

R20th C gallery and futureflair present:



Dinner + conversation, Thursday, October 14, 2010
Learn and Play, honoring special guest: Renata Müller

Guest biographies

Norman Brosterman: www.brosterman.com

Architect, sculptor, and collector Norman Brosterman first became interested in the history of kindergarten while assembling the world's finest collection of antique building block and construction toys. In 1989, Brosterman's collection was acquired by the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal. Discovering that the famed "Froebel Blocks", which are well-known to all students of Frank Lloyd Wright, were merely part of a much larger system of elegant, nature-based, design toys, Brosterman embarked on years of research into the history of this lost world, culminating in the publication in 1997 of his award-winning book, "Inventing Kindergarten."

David Carroll: <http://dave.parsons.edu/>

David Carroll is assistant professor of media design and director of the MFA Design & Technology graduate program at Parsons the New School for Design. His pedagogy and research focus on digital media, especially for mobile devices, exploring critical practice and theory of software and interaction design as social engagement. His work crosses multiple fields of art, design, education, sciences, humanities, and policy among both private and public-interest enterprises. He founded the Center for Mobile Creativity to support research grants from Pearson Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, NIH/NIDA, NSF and Nokia Research Centers.

Carla Diana: www.carladiana.com

Carla Diana enjoys living as close to the near future as possible. As senior designer at Smart Design, her projects include domestic robots, mobile devices and sentient kitchen appliances. In her practice, she combines experience in industrial and interaction design to create solutions that bridge the gap between the physical and the digital. She has taught and lectured internationally, most recently at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she was the creative director for the iconic humanoid robot, Simon. Carla holds a Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering from Cooper Union and an MFA in Industrial Design from Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Judy Ellis: www.fitnyc.edu

Judy Ellis is founder and chair of the world's first baccalaureate program in Toy Design, at the Fashion Institute of Technology, started in 1989. She provides students an educational environment that stresses an ethical approach to design and commitment to community. Her Discover Together program involves design students working directly with children. Ellis was a speaker at Yale University's Inter-Disciplinary Bioethics Program: Technology and Ethics Working Research Group. She launched the consulting company Graphics for the Environment, and counted among her clients: Amerada-Hess Corporation and IBM. She is a graduate of Parsons School of Design with a BFA in Communication Design and taught graphic design there for seven years. Ellis has received two SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence and is a two-time nominee for the Toy Industry Hall of Fame.

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Susan Engel www.williams.edu/Psychology/Faculty/Engel/engel.html

Susan Engel's research has focused on the emergence of narratives, children's autobiographical memory, imaginative processes in childhood, and the development of curiosity. Her work has appeared in chapters and articles for scientific publications, and she has also written for teachers and parents. She has published three books, and her fourth, *Red Flags or Red Herrings: Predicting Who Your Child Will Become*, will be published by Simon and Schuster in 2011. In 2007/8 she published a series of columns in the *New York Times* describing how teachers solve problems, and in 2009/10 she published four op-ed pieces about education. She is the co-founder of an experimental school in New York State, where, for 14 years, she oversaw all aspects of educational practice, including developing curriculum and supervising the teachers. She and her husband live in New Marlborough MA, and have three sons.

Steven Guarnaccia: <http://www.ba-reps.com/artists/steven-guarnaccia>)

Steven Guarnaccia is the director of the Illustration program at Parsons The New School for Design. He was previously art director of the Op-Ed page of the New York Times. He is an internationally recognized illustrator and a regular contributor to *Domus* magazine. Guarnaccia has designed murals for Disney Cruise Lines, and holiday cards and images for the exhibition, Achille Castiglioni: Design!, for the Museum of Modern Art. He is the author and illustrator of numerous children's books, including *Goldilocks* and *The Three Bears: a Tale Moderne* and *The Three Pigs: an Architectural Tale*, both published by Abrams. He is also the author of *Black and White*, a book on the absence of color, published by Chronicle Books.

Chad Phillips: www.chadphillipsnyc.com

Chad spent the last 7 years creating magic for the venerable toy company, Kidrobot. He handled everything from purchasing, talent scouting, product development, and retail development to design on all levels during his tenure as Creative Director. Previous to that he was the Product Manager at *moss* in SoHo, run by Murray Moss. He is currently developing two iPhone apps, one merges his character development background with the fun of toy cameras, the other brings the devious Kidrobot edge to a simple game play formula. He is also consulting for a few NYC companies.

