

Wonder Women and Super Men:

A Gender Institute Symposium

Sept. 24-25, 2015

Program

Thursday, September 24, 7:00 p.m.

Hallwalls, 341 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

Shelley Jackson, *Exhibit X Fiction*



Shelley Jackson was extracted from the bum leg of a water buffalo in 1963 in the Philippines and grew up complaining in Berkeley, California. She has spent most of her life in used bookstores, smearing unidentified substances on their spines, and is duly obsessed with books: paper, glue, and ink. After first reading at Hallwalls' old "Black 'n' Blue Theatre" at Tri-Main Center in the inaugural season of *Exhibit X* on April 8, 2004, she published *Half Life*, a 440-page novel about conjoined twins, chosen as one of the *Village Voice's* favorite books of 2006. Jackson is also the author of the story collection *The Melancholy of Anatomy* (Anchor, 2002); the acclaimed hypertexts *Patchwork Girl* (a reworking of the Frankenstein myth), *The Doll Games*, and *My Body*; and several illustrated children's books, including *The Old Woman & the Wave* and *Sophia, the Alchemist's Dog*. Her stories and essays for grown-ups have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies including *Grand Street*, *Conjunctions*, and *Paris Review*. The recipient of a Pushcart Prize and a Howard Foundation grant,

Jackson lives in Brooklyn and teaches at Pratt Institute and the New School. She continues her ongoing project of tattooing a story entitled *Skin* on volunteers and recently initiated an Instagram-based environmental fiction called *Snow*. Her latest piece, "Texts to be Written on the Moon" is part of a current exhibit at the Guggenheim Foundation. Jackson is UB's 2015-2016 WBFO Visiting Professor of the Arts. **Sponsored by the UB English Dept., its MA Program in English / Innovative Writing & Hallwalls**

Friday, Sept. 25

Student Union Theater, UB North Campus

8:30 a.m. Coffee

9:00-10:30 a.m. Building Heroines

Introduction: Kari Winter, Director of the Gender Institute; Professor of Transnational Studies, UB

Welcome: Teresa A. Miller, Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion; Professor of Law, UB

Moderator: Kelly Hayes McAlonie, Assoc. UB Vice Provost, Capital Planning Group

Gabrielle Esperdy, Assoc. Professor of Architecture, New Jersey Institute of Technology

"Owning the Architectress: Activism, Design, and Really Cool Eyewear"

Co-Sponsored by the American Institute of Architects

10:45-noon Myths of Wonder Women

Moderator: Sarah Robert, Asst. Professor, Graduate School of Education, UB

Barbara Bono, Assoc. Professor of English, UB

“From *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to *Twelfth Night*: Shakespeare and the Cult of Elizabeth in the Twilight of the Elizabethan Regime”



Merosse Hwang, Asst. Professor of History & Coordinator of Asian Studies,
Hiram College, OH
“History of Female Mystics in Korea”

Eon Joo Park, Ph.D. Candidate in English, UB
“Feminism in Korean Webtoons: Rewriting the Greek Myth of Cassandra”

Noon-12:30 Lunch, 145 Student Union

12:30-1:45 p.m. Super-Mom

Moderator: Carolyn Korsmeyer, Professor of Philosophy, UB
Dorota Koczanowicz, Professor of Artistic Culture
University of Wroclaw, Poland
Polish artist Elzbieta Jablonska and mothers as superwomen



2:00-3:15 p.m. Star Wars

Moderator: David Schmid, Assoc. Professor of English, UB

Victoria Wolcott, Professor of History, UB

“Manly Myths: Black and Soviet Female Track Stars”

Ana Grujić, Ph.D. Candidate in English, UB

“I Did It Because I Am Free”: Bree Newsome and World-Making in the Black Lives Matter Era.”

Snežana Vukadinović, Ifigenija Radulović, and Aleksandra Smirnov-Brkić, Asst. Professors of
History, University of Novi Sad, Belgrade, Serbia

“Helen and Andja: The Making of Famous Hellenic and Serbian Heroes”

3:30-4:45 p.m. The Empire Strikes Back

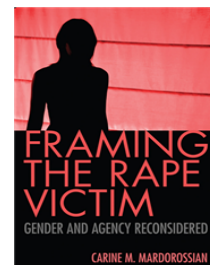
Moderator: Karen King, ISEP Program Manager, Chemistry, UB

Yoonha Shin, Ph.D. Candidate in English, UB

“*Sex and the City* and the Four Aspects of the Millennial ‘Wonder Woman’”

Carine Mardorossian, Professor of English, UB

“The Valuing of Agency and Heroic Resistance in Anti-Rape Discourse:
A Literary Rebuttal”

