

CIRCUMSPICE

no.82 (n.s.)
Spring 2011

Edward Nkosi White, CCNY Library Writer-In-Residence, Shares his History and his Work

In sunshine on the island of Montserrat, far away from the bitter cold of New York City, Edgar Nkosi White is at his desk overlooking the clear blue water of the Caribbean Sea, writing poetry and prose. In the warm climate and lifestyle of Montserrat, White is hard at work. His two latest works, *A Montserrat Poem of Love* and an essay entitled, "Ellen Stewart (Café La Mama)" are reflections of hardship and influences on his life.

Born in Montserrat and raised in the South Bronx, White has been a playwright for more than half his life. A gifted prodigy, his literary career began at the age of seventeen. He wrote his first play, *The Mummer's Play*, at eighteen. It was produced, with the help of actor Martin Sheen, at the Public Theatre in New York by Joe Papp in 1965 when White was nineteen. He studied at The City College of New York (1964 to 1965), New York University (1968) and the Yale School of Drama (1971-1973), where he formed his first company The Yale Black Players (later renamed the Yardbird Players Company).

In the eighties, White went aboard where his plays were produced in London, Holland, Africa, and the Caribbean, respectively. He remained in London for a decade, forming two theatre companies (Temba and the Black Theatre Co-op) and wrote for BBC radio and television. Returning to the States in the nineties, he did a playwright-in-residence at Cafe La Mama, where two of his plays, *Lament for Rastafari* and his blues opera *Ghosts Live From Galilee* (about the Scottsboro boys' case) were performed. He also taught humanities and

creative writing at City College. His advice to young writers:

"If you have to write, then you will write. If you don't need to write then you never will. If you have a choice in the matter you never will. When you have no choice, you either write or die, then you write."

Write or die, White continues to write. His work is featured regularly in the *Monthly Review*, an online magazine. His latest essay "Ellen Stewart (Café La Mama)" is a reflection on those who have influenced and encouraged him the most throughout his prolific literary career ([to read this essay click here](#)).



Mary Kim, photographer

In 2000 White was one of five recipients of the London Writers Award. White has published six plays including *Crucificado*, a novel, *The Rising*, and several children's books including *The Children of Night*. His play *I Marcus Garvey* is currently being produced at the Theater Archipelago in Toronto, Canada.

White has officially designated the City College of New York Archives and Special Collections Division as the final repository for the Edgar Nkosi White Papers.

White is currently Library Writer-in-Residence at CCNY (2010-2011).

William Gibbons
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Cusha

In Montserrat where not even the Cusha free
I saw a man and I watched him cry
He had to sell his donkey just to buy an eye.
You tell me why
Tell me why?

Edgar Nkosi
A.M.D.G
1/18/11

(The Cusha is a plant with prickly stems. It came to Montserrat by way of the British who came up with the brilliant idea of importing camels. Then they found us: slaves, and discovered that we were much cheaper than camels. The plant stayed and is everywhere on the island. Alligana means land of the prickly plant)



From The Desk Of The Chief Librarian

Undergraduate Student Government President Kenroy Cherrington and three senators—Laura Rodriguez, Mishka Montrope, and Andres Chavez—have been working with a newly-constituted library committee under the auspices of the president's office to make some changes in Cohen Library.

The committee agreed, based on student-use habits, to re-designate floors: that means that Floor 1 is now a "Quiet Study" floor and Floor 3 is now a "Group Study" floor. To facilitate the change, furniture has been rearranged in several areas, with many individual cubicles being moved to Floor 1. These cubicles now have working electricity, and internet wiring is coming. Soon computers will move from the study tables to these cubicles. And, as an added bonus, these cubicles are no longer blocking windows on the upper floors.

labels in the elevators and new signs on the floors. That's just the beginning, as visual signage about food, drink and cell phone use is on the way.