John Powers: <http://johnpowers.us/>

John Powers was born in Chicago and began his studies in art as an apprentice to Tom Jay, a Washington State bronze sculptor. During his six years in the Pacific Northwest, Powers studied anatomy, figurative sculpture, and native carving. He is an alumnus of Pratt Institute's sculpture program – where he made the jump to abstract work – and received his MFA from Hunter College. Powers' work has been shown at PS1, Exit Art, the Kohler Arts Center, Caren Golden, Paul Rodgers/9W, Solomon Fine Art, Art Omi, the Swiss Institute, CUE Arts Foundation, Virgil de Voldere Gallery, The Black & White gallery and the Brooklyn Museum. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Claudia Steinberg

A NY-based freelance writer hailing from Germany, Claudia Steinberg covers a wide range of subjects such as art, travel, design, social issues, and fashion for German publications like *Vogue*, *Die Zeit*, *Cicero*, *Kunstzeitung* and *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. She has been the U.S. correspondent for the German architecture and design magazine *Architektur & Wohnen* for ten years and has also written for the home section of *The New York Times*, *Surface*, and *Interior Design Magazine*. In 2004 a book of essays on art and food appeared in collaboration with photographer Bärbel Miebach, followed by "The Art of Living", published by Monacelli Press in 2009.

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Virgil de Voldère: www.virgilgallery.com

Virgil is the co-owner of the Virgil de Voldère Gallery in Chelsea, NY, a primary market gallery representing a group of young and mid-career artists working across various media. These artists have gone on to achieve international recognition and exhibit their works in institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, Guggenheim Museum, the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris and at the Venice Biennale. In September 2008, Virgil launched a French dual-language program at P.S. 84 and since 2009, he has held a seat on the Upper West Side Community Education Council (CEC3, former School Board). In the fall 2010 he opened La Petite Ecole, a French speaking preschool using contemporary art as an educational methodology.

Laetitia Wolff: www.futureflair.com

A design writer, curator and strategist, is the founder of futureflair, a creative conduit that provides a critical eye on all things visual and a multi-faceted understanding of the cultural value and strategic dimensions of design. futureflair focuses on translating core values and identities into sophisticated, scalable and integrated communications strategies as well as concrete, innovative, content-rich programming.

Recently she has consulted for Parsons, the New School for Design on strategic alliances, programming and intellectual branding, as well as with the Swiss EPFL+ECAL lab on the exploration of new technologies by design. Editor-in-chief of *Surface* magazine and *Graphis*, she is the author of the award-winning monograph *Massin* and of *Real Photo Postcards*. She has curated a number of exhibits including *Value Meal: design and (over)eating*, as well as the first-ever retrospective of the graphic artist Massin. Wolff is a regular contributor to international publications, including *Étapes*, a design and visual culture magazine. She initiated *The Interdisciplinarians* dinner series with Zesty and Evan.

R20thC founders, Zesty Meyers and Evan Snyderman: www.r20thcentury.com

Zesty Meyers formed the radical installation and performance art group the B Team, which later included R designer Jeff Zimmerman and R co-founder Evan Snyderman. When he moved to New York in 1995, Meyers expanded the B Team into one of the first non-profit arts organizations comprised of visual artists using installation and performance with molten glass as their primary medium. Meyers is currently working on a major publication about Brazilian mid-century masters.

Evan Snyderman received his BFA in glass from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1992, and his MFA in glass from Tyler School of Art in 1994. In 1995, Snyderman accepted a teaching position at the Urban Glass facility in Brooklyn, New York and that year, joined the performance group, the B Team. In 1997, Snyderman founded the gallery R 20th Century with fellow B team member Zesty Meyers. Snyderman recently co-curated *Greta Magnusson Grossman: A Car and Some Shorts*, which opened at the Arkitekturmuseet in Stockholm last February. He is currently working on a major publication on Wendell Castle, as well as a documentary film on the history of design in Southern California.

Portraits will be taken by photographer Henry Leutwyler www.henryleutwyler.com

and AV recording by Simeon Poulin, <http://simeonpoulin.com>