

## Clark Conference 2007 (Williamstown, 27-28 Apr 07)

Mark Ledbury

### Clark Conference 2007

April 27 and 28 2007, The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute,  
Williamstown, MA

What is Research in the Visual Arts?  
Obsession, Archive, Encounter

What is research, why and how do we do it, and what place does it have in the understanding and the making of art today? This year's Clark Conference explores these fundamental questions, both philosophical and practical, for those working with visual art. A full program is listed below.

### Program

Friday, April 27

9:15am Welcoming remarks

Michael Ann Holly, Director, Research and Academic Program, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute

Mark Ledbury, Associate Director, Research and Academic Program, The Clark

### Session 1

What's a Discipline to Do? Research in/As Art History

9:30:

Marquard Smith, Kingston University, London

Conference Introduction

10.00: Michael Ann Holly, The Clark

What Is Research in Art History Anyway?

10.30-11:00: Break

11:00: Marc Gotlieb, University of Toronto

Our Monstrous Double

11.30: Alex Nemerov, Yale University

The Turn of the Screw and Art History

12:00 - 12:30: Discussion of Morning Papers

12.30-2:00: Lunch

## Session 2

What Is Research? Old Practices, New Practices

2:00: Serge Guilbaut, University of British Columbia,  
Factory of Facts: Research As Obsession with the Scent of History

2:30: Ernst Van Alphen, Leiden University and Clark Oakley Fellow, 2007-8  
Obsessive Archives and Archival Obsessions.

3:00-3:30: Break

3:30: Chrissie Iles, Whitney Museum of American Art  
Order! Taxonomy and Anxiety

4:00: Alex Potts  
University of Michigan  
The Art Work, the Archive, and the Living Moment

4:30: Discussion with afternoon speakers

5:30 pm : Reception at Williams College Museum of Art

Saturday, April 28

## Session 3. Who or What Is the Researcher? Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

9:30 am:  
Celeste Olalquiaga,  
Independent scholar  
The Researcher as Collector

10:00: Joanne Morra  
University of the Arts, London  
Remembering, Repeating, and Working---through Research

10:30-11:00: Break

11:00: Reva Wolf  
State University of New York, New Paltz  
The Scholar and the Fan

11.30: Sina Najafi,  
Cabinet magazine  
Toward a Culture of Curiosity?

12:00: Discussion of morning papers

12:30-2:00: Lunch

#### Session 4. Looking Elsewhere

2:00: W.J.T. Mitchell

University of Chicago

Image and Archive: The Case of Abu Ghraib

2:30: Akira Lippit

University of Southern California

The World Archive and Universal

3:00: Helen Molesworth, Harvard University Art Museum

Some Thoughts on Zoe Leonard's Analogue

3:30: Discussion of afternoon papers

4:00-4:15: Break

4:15: Mieke Bal, University of Amsterdam

Commentary

Followed by panel discussion with all Conference participants and audience

6:00: Reception in the Lobby of the Clark for all attendees.

More information and registration forms can be found at

[www.clarkart.edu/research\\_and\\_academic](http://www.clarkart.edu/research_and_academic)

Reference:

CONF: Clark Conference 2007 (Williamstown, 27-28 Apr 07). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 11, 2007 (accessed Jul 13, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/29212>>.