

# WOMEN at the CENTER

**Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture**  
**David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University**

Issue 21, Spring 2012

## Ann Snitow: "Pleasure in this Inside/Outside Life"

Renowned feminist activist and writer Ann Snitow, placed her personal and professional papers at the Bingham Center last fall. The collection consists of activist and research files, writings, speeches, correspondence, teaching materials, feminist radio recordings, and published materials tracing Snitow's groundbreaking work from the earliest days of the women's liberation movement to the emergence of the discipline of Sexuality Studies and the establishment of the eastern and central European women's movements.



Snitow at a recent event

The collection also documents a number of groups and organizations Snitow helped to create and develop such as the New York Radical Feminists, the New York Institute for the Humanities, the Barnard Study Group, Feminist Anti-Censorship Taskforce (FACT), Feminists for Free Expression, No More Nice Girls, and the Network of East-West Women. She is currently the director of the

Gender Studies Program and associate professor of literature and gender studies at Eugene Lang College of the New School for

(Continued on page 3)

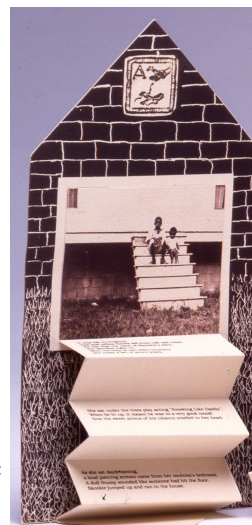
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## From Idea to Print: Book Artists' Papers

Collecting artists' books by women is one of the ways the Bingham Center documents the lives and work of women artists. Researchers now have a new way to explore the book arts: through the personal papers of Clarissa Sligh and Nava Atlas.

Clarissa Sligh's book *What's Happening With Momma?*, produced through the Women's Studio Workshop in 1988, provides the perfect introduction for those unfamiliar with the medium. This book is in the form of a house, with porch steps that fold out to tell a story about Sligh's childhood memory of her younger sister's birth at home. This book artfully



**What's Happening With Momma?**  
**By Clarissa Sligh**

combines silkscreened photographic images, a compelling story, and a format that perfectly complements the content of the book.

Clarissa Sligh is also a photographer, visual artist, writer, and lecturer. When she was 15 years old she became the lead plaintiff in a 1955 school desegregation case in Virginia (*Clarissa Thompson et. al. vs. Arlington County School Board*). After working in math and science with NASA and later in business, she began a career as an artist, using photographs, drawings, text, and personal stories to explore themes of transformation

and social justice. (Continued on page 2)

[library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham](http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham)

**SALLIE BINGHAM CENTER**  
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY AND CULTURE

## Spring Events

**Intimate Wars:  
a Reading with  
Merle Hoffman**  
February 7, 2012

**12th and Delaware:  
part of Rights!  
Camera! Action!  
Human Rights Film  
Series**  
March 13, 2012

**Mending: a Reading  
with Sallie Bingham**  
March 14, 2012

**'Particularly Remark-  
able for her Crime:'  
Scholars Tea with  
Robin Robinson**  
March 21, 2012

**Scholars Tea with  
Maureen Cummins**  
April 11, 2012

**Acting Across  
Borders: A Symposi-  
um Celebrating the  
Meredith Tax Papers**  
April 13-14, 2012

**Black Feminist  
Filmmaking:  
The Early Works of  
Cheryl Dunye**  
April 19, 2012

## Women's Studies Senior Seminar in the Archives

Professor Kathy Rudy's syllabus for the course begins, "This class gives you the opportunity to assess, reflect on, and galvanize your experiences as a Women's Studies major at Duke."

Her students have spent the past semester revisiting texts encountered in previous women's studies classes, using Bingham Center collections focused on the current Women's Studies Program theme (the Feminist 1970's), and conducting interviews with activists, including some of those whose papers they explored in the Center. Each student is keeping a portfolio and will produce a research paper based on their archival and interview work. The



**Women's Studies Graduating Seniors**  
**Top: Courtney Douglas, Jolene Doedens, Maria Suarez; Middle: Destani Bizune, Brooke Fodor; Bottom: Aerin Spruill, Athira Nair, Denver Dunn**  
Image courtesy of Melanie Mitchell

goal is for students to make connections between the theories they're reading and the realities of feminist lives in the 1970's and early 80's. Some of the topics the group is exploring include domestic violence, feminist music, reproductive rights, and lesbian separatism.

After the class met several times at the Bingham Center, Professor Rudy commented,

"This has been such a fantastic experience for them all. Students were very clear that this is a great way to run the senior seminar. Here's to a long and happy collaboration between the senior seminar and the Bingham Center!"

## From Idea to Print *continued from page 1*

Sligh's papers include materials relating to her career as an artist, with particular focus on her various projects and exhibitions in the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s.

Nava Atlas followed a much different path to the book arts, but like Sligh, her work also engages images, text, and structure to explore themes of social justice and women's roles. Many of her works, like the altered comic book *Love & Marriage*, reappropriate found materials and challenge the language and images used to reinforce gender roles and stereotypes.

