PRESS RELEASE
January 5, 2010

WHAT: 2010 Festival of the Arts Art History Symposium
Revisiting the Art and Craft Divide

WHERE: California State University, Sacramento
Mariposa Hall 1000

WHEN: Saturday, March 20th, 1-4 pm.

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Free and open to the public

The symposium, Revisiting the Art and Craft Divide, returns to the border between art and craft to see if the lines have shifted – narrowed, widened, strayed, vanished – after decades of looking at visual culture in terms of hybrid identities, flexible hierarchies, and deterritorializations. Are contemporary theoretical assumptions evident in practice – in recent arts and crafts historiography or in the institutional practices of colleges, galleries, museums, and publications? Where the divide remains clear between art and craft, what values are protected on each side?

Five scholars present points of view on media and values associated with art and/or craft:

Elissa Auther (keynote) Associate Professor of contemporary art in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Her 2009 book, String, Felt, Thread: The Hierarchy of Art and Craft in American Art, considers how the prevalent use of fiber as an art medium in the contemporary period shifted the conceptual boundaries between "art" and "craft."

Elyse Speaks Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN – “Craft, legibility, and the critical purchase of Lee Bontecou’s handmade machines”

Jennifer Roberson, Ph.D., Sonoma State – “Crafting Moroccan Identity” (architecture)

Laura Gray, Ph.D. student, Center For Ceramics Research, Cardiff School of Art & Design, Cardiff, UK – “Ceramics with Sculptural Ambition”

Thomas Folland, Ph.D. student in art history, UCLA – Robert Rauschenberg’s Queer Modernism: The Early Combines and Decoration”