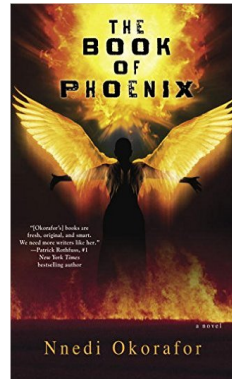


5:00-6:00 p.m. Reading by Nnedi Okorafor



Moderator: Hershini Bhana Young,
Assoc. Professor of English, UB

Nnedi Okorafor,
Assoc. Professor of English, UB



6:00 p.m. **Annual Welcoming Reception**, Student Union Theater Lobby, North Campus
Welcome by Robert Granfield, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, UB

8:00 p.m. **Jill Lepore**

The David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History, Harvard University

“The Secret History of Wonder Woman”

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, 1285 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo

Sponsored by the Buffalo Humanities Festival

Tickets for Jill Lepore’s talk are \$20 (\$15 for students) and can be purchased at <http://buffalohumanities.org> or at the door (at the Albright-Knox).

Profiles of Keynote Speakers

Gabrielle Esperdy is a historian and critic of architecture whose work explores the nodes of consumerism and architecture, with a focus on urban and suburban modernism in the last two centuries in the U.S. Her first book, *Modernizing Main Street* (Chicago, 2008), interrogates the role of architectural modernism in the development of shopping districts and commercial strips in response to the Great Depression era.

Her current book-length cultural attitudes to the post-World War Two her blog *American Road* the “ordinary, non-heroic are the cultural bedrock landscapes of America.” Professor of Architecture of Technology and Editor an online source for the environment.



project explores the place of commercial landscapes in discourse on architecture. In *Trip*, Esperdy comments on places and communities that of the built and natural Esperdy is Associate at the New Jersey Institute of SAH Archipedia, history of the built

Dorota Koczanowicz, an Assistant Professor at the Dept. of Cultural Studies at University of Wrocław, researches aesthetics, arts, and culture. She authored *Experience of Art, Art of Living: Dimensions of Pragmatist Aesthetics* (2008) and co-edited *Between Aesthticization and Emancipation: Art practices in the Public Space* (2010), *Between Literature and Somaesthetics: On Richard Shusterman's Pragmatism* (2012), and *Discussing Modernity: A Dialogue with Martin Jay* (2013). She did research at John F. Kennedy Institute, Berlin, the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB), Norway, and Columbia University (East Central European Center), New York.

As a special distinction, she gave an invited lecture for the Critical Theory Group at Berkeley University, and was invited by the Society for Advancement of American Philosophy as a panel speaker on pragmatic philosophy in Europe. Her interests and research focus on the intersections of art and life. She investigates the interactions of modern art and culinary culture. Closely collaborating with The Center for Body, Mind, and Culture founded by Richard Shusterman, she develops his concept of somaesthetics in relation to eating and nutrition practices. Currently she is working on a book project titled *Sztuka od kuchni. Jedzenie w praktykach artystycznych i kulturze współczesnej* [A bite of Art: Food and Eating in Art Practices and Contemporary Culture]. She is a theoretician and practitioner of culinary arts.

Nnedi Okorafor is a Nigerian-American best-selling writer of fantasy, Afrofuturism, and science fiction, and professor of literature and creative writing at SUNY at Buffalo. Her fiction for young adults *The Shadow Speaker* and *Zahrah the Windseeker*, *Akata Witch* and a book for children *Long Juju Man*, received, or were shortlisted for many prestigious awards, among them Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa. Her adult fiction, the novel *Who Fears Death*, a collection of short stories *Kabu Kabu*, and other short pieces widely published in magazines, have had a similar reception. Okorafor's work combines motifs from Western African cosmology with those of contemporary Western life.

Jill Lepore is the David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History at Harvard University and Affiliated Faculty at the Harvard Law School. In 2012, she was named Harvard College Professor, in recognition of distinction in undergraduate teaching. She is also a staff writer at *The New Yorker*. Lepore's most recent book is *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* (Knopf, 2014), a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the 2015 American History Book Prize.

Her earlier work includes a trilogy of books that constitute a political history of early America: *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity* (Knopf, 1998), winner of the Bancroft Prize, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award, and the Berkshire Prize; *New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan* (Knopf, 2005), winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Award for the best nonfiction book on race and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; and *Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin* (Knopf, 2013), *Time* magazine's Best Nonfiction Book of the Year, winner of the Mark Lynton History Prize and a finalist for the 2013 National Book Award for Nonfiction.

