

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: HELEN LANGA

Helen Langa is an associate professor of art history at American University in Washington, D.C. Her areas of specialty are American and modern art, with particular interests in women printmakers, printmaking and politics in the Depression and New Deal era, and labor and art in the same period. In her teaching and research, she explores social history, feminist and postmodernist theory and issues of difference (race, class, gender and colonialism). Her book, *Radical Art: Printmaking and the Left in 1930s New York*, was published by the University of California Press in 2004.

Dr. Langa has written numerous articles, book chapters and book reviews. Recent essays include "American Women Printmakers: Adventurous Choices, Modernist Innovations," a chapter in *American Women Modernists: The Legacy of Robert Henri, 1910-1945* (Rutgers University Press, 2005); "Deep Tunnels and Burning Flues: The Unexpected Political Drama in 1930s Industrial Production Prints" (*Journal for the Society of Industrial Archaeology*, Fall 2003); "Two Antilynching Art Exhibitions: Politicized Viewpoints, Racial Perspectives, Gendered Constraints" (*American Art*, Spring 1999); "Strength, Stress, and Solidarity: Imag(in)ing American Labor in the Depression Era" (*SECAC Review*, 1996); "Modernism and Modernity during the New Deal Era: New York Printmakers, Social Themes, and Stylistic Innovation" (*SECAC Review*, 1994); and "Egalitarian Vision, Gendered Experience: Women Printmakers and the WPA/FAP Graphic Arts Workshop," an essay in *The Expanding Discourse: Feminism and Art History*, edited by Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard (Harper/Collins, 1992).

Langa's speaking engagements have included numerous refereed papers, presented at conferences of the American Studies Association (ASA), the College Art Association (CAA), the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC), the Association of Canada and the Southern Graphics Council. She has also chaired or moderated conference sessions for ASA, the CAA and SECAC. Her paper topics have ranged from American women printmakers and Jewish artists to industrial production, social justice and labor in art. In 2005, Langa lectured on social justice, printmaking and politics at the Palmer Art Museum of Pennsylvania State University and the Art Institute of Chicago. She has lectured on related topics at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Greenbelt Museum. The production of femininity in late-1930s visual culture was her topic for "Reviewing the 1930s from the 1990s," a symposium at Stanford University.

On Wednesday, March 29, Langa will present a public lecture titled "Art for the People: Transforming American Printmaking in the 1930s"

at 7:30 p.m. at Shenandoah University's History and Tourism Center, 20 S. Cameron St., Winchester. The lecture also includes the opening of the exhibition, "Celebrating Women's History Month: The Art and Scholarship of Cynthia Fraula-Hahn and Helen Langa." On Thursday, March 30, Langa will engage Shenandoah students on main campus with a presentation and discussion titled "Reconstructing Modernism: American Women Printmakers, Adventurous Choices, and New Possibilities." These talks take place in Henkel Hall, Room 107, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Langa received her doctorate degree in American and modern art from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and her M.A. in art history from the University of Colorado-Boulder. The lectures and exhibition celebrating her scholarship are generously supported by a gift from Virginia-Wojno Forney. All events are free and open to the public.