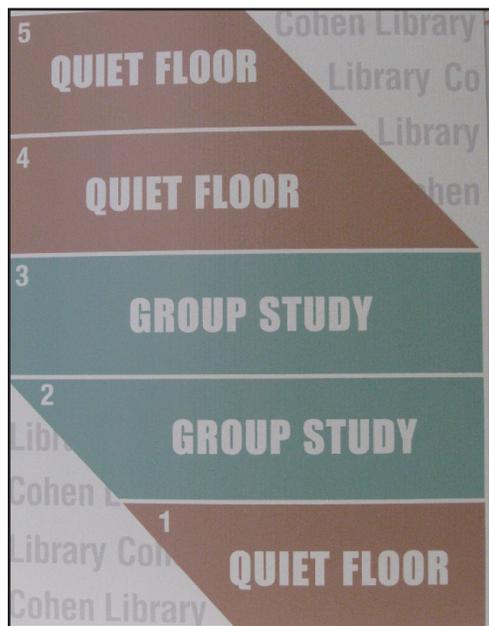
To go along with the new signs in the library, peer patrols—Cohen Library monitors—will be hired to walk the floors and report facilities conditions and any improper user behavior they encounter.

This is already a hefty committee agenda, but stay tuned, there's more to come.

Some of the lounge-type furniture moved out of Cohen Library can be found in the NAC rotunda. New tables and chairs are expected to replace that furniture inside Cohen Library soon.

Comments, suggestions and feedback regarding the library's services are always welcome and should be addressed to me by calling x7271, sending email to prgcc@sci.ccny.cuny.edu, or by dropping by NAC 5/333 (Cohen Library).

Next, the committee looked at the signs in the library, and you have probably noticed new floor



Students created signage for the newly designated "Quiet" and "Group Study" areas in NAC's Cohen Library.

The committee's first project has been to tackle graffiti. The painting over of graffiti on carrel walls, in bathrooms and elsewhere is now an ongoing project. The second part of this task, sanding and refinishing the wood writing/study surfaces in the individual study carrel rooms, will probably be done during the summer.

Support the CCNY Libraries every time you shop at Amazon.com!

Whenever you have the urge for some e-commerce, click on the **Amazon.com** button located in the lower corner of the libraries' Web site:

www1.ccny.cuny.edu/library/

amazon.com
Go Green
Shop Amazon.com
Privacy Information

In honor of the close relationship that CCNY and the people of Japan have shared since the time of Townsend Harris, the CCNY Libraries, in response to the Tohoku Earthquake, have begun a fund-raising campaign for earthquake and tsunami relief.

Starting at 2:46 pm JST on March 11, the Tohoku Earthquake shook the coastal city of Ishinomaki-city, Miyagi prefecture, Japan for six minutes at a magnitude of 9.0. This was followed at 3:20 pm JST by a tsunami that leveled major portions of this city of 160,000.

The Okawa Elementary School was located near the ocean and river and was directly hit by the tsunami. Seventy percent of the school's students are listed as either killed or missing. Only 34 out of 108 students survived, as well as only 3 of the 13 teachers. When school begins again in late April, the surviving teachers and students will gather in borrowed classrooms at a neighboring school, Iinokawa-Daiichi Elementary School.

We in the CCNY libraries ask the CCNY community to assist us in aiding the children of Okawa Elementary School. We have three ways you can contribute:

