

# What's new at *VUE* : A Quarterly VTS Newsletter

May 2005

## **VUE's Presence at the National Art Education Association Conference**

Visual Thinking Strategies was featured in two sessions at the annual National Art Education Association (NAEA) conference convened March 4-8 in Boston. VUE Co-Director Philip Yenawine co-led a session with Judith King and Kathy Tosolini of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts titled, "Visual Thinking Strategies as Classroom/Art Teacher partnership." The popular forum offered suggestions for art teachers to initiate and manage a VTS program.

Simultaneously, two VTS program coordinators from The Wolfsonian Museum in Miami Beach and Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum spoke on a panel about the US Department of Education grant their museums received to evaluate, expand and improve their program. Of only three grants awarded in 2004, two went to institutions that use VTS!

The conversation continued at Co-Director Abigail Housen's house in Cambridge on Sunday evening, March 6. Several dozen friends and colleagues who use VTS in museums and schools across the U.S. discussed many topics related to VTS, art education generally, and responses to other presentations at NAEA. Coordinators shared success stories: winning allies in schools, receiving grants to fund VTS, and hearing positive reactions from visitors taking VTS tours.

**It's Spring! Let's Go to the Museum!**  
*San Diego Public Schools teacher  
Erin Fowler brought her students to the  
San Diego Museum of Art in April.*



## **Bigger, Brawny Board of Directors**

Since February, VUE has welcomed six new members to its board of directors, and regretfully accepted the resignation of founding board member Natalie Bluestone. Natalie's warmth and humor will be missed. New board members include:

- Alexander Gray, a gallery owner and consultant to arts organizations, based in New York City
- Linda Levy, an activist with experience in non profit organizations and parent with an interest in education, based in New York
- Louise Loening, a painter and parent, based in New York (both Louise and Alex are former interns during Philip's tenure at MOMA!)
- Michael Martin, a gallery owner based in Dallas, and the originator of VTS programs in San Francisco and Dallas
- Betsy Osha, a producer for NBC television, based in New York
- Penelope Speier, based in San Antonio, who has managed a VTS program there since 1998

## **Forum for VTS Coordinators Online**

The VUE website hosts an online bulletin board as a forum for coordinators across the country to discuss VTS and post site updates. Please e-mail Gretchen Baudenbacher at [imageres@vue.org](mailto:imageres@vue.org) to become a part of this online community.

## **VUE in the News**

VUE has received national and local press recently via radio, newspaper and an art education journal.

In November 2004 a VTS tour at the Lowe Art Museum was featured in the Education section of the *Miami Herald*. The article focused on a docent-led tour, and included many quotes from students.

While travelling to Ohio recently, Philip managed to squeeze in some airtime at NPR's Cleveland affiliate, WCPN. He was featured on "Around Noon" and discussed VUE's work and his February 22 public talk at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland titled "Looking for Meaning."

Finally, in *Art Education: the Journal of the National Art Education Association*, two articles discussed VTS. In "Bridging the Theory-Practice Divide in Contemporary Art Museum Education," Melinda M. Mayer summarizes different approaches to visitor education. Abigail's research, Philip's writing on image selection, and VTS are featured as significant contributions to the field. "Art of the Narrative: Interpreting Visual Stories," by Beth Goldberg, describes the VTS method and Beth's approach to supplementing the discussion with other writing, artmaking and discussion activities.

\*If you receive press for your VTS program, please let us know!\*

## **What's Going On In This Picture?**

"I love when my students, when having a difficult time with a math problem, start analyzing by asking themselves the questions." --Quote from teacher in San Antonio, Texas.

## **VUE Institutes, Training and Consulting**

"VTS Best Practices: Museum & School Partnerships," April 25-28, was hosted by the Tang Teaching Museum and Gallery in Saratoga Springs, New York. Participants came together from museums and schools across New York State – urban, suburban, and rural – to deepen their VTS skills and understanding, and develop stronger community relationships with others practicing VTS. Participants enthusiastically recommended a follow-up session that would bring the same group together later this year. This Institute was largely funded by a generous grant from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA).

"Jumpstarting Visual Literacy: VTS Theory & Practice," will be held June 13-16 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Philip will lead this introductory session in VTS and Abigail's research and theory. VUE has received a grant from the National Endowments for the Arts for the assessment of this Institute.

In 2005, VUE staff has helped to design and assess programs at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, El Museo Picasso in Malaga Spain, the Rubin Art Museum in New York, and the Wolfsonian Museum. Staff and docent trainings took place at Austin's Jack S. Blanton Art Museum, the Farnsworth Museum in Rockford Maine, Miami's Lowe Art Museum, the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, and others. Philip served residencies at Michigan State University and the University of Akron.

\*VUE staff is available to work with your staff, docents, or students.  
Contact Yoon Kang-O'Higgins (ykang@vue.org), for more information.\*

The May 2005 issue of *What's New at VUE* was written by Alice Anderson, Gerard Holmes, and Yoon Kang-O'Higgins. For more information, or to be removed from our list, please contact VUE at 212-253-9007 or info@vue.org, or visit our Web site, <http://www.vue.org>.