

Material Matters: 10th Annual Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars

Date : April 1, 2012

The 10th Annual Material Culture Symposium begins with a roundtable discussion on Friday, April 13, at 3:00 pm in 203 Munroe Hall, University of Delaware. The symposium's keynote presenter, Kariann Yokota, will be discussing her new book *Unbecoming British: How Revolutionary America Became a Postcolonial Nation*. Following the roundtable, at 4:30 pm, there will be a celebration of the completion of the new brick wall facing the UD Barnes & Noble Bookstore and the masons who crafted it. The wall demonstrates the many uses of brick historically, and brick's role in architecture and design. In addition, Kariann Yokota will be signing copies of her book.

The symposium continues on Saturday, April 14, at 8:00 am at the Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library with presentations by twelve emerging scholars on a diverse set of material culture topics. This year the four topic areas will focus on spaces and places, fashion and bodies, consumption and technology, and identity. The symposium, co-sponsored by the Center for Material Culture Studies at the University of Delaware and the Winterthur Museum, focuses on object-based research that has the potential to expand and even reinvent our understanding of culture and history. Online registration is available on the symposium's website, and attendance is free and open to the public.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Kariann Yokota, Assistant Professor of American Studies and History at Yale University, will consider the future of material culture studies. Dr. Yokota's recent work has focused on using material culture studies to expand the reach and complexity of postcolonial scholarship, a topic traditionally dominated by other disciplines.

At the symposium, distinguished scholars provide comments on the papers. Participants also have the opportunity to take special tours of Winterthur's collections with graduate students of the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, including tours of the Winterthur library and conservation labs. The symposium topics this year represent work in American studies, New England Studies, English, gender studies, history, and the histories of art, architecture, and American civilization. For more information please visit

http://www.udel.edu/materialculture/emerging_scholars.html.