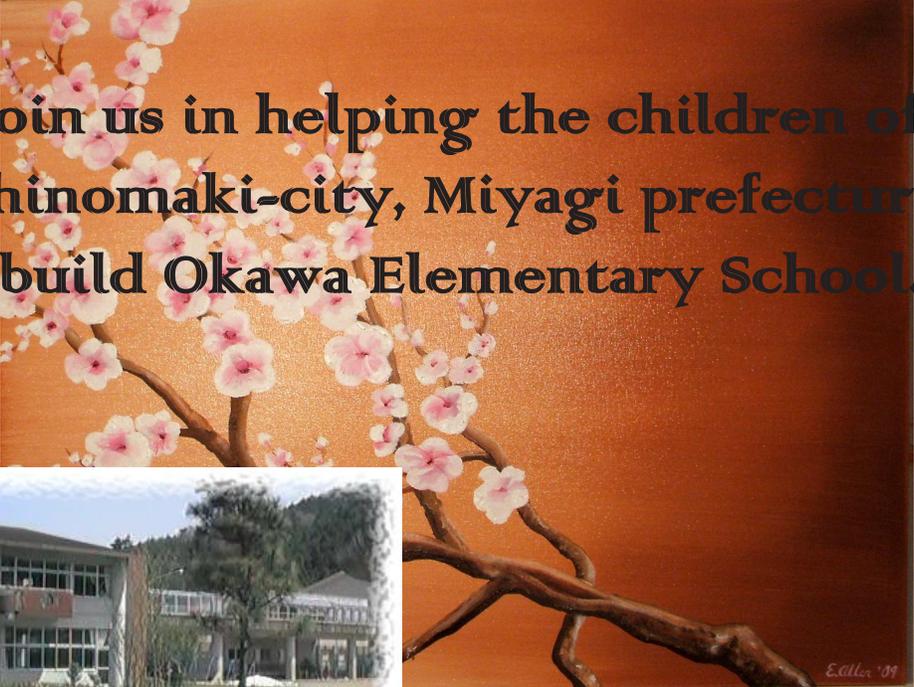
- A donation box will be at the Library Table April 12 from 12 pm-2 pm in the NAC rotunda and at the Cherry Blossom Film Festival April 28-May 5, 2011.

- All money raised at the May 9, 2011 Student-Only, Pre-Book Sale event will be donated.
- Donations can be made at the 5th Floor Cohen Library Administration Office.

All money raised will be sent to Mr. Teruyuki Kashiba, the principal of Okawa Elementary School, for the educational needs of the surviving children. We thank you all in advance for your contributions.

Rob Laurich, rlaurich@ccny.cuny.edu
Yoko Inagi, inagoo@gmail.com

Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief.



Join us in helping the children of
Ishinomaki-city, Miyagi prefecture
rebuild Okawa Elementary School.



Thank you for your contribution.

CCNY Libraries Care

CCNY Libraries

Confused by Copyright?

What's the difference between Copyright and Fair Use? Did you know you may be required to get permission to use copyrighted material in the classroom? Who would you contact if you needed help?

U.S. Copyright laws are complex and it's easy to inadvertently violate the law. In an effort to clarify the situation, the CUNY Office of Library Services created a webpage where you can find answers to the most frequently asked questions about copyright and fair use. **(C)opyright @ CUNY** offers basic copyright information that everyone needs to know, information specifically targeted for students, faculty, staff and librarians, as well as online tutorials, guides, and websites. Each section on the site provides information on the most frequently asked copyright and fair-use law questions. www.cuny.edu/libraries/services/copyright.html

Copyright and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is often a footnote in the syllabus and rarely discussed beyond a

warning in class. If no one teaches students the difference between copyright and fair use, however, how can they be expected to follow the rules? Many students are unaware that they are violating copyright because they assume that they are free to use information without requesting permission as long as it's for educational purposes. Even if they cite the source of the information they could still be liable and face copyright infringement fines.

The new **(C)opyright @ CUNY** webpage is a great teaching tool for faculty who want to reduce plagiarism and to encourage students to understand their rights and obligations as scholars and future professionals. Faculty can assign the tutorials as homework or use them in the classroom to start a discussion on the research and scholarly communication process.

Questions about copyright?

If you have a question about copyright and weren't able to find the answer on

the **(C)opyright @ CUNY** webpage, you can always contact a librarian at any of the CCNY libraries. We are happy to help you answer any questions you have. If you are interested in a library instruction course for your students please contact us!