Atlas has successfully adapted two of her limited edition artist's books to create



**Love and Marriage  
By Nava Atlas**

trade editions, bridging the divide between hand crafted books and conventional publishing. The Bingham Center holds both editions of *Secret Recipes for the Modern Wife*, a parody 1950s-style cookbook exploring contemporary marriage, originally created as an artists' book in 2007 and then published by Simon & Schuster in 2009.

In addition to her artistic career, Nava Atlas is well known as the author and illustrator of many books on vegan

and vegetarian cooking, most recently *Vegan Holiday Kitchen* and the forthcoming *Wild About Greens*.

## 2012-2013 Mary Lily Research Grant Recipients

The Bingham Center is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Mary Lily Research Grants. These grants support the work of students, scholars, and independent researchers who will travel to Durham from all over the U.S. to make use of the Bingham Center's rich collections.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge our faculty reader, Kimberly Lamm, Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, who offered insight and expertise as the committee reviewed a competitive pool of proposals. Congratulations to:

**Bridget Collins**, History of Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, for dissertation research on how American women prevented and treated infectious disease in twentieth-century homes.

**Laura Foxworth**, History, University of South Carolina, for dissertation research on Southern Baptist reactions to the women's movement in the 1970s.

**Andrea M. Holliger-Soles**, English Literature, University of Kentucky, for dissertation research on the ideology and culture of domestic service and slavery in the United States.

**Emma M. Howes**, English, University of Massachusetts Amherst, for dissertation research examining literacy among Appalachian female mill workers in the Carolina Piedmont, 1880-1920.

**Jessica Lancia**, American History, University of Florida, for dissertation research on the transnational dimensions of the U.S. women's liberation movement of the 1970s.

**Jane Shattuck Mayer**, Rutgers University-Camden, Childhood Studies, for research on her dissertation which looks at nineteenth-century New England girlhood and education and its influence on authors of children's literature.

**Dorothy Quincy Thomas**, Independent Scholar, for research on a book that explores progressive women's identity and sense of self throughout American history by examining three generations of women in her family.

**Kimberly Wilmot Voss**, Assistant Professor, University of Central Florida, Nicholson School of Communication, for research on an article about how Robin Morgan worked with female journalists at mainstream newspapers.

**More About Grants:** [library.duke.edu/rubenstein/ingham/grants](http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/ingham/grants)

### Ann Snitow *continued from page 1*

the Liberal Arts in New York City.

Snitow says of placing her archives at the Bingham Center, "I have combined the life of activist and writer with being a university professor since 1969. It's all connected: imagining and reading about change, being skeptical about the meaning of particular social changes, being part of change. What I wish for: action and criticism of the action taken, engagement and distance, and, finally, pleasure in this inside/outside life." She adds, "The thrill of having my papers in the Bingham Center is imagining both feminist activists and thinkers in the future messing around with these messy combinations, trying

ing to imagine for themselves various ways to put it all together."

Last year Snitow was selected to be a prestigious Fulbright Specialist in Gender and American Studies. In this role she has given invited lectures, workshops, and specialized training at academic institutions in Albania, Romania, the Czech Republic, and Poland.

In April, Snitow will speak at the Bingham Center's 5th symposium, "Acting Across Borders: The Future of the Feminist 1970s," which will honor the acquisition of the papers of another renowned feminist activist and writer, Meredith Tax.

## Recent Acquisitions

### Lara Cohen Zine Collection

Zines (280 individual titles), correspondence, and ephemera primarily from the 1990s collected by Cohen, author of the zines *Runt* and *Oh Cheri Cheri*.

### Libby Gilbert Zine Collection

About 120 indie music zines and underground music magazines, dated 1980s and early 1990s, from the U.S. and abroad, with a particular focus on the Pacific Northwest.

### Amanda J. Mackay Smith Papers

Collection includes materials documenting Smith's work as a published mystery writer, long-time gender equity consultant, newspaper columnist focused on gender in the workplace, and youth educator at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Durham.

## Significant Additions to the Papers of:

- Ruth Finlay
- Merle Hoffman
- Ipas
- Lucinda Marshall
- Jean Fox O'Barr

**Finding Aid:** [library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/snitowann](http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/snitowann)



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## Panko or Votes for Women: a Suffrage Card Game



When you hear the word “Panko,” do you think of Japanese bread crumbs? I did, until the Sallie Bingham Center acquired this deck of Panko playing cards. It’s named for the leader of the British suffrage movement, Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928), and pits opponents and supporters of suffrage against each other in a game similar to rummy. The advertisement for the game claimed, “Not only is each picture in itself an interesting memento, but the game produces intense excitement without the slightest taint of bitterness.”

The translation of the women’s suffrage movement into card games, and also board games, helped bring the message of the cause into domestic circles where more overt forms of propaganda might not have been welcomed. These cards were designed by the well-known *Punch* cartoonist E. T. Reed, and published by Peter Gurney in 1909.

These particular playing cards are owned by only three other libraries and are an important, rare piece of suffrage memorabilia that joins a number of other decks of cards held by the Bingham Center exploring issues related to women and gender.

*Contributed by Megan Lewis, Technical Services Archivist*