Thursday, May 22 from 11:00 - 1:00
in the San Francisco-Santa Cruz Room at the Price Center.
Light refreshments will be served.***

LECTURER and LIBRARIAN PUBLICATIONS

Sklar, Annalise. "Can't Sleep when You're Dead: Sex, Drugs, Rock and Roll and the Undead in Psychobilly." *Zombie Culture: Autopsies of the Living Dead*, edited by Shawn McIntosh and Marc Leverette. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2008.

Bio-bibliographical Essay:

Slive, Daniel. "Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo." *Guide to Documentary Sources for Andean Studies, 1530-1900*. Edited by Joanne Pillsbury. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press published in collaboration with the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art. Vol.3 pp.485-487

Book Review:

Slive, Daniel. "The Spanish Letter of Columbus: A Facsimile of the Original Edition Published by Bernard Quaritch in 1891." *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*. Vol.102.No.1: pp.127-128.

Online Magazine:

Freilicher, Mel. "Stories We Tell Ourselves." (fiction). *BIGBRIDGE* (2008 edition).

Changes on Instructional Workload

Under a new agreement between the union and the university, lecturers have improved standards for workload and equivalencies. As of Fall 2008, full-time lecturers in language and writing will have course loads which will not exceed eight instructional offerings/classes/course/sections on a quarter campus, and course equivalencies shall be established for required duties such as administration of placement examinations, committee work, and curriculum development like course redesign and production of online course materials. In addition, lecturers who believe that their activities outside of the classroom should receive course equivalencies have an alternate to the formal grievance process. Under the new rules, they may request the convening of an ad hoc committee (within 45 days of the assignment of duties) which will evaluate these duties as possible course equivalents.

A printed copy of the new MOU should be available before the fall term of 2008. In the meantime, an interactive version of the contract can be found online under <http://www.ucop.edu/atyourservice/employees/policies>.