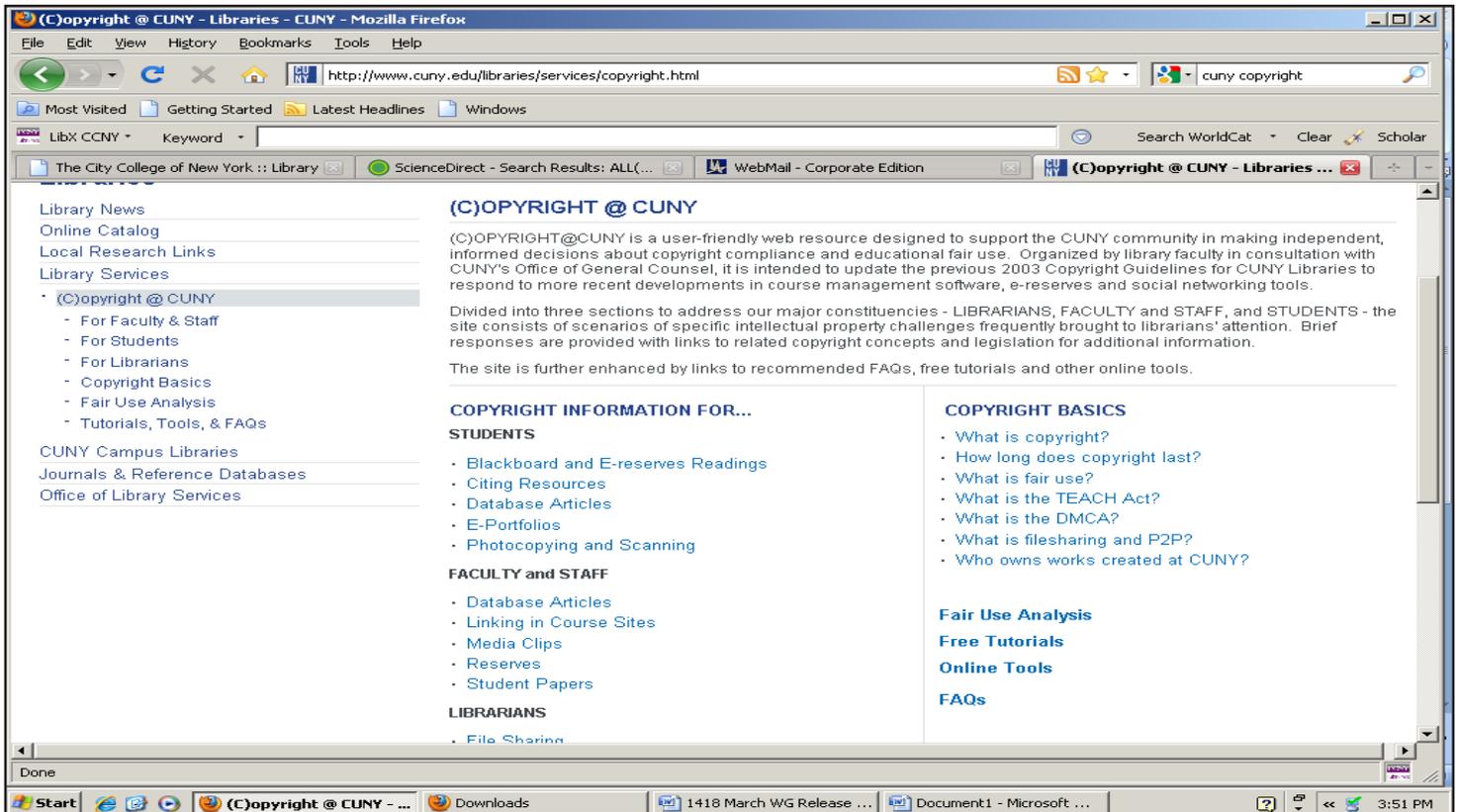
Additional Resources: Copyright Clearance Center

The Copyright Clearance Center, www.copyright.com/, a not-for-profit collaboration of content creators, content publishers and content users, allows you to search for the owner of a copyrighted work and request permission via their website. You can register a copyrighted work of your own as well as learn more about copyright through its education center.

Also, check out this video:

"Copyright in Six Minutes or Less" at learn.copyright.com/copyrightoncampus/

Shea Taylor
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The Library Scene



This Side Up. 2001
Irma Ostroff, Spitzer School of Architecture



Mother Ancestor Spirit. 2008
Myrah Brown Green, Humanities and Arts

Once again the library opens its doors to a wonderful array of art produced by the Women of CCNY. Here's a smattering of what was on display. We hope you took the time to stop by the Library Gallery for a better look at all the artwork up close.

This exhibit was curated by Prof. Sylvia Netzer of the Art Department.



