Four Join Visual Arts Division Faculty

Four new faculty members, all internationally recognized artists with works exhibited and collected in major museums and biennales around the world, are changing the face of the Visual Arts Division at the School of the Arts.

Coco Fusco, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Kaia Walker and Dana Hoey, beginning graduates and undergraduates this fall, will add to her teaching, Fusco becomes the new director of graduate studies as well.

“The additions to our already impressive faculty bring a diversi- ty of new strengths in performance, video, installation and color photography,” said Jon Kessler, associate professor of the arts and chair of the Visual Arts Division.

A New York-based interdisciplinary artist, Fusco has featured, performed, exhibited and curated programs throughout the U.S., Europe, Canada, Australia, Korea, Japan, South Africa and Latin America. She is the author of “English is Broken Here: Notes on Cultural Fusion in the Americas” (1995) and the editor of “Corpus Delicti: Performance Art of the Americas” (1999). Her latest video installation, “El Segador,” will premiere in September as part of the Unpacking Europe exhibition housed at the National Capital of Europe 2001.

Fusco’s work has been included in the Whitney Biennial, Sydney Biennial, the Johannes- burg Biennial and the London International Festival of Improvisation, among other venues. Her videos have been broadcast on public television. For example, a Fusco/Beuys piece has appeared in a wide variety of publications, including the Village Voice and Columbus, Ohio’s, The Lantern. She is a frequent commentator on Latin American issues. She has received grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Council on the Arts, the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and Arts Interna- tional, among other organizations.

Photographer and videographer Hoey has exhibited in the U.S., Germany, Switzerland, and Lon- don. This past winter she had a solo exhibit at the Hirshhorn Muse- um in Washington, D.C., and in the fall she will exhibit with the Tache Levy Gallery in New York City. Born in Buenos Aires, Tira- vanija, lives and works in New York. His works span a range of media and embrace inter- activity, inviting the public to eat, cook, and sleep.

Walker has been the recip- ient of numerous grants and fel- lowships, including a MacArthur Foundation fellowship. Walker’s work has appeared in individual exhibitions at the Sikkema Jenkins Gallery in New York, the Des Moines Art Center, the Museum of Modern Art, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, the African Gallery Index in Stock- holm, Sweden, and the Museum des Beaux Arts in Cologne.

More Than 1,400 Enjoy Administrative Barbecue

Sun, salsa music and slow- roasted barbecue drew lots of company to the largest event for University staff held on the Columbia campus this summer, and offered some money-making opportunities to local businesses.

About 1,700 of the 1,700 staff members who helped the University to run day-to-day operations and related functions from Facilities Management, Human Resources, Academic Services, Support Services, Student Services and Institutional Real Estate, participated in the barbecue and were all encouraged to participate. The event was a fund raiser for a Caribbean family who lost their home to a hurricane. A good cause brought out the workers.

The Administrative depart- ments under the Executive Vice President employ approximately 1,700 staff members. Among the University’s largest purchasers of goods and services, these departments and their employ- ees make an effort each year to pur- chase from local vendors. Some Columbia staff members received gift certificates to five favorite Upper Manhattan restau- rants, including Sylvia’s Restau- rant, the Cotton Club and Bayou Restaurant all north of 124th St. and Emily’s Restaurant at 113th and 5th Ave. Transportation vouchers were provided through Hub Connections, a company that contracts with Harlem- based car rental firms. Staff bus- kets came from Black Orchid Florist at 116th and Frederick Douglass Blvd. and the barbe- cue t-shirts, given to all who attended, were purchased at Hol- lynwood Uniforms at the side Hends Vendors.

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