The Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts Welcomes Carol Mancusi-Ungaro as the Judith Praska Distinguished Visiting Professor in Conservation and Technical Studies

The Institute of Fine Arts is delighted to welcome conservator Carol Mancusi-Ungaro this spring as the second Judith Praska Distinguished Visiting Professor in Conservation. Carol currently serves as Associate Director for Conservation and Research at the Whitney Museum of American Art and is the Founding Director of the Center for the Technical Study of Modern Art at the Harvard Art Museum. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Connecticut College in 1968 and a Master of Arts degree from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University in 1970. For nineteen years she served as Chief Conservator of The Menil Collection in Houston, Texas. During that time she consulted on the conservation of twentieth century paintings at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and founded the Artists Documentation Program wherein she interviews artists about the technical nature of their art [adp.menil.org]. She has lectured widely on the conservation of modern art and contributed to monographs on Jasper Johns, Brice Marden, Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, Cy Twombly, and to the catalogue raisonné of Barnett Newman. In 2004 she received the College Art Association/Heritage Preservation Award for Distinction in Scholarship and Conservation, and in 2009 she was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, marking the Academy’s first recognition of art conservation. For the 2011-2012 academic year, Carol was named the very first Institute of Fine Arts Honorary Fellow. In her various positions, she continues to engage in research.
documenting the materials and techniques of living artists as well as other issues pertaining to the conservation of modern art.

“We are truly honored to have Carol as our Praska Distinguished Visiting Professor this spring,” says Sherman Fairchild Chairman and Professor of Conservation Michele Marincola. “Her emphasis on the importance of the artist's voice in modern and contemporary art conservation decisions, her innovative collaborations with art historians and curators, and her deep commitment to mentoring young conservators and art historians place her at the top of her field. We are delighted that she will join the faculty for spring semester 2013.” In addition to teaching and advising, Carol will also present one public lecture at the Institute on a topic of her choice on April 17.

The Praska Professorship is made possible through the generous support of an anonymous donor and is named in honor of the donor’s grandmother. Inspired by the Kirk Varnedoe Memorial Professorship at the Institute of Fine Arts, this visiting professorship in conservation and technical studies will be awarded each semester to a prominent conservator or scientist who can help enhance our conservation program with new areas for research and teaching.

For more information, contact Oliver Luisi, Assistant to the Chair for Administration and Public Affairs at 212-992-5888 or oliver.luisi@nyu.edu.

Founded in 1960, the Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts is dedicated to the study of the technology and conservation of works of art and historic artifacts. It prepares students for careers in conservation through a four-year program that combines practical experience in conservation with art historical, archaeological, curatorial, and scientific studies of the materials and construction of works of art. Students complete a Master’s degree in art history at the Institute of Fine Arts, one of the premier centers of graduate education in art history in the United States, and receive an Advanced Certificate in conservation.
The Institute of Fine Arts of New York University is one of the world’s leading graduate schools and research centers in art history, archaeology, and conservation. The Institute has a permanent faculty unrivalled in the breadth and depth of its expertise and unparalleled in the range of its adjunct lecturers from top museums, research institutes, and conservation studios. Since the Institute awarded its first PhD in 1933, more than 1600 degrees have been conferred. A high proportion of alumni hold international leadership roles as professors, curators, museum directors, archaeologists, conservators, critics, and institutional administrators.