Poster by STYXX, a CCNY student



Hamilton Ave. Sanitation Plant. 2002
Naomi Nemtzow, Psychology Department



Arch of Promise. 2010
Jacque Gill, Library

Library Scene (cont'd)



Librarians Yoko Inagi (l.) and Shea Talor get ready for the CCONY Turkey Trot. Yoko won—running off with the prize-winning turkey! Congrats to both runners.

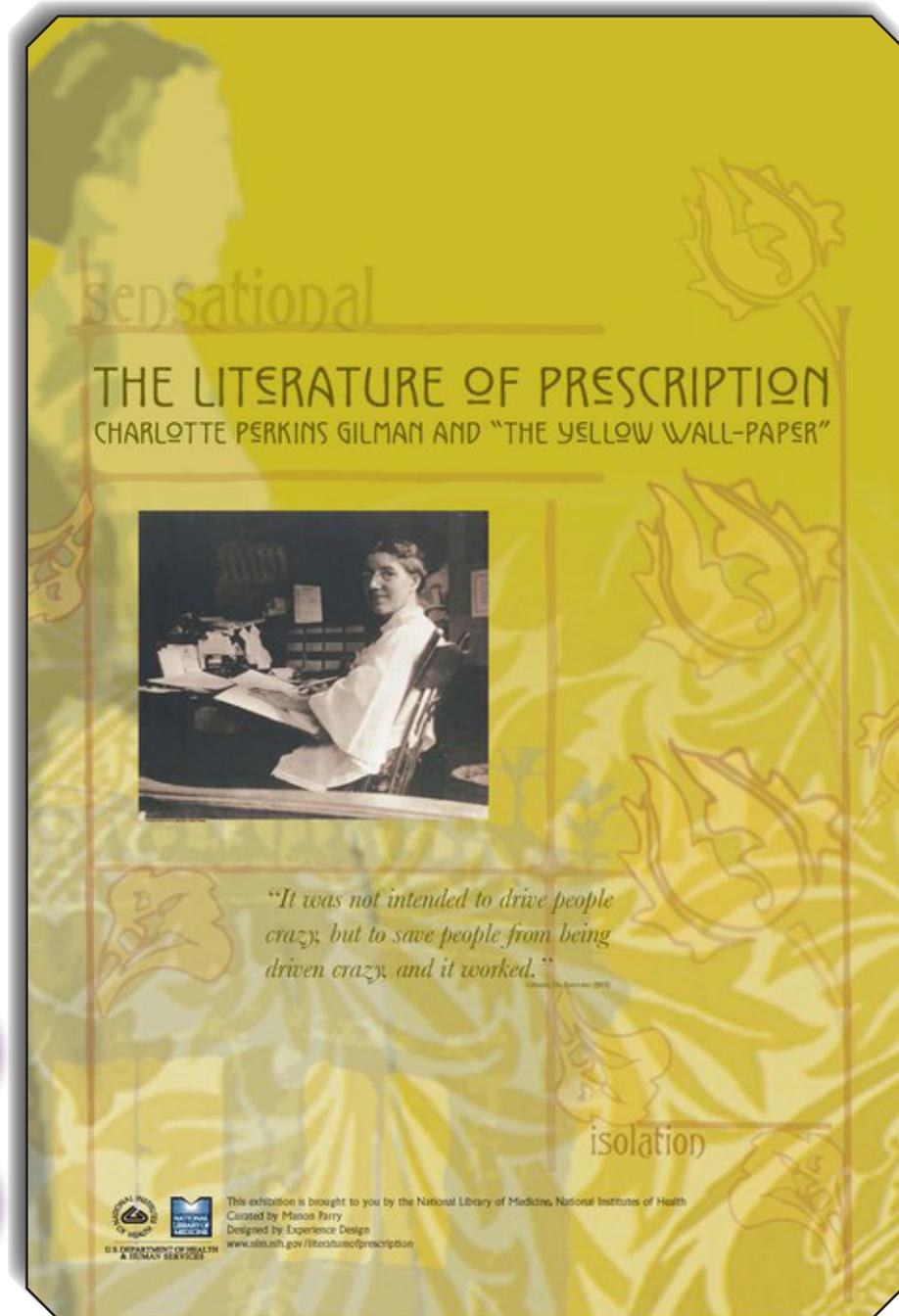
LIBRARY BOOK SALE

TUESDAY, MAY 10
10-4
NAC ROTUNDA

PRE-SALE
MONDAY, MAY 9
IN COHEN LIBRARY

STUDENTS ONLY!

