

DISABILITY STUDIES @ THE ROM

A Public Lecture Series that brings Disability "Out from Under"

Ryerson University, School of Disability Studies and the Royal Ontario Museum announce a series of free public events as part of the groundbreaking exhibit: *"Out From Under: Disability History and Things to Remember."*

Friday, May 2, 2008

Bringing Disability Out from Under
Featuring David Mitchell and Sharon Snyder

Dr David Mitchell is the newly appointed Executive Director of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University. **Dr Sharon Snyder** is Assistant Professor, Department of Disability and Human Development at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Together, these scholars are a formidable presence on the new cultural landscapes of disability studies. They have authored 3 seminal texts and numerous journal articles, edited the 5-volume *Encyclopedia of Disability*, curated a disability history exhibit and created/produced 3 groundbreaking documentary films. Always on the cutting edge, their work advances bold new transformations of public culture.



"Disabled people have been built for exhibition.

Throughout history disability provided an opportunity for the display of bodily aberration and human calamity. But these images denied their subjects the right to a full and complex humanity."

David Mitchell and Sharon Snyder
Disability Takes the Arts

Public Lecture: Friday May 2, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Eaton Theatre, Royal Ontario Museum
South Entrance, 100 Queen's Park Circle

Visitors are welcome to tour *Out from Under* at the ROM after the lecture.

This lecture is generously supported by the office of Ryerson University Vice President and Provost Alan Shepard.

ASL interpretation and Real-Time Captioning Provided

Friday, May 9, 2008

Disability, Mothers and Organization: Accidental Activists

Book Launch and Discussion

Featuring Melanie Panitch with Audrey Cole and Vida Panitch



Dr. Melanie Panitch, Co-Curator of *“Out From Under”* and Director of the School of Disability Studies at Ryerson University welcomes you to the launch of her new book in honour of **Mothers’ Day**. *Disability, Mothers and Organization: Accidental Activists* begins in the “the everyday world” of three remarkable Canadian women - Jo Dickey, Paulette Berthiaume and Audrey Cole. Following the birth of their disabled children in the 1950s and 1960s, these women came to disability activism “accidentally”, driven by the imperative of making space in the world for their children.

Leading campaigns to close institutions and secure human rights, these women learned to *mother as activists*, struggling against the debilitating effects of exclusion. Acting collectively, they built a vibrant social movement and left a bold imprint on their country.



"They did not start out to change the world; they started out trying to secure better services for their children. They became 'accidental activists' when they reached a turning point, a disjunctive moment ... They acted initially, motivated by their identity as mothers in the private sphere of the family. But as they came to view forms of injustice that encompassed children with disabilities and families more broadly, they learned to mother as activists in a more public arena."

*Melanie Panitch,
Disability, Mothers and Organization: Accidental Activists*

Public Event: Friday May 9, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Eaton Theatre, Royal Ontario Museum

South Entrance, 100 Queen’s Park Circle

Visitors are welcome to tour *Out from Under* at the ROM after the lecture.

Copies of “Disability, Mothers and Organization: Accidental Activists” will be available for purchase at the event.

ASL interpretation and Real-Time Captioning Provided

Saturday, May 24
Blindness at the Museum
Featuring Georgina Kleege

Georgina Kleege has taught creative writing, literature and disability studies at the University of Oklahoma and Ohio State University and now teaches English at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of a novel, *Home for the Summer*, a collection of personal essays about blindness, *Sight Unseen*, and *Blind Rage: Letters to Helen Keller*, an epistolary exploration of Keller's life.

A powerful new voice in the domain of visual studies, Kleege's contributions have engaged audiences at the Tate Modern in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In 2005, she helped to organize the "*Blind at the Museum*" exhibit and conference at the Berkeley Art Museum. Artful, distinct and provocative, her work illuminates and reshapes how we encounter visual culture.



"The task of translating a work of visual art into language may be a daunting one, but not so daunting that we should throw up our hands in despair. We need to remember that the people receiving these words also have imagination, knowledge, memory and curiosity, whether or not they have perfect vision."

Georgina Kleege
Dream Museum: Blindness, Language and Visual Art

Public Lecture: Saturday, May 24, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Eaton Theatre, Royal Ontario Museum
South Entrance, 100 Queen's Park Circle

Visitors are welcome to tour *Out from Under* at the ROM after the lecture.

ASL interpretation and Real-Time Captioning Provided