(PROCEEDS OF PRE-SALE GO TO AID JAPAN)



The Literature of Prescription: Charlotte Perkins Gilman and "The Yellow Wall-Paper," National Library of Medicine / National Institutes of Health Traveling exhibit, was on view in the Cohen Library Atrium in February and March.

Cherry Blossom Film Festival

Almost every July since 1986, when the Japanese people bestowed a refurbished gravestone with a cherry tree on the grave of Townsend Harris, CCNY's founder and a former diplomat to Japan, a delegation from Shimoda, Japan visits the City College Libraries to celebrate the college's historic connection to Japan. This year, we have another reason to celebrate Japanese culture at CCNY. The Japan Foundation has awarded CCNY Libraries a film festival programming grant. The Cherry Blossom Film Festival, named so because it coincides with Sakura Matsuri, or the Cherry Blossom Festival, in our area, will be held April 28 - May 5, 2011.

Our speakers will include Professor Akemi Reeves, author of *A Deep Sense of Alienation in the Early Stories of Lao She*; Professor Barbara Brooks, author of *Japan's Imperial Diplomacy: Consuls, Treaty Ports, and War in China, 1895-1938*; Professor Youngmi Lim, author of "Zainichi Roots and Routes: The Invisible Diaspora among Naturalized Japanese of Korean Descent," in *Diaspora without Homeland: Being Koreans in Japan*; and Professor John Treat, author of *Great Mirrors Shattered: Homosexuality, Orientalism and Japan*.

The Cherry Blossom Film Festival offerings could not have been possible without a previous collection development grant, awarded to the CCNY Libraries in 2010



copyright-free-photos.org.uk

by the Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) of the Association for Asian Studies, in conjunction with the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. The NEAC grant allowed us to expand our Japanese Studies film collection with the purchase of ten DVDs which include feature films based on Japanese literary works. With this grant, the CCNY Libraries also acquired two documentaries: *Osaka Story*, which centers on the relationship of a Korean-Japanese family, and *Shinjuku*

Boys, which takes viewers into the life of *onnabe*, women who live as men. These DVDs are all available for loan to CCNY students and faculty (just check our catalog, CUNY+, for call number information).

Please spread the word about the Cherry Blossom Film Festival and be sure to join us!

Daisy V. Domínguez
daisilla@gmail.com

CCNY Libraries and the Japan Foundation present
The Cherry Blossom Film Festival
April 28 - May 5, 2011

Cohen Library Archives Reading Room
Cohen Library, 5th Floor

THURSDAY APRIL 28 2:00-3:30 p.m.

"Monochrome Terror - *Black Rain*, the Japanese Novel and the Film" Professor Akemi Reeves
Talk, clips, and Q&A

TUESDAY MAY 3 12:00-1:30 p.m.

"Postwar Japan and Asia as Seen in *The Burmese Harp*" Professor Barbara Brooks
Talk, clips, and Q&A

WEDNESDAY MAY 4 2-4:30 p.m.

"*Osaka Story*: A 'Korean' AND 'Japanese' Family Saga" Professor Youngmi Lim
Introduction, full screening, and Q&A

THURSDAY MAY 5 12:00-2:00 p.m.

"*Shinjuku Boys and Queer Tokyo Today*" Professor John Treat
Introduction, full screening, and Q&A

Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by CCNY Libraries and the Japan Foundation with collection development funding by the Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies, in conjunction with the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission.

Cohen Library | The City College of New York | 160 Convent Avenue, NAC Building | Cohen Library Entrance:
Take escalators to 2nd Floor | New York, NY 10031

The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute Archives and Library Gallery

The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute Gallery, housed in the multipurpose room of the Institute's Archives and Library facility at CCNY, is the only exhibit space in New York City devoted exclusively to works of art by and about people of Dominican descent. The gallery celebrates and showcases artists who have a unique perspective on the Dominican experience.

We already had exhibited *Dominicans in New York: an Exhibit from the Dominican Archives and Dominican Library* that highlights the experiences and contributions of the New York Dominican population. This exhibit features primary source materials from the archival collections of the Dominican Archives as well as secondary source materials from the Dominican Library, including documents, photographs, and memorabilia to create a visual history of Dominicans as they developed communities that became integral to New York's diverse human landscape. These communities are prime examples of historical currents affecting the major cities of the world in the past 50 years. This is a popular exhibit that has been displayed in public schools and higher education institutions in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Providence, Rhode Island.



CUNY DSI Gallery formally opened to outside art exhibits on October 15, 2010 with *Manifestaciones: Expressions of Dominicanidad in Nueva York*, an exhibit of 12 prints (published in a limited edition of 25) by the artists of Dominican York Proyecto GRAFICA. Embodying a variety of printmaking techniques, the pieces explored the individual artist's perspective on the theme of Dominicanidad (Dominican identity).

This unique exhibit is of artistic and historic importance as noted by art historians E. Carmen Ramos and Graciela

Kartofel in curatorial essays they contributed to the exhibit catalog (which is available for reference at the CUNY DSI Library). The exhibit catalog is a collaboration between an academic research institute (CUNY DSI) and a community group of artists (DYPG). The pieces themselves, reproduced in this catalog with helpful commentary about their thematic relevance, are an important contribution by our artists to the field of Dominican Studies. The exhibit was co-sponsored by the CCNY Art Department.

Future exhibits will be selected by an art review committee. The CUNY DSI GALLERY is available to outside individuals,

community organizations, academic or other nonprofit institutions to conduct activities such as exhibits, conferences, symposia, lectures, seminars, and workshops, provided that such use of the facility does not interfere with its primary purpose as a reference/gallery space for the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute's Archives and Library. The proposed activities and/or exhibit materials must have artistic, intellectual and/or informational value and must be consistent with the mission and objectives of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute and its functional subdivisions.

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Tynan Hoffman, a college assistant in Cohen's Circulation Division, also works two hours weekly at the library's Information Desk. Tynan is a current student in the master's program in library science at Pratt Institute. He finds that the hands-on reference experience he gains, while under the supervision of a Cohen reference librarian, is invaluable. Ty also was a recent recipient of the Stanley Feingold Award for his policy brief, written

as a CCNY political science undergrad, on the gray wolves of Montana which had just been de-listed from the Endangered Species Act.

City College Library Hosted African-American Art Exhibit

For the first time, the City College Library in conjunction with the college's Black Studies Program hosted a month-long art exhibit featuring the work of eight New York-based African-American artists. The exhibit, *Shots, Strokes, Threads, and Clay*, was one of the numerous events at City College to commemorate Black History Month.

Co-curators Professor Jo-Ann Hamilton and Professor Ching-Jung Chen invited



Nuit. Acrylic on canvas. 2010
Laura James

the artists to exhibit their paintings, prints, and sculptures in the Cohen Library Gallery, adjacent to the Archives Reading Room. The pieces were on display in the Cohen Library in February 2011.

The February 1 opening reception was well attended by the artists, their friends, and members of the City College community. Gilbert Fletcher and Shirley Taylor



Healing Hands. Quilt.
Diane Pryor-Holland

discussed their work at this event. On the following Tuesdays during February, exhibiting artists were invited to speak about their inspirations, challenges, and satisfaction.

On February 8 artists and siblings Dingda McCannon and Robert Daniels described how difficult it had



CCNY Libraries and the Black Studies Program Present:

Shots, Strokes, Threads and Clay

February 1-28, 2011

Cohen Library Archives Reading Room

February 1, 6pm

Opening Reception and Artist's Talk with Gilbert Fletcher, Diane Pryor-Holland, and Shirley Taylor

February 8, 6pm

Artist's Talk with Robert Daniels and Dingda McCannon

February 15, 6pm

Artist's Talk with Sana Musasama Music by the Chamber Ensemble of the Harlem Symphony Orchestra

February 22, 6pm

Artist's Talk with Kwame Brathwaite and Laura James

Exhibiting Artists:

- Kwame Brathwaite
 - Robert Daniels
 - Gilbert Fletcher
 - Laura James
 - Dingda McCannon
 - Sana Musasama
 - Diane Pryor-Holland
 - Shirley Taylor
- Also featuring CCNY SEEK student artwork

Refreshments will be served.

Additional funding provided by the CCNY SEEK Program, the Division of the Humanities and the Arts, and the Black Studies Program (Sloan Memorial Grants Fund)



been to establish themselves as artists. They joined with other artists in 1965 to create an artists' cooperative, Weusi —Swahili for blackness. Weusi became a

nurturing environment in which they and their fellow African-American artists could showcase their work.



Continuing the Story. Mixed media. Robert Daniels discusses his work with an exhibit goer.

Although this group does not yet have a permanent venue to show its work, the members have shared examples of their output in a number of galleries in addition to the Library Gallery.

Artist Sana Musasama took center stage on February 15, while Laura James and Diane Pryor-Holland spoke at the final event on February 22.

Sydney Van Nort
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Architecture Library News

Expanding our Service Base

The Architecture Library has opened its doors to students and faculty participating in the Syracuse University School of Architecture's Studio Program in New York City. This mid-town-east program fields approximately 15 students per semester each fall, spring and summer. With no provision for library services, Syracuse contacted the CCNY Architecture Library which made the necessary arrangements to welcome the first group of Syracuse students this February.

Thus far a sprinkling of students have made their way up to our library where they've been welcomed and allowed to use all our in-house services including reference services and reserve-book use. They cannot, however, borrow books from the library nor use inter-library loan services.

We hope that this initial involvement will continue as we are happy to welcome these users to our library.

The Model Library

The Architecture Library welcomes also this year several large-format display models from the Spitzer School of Architecture's first-year design studios. Teams of students work hard at producing these beautifully crafted models and professors selected their top choices for display. We will be rotating in two or three different models each year and are happy to serve as a forum for such good work. Be sure to stop by to admire!



Sustainability Materials Increase

With the creation of CCNY's new Master of Sustainability in the Urban Environment, an inter-disciplinary program involving architecture, science and engineering faculty, additional monies have been awarded to the Architecture and Science/Engineering libraries for relevant research materials. This supplementary financial support is particularly helpful during the current austere period for library funding.

Both libraries are increasing their holdings in such areas as industrial ecology, alternative energy systems, brownfield regeneration, planning of sustainable cities, vertical gardens, and green roofs. We encourage interested patrons to visit and avail themselves of our expanding collections. We will continue to add to these materials and hope to be CUNY's go-to libraries for sustainable research.



CIRCUMSPICE is published by
The City College Library, The City College
of New York/CUNY
160 Convent Avenue
NY, NY 10031
Editor: Professor Judy Connorton
jconnorton@ccny.cuny.edu
Publication Committee:
Professors Ching-Jung Chen, Claudia
Lascar, William Gibbons, & Daisy Domingez
Production: Nilda Sanchez
ISSN 0069-4215

CCNY Libraries

Library Exhibits/ Events 2010/11

Gobekli Tepe

March 28 - June 10, 2011
Cohen Library Atrium

Cherry Blossom Film Festival

The CCNY Libraries and the
Japan Foundation present
the first film in the series:

Black Rain

along with a talk by
Professor Akemi Reeves

"Monochrome Terror - *Black Rain*, the
Japanese Novel and the Film"

April 28, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Cohen Library

Archives Reading Room

Cohen Library, 5th floor

**Please see p. 6 for a list of additional
films and talks in the series along
with dates and times.**

Student Pre-Book Sale

May 9, 2010

Cohen Library

Japan Relief Fund

(Please see p. 3 for details)

Library Book Sale

May 10, 2010

NAC Rotunda

Library Contact Information

Chief Librarian	650-7271
Archives	650-7609
Circulation	650-7155
Reference	650-7611-12
Architecture	650-8768
Music	650-7174
Science/Engineering	650-8246
VR Library/Architecture	650-8754
VR Library/Art	650-7175