Professor Marvin Trachtenberg Named 2012 Sarton Medallist by Ghent University for his Scholarly Achievement in the History of Science

We are pleased to share the news that Ghent University has nominated Marvin Trachtenberg, Edith Kitzmiller Professor, to be a 2012 Sarton Medallist based on the outstanding scholarly achievement of his 2010 book, *Building-in-Time, from Giotto to Alberti and Modern Oblivion* in the field of the History of Science. Professor Trachtenberg will deliver a Sarton lecture at the University of Ghent in April 2012.

The Sarton selection committee noted that *Building-in-Time, from Giotto to Alberti and Modern Oblivion* is an ambitious and revelatory exploration of pre-modern European monumental architecture when major buildings were constructed not just with imagination, brick and mortar, but with time. “Building in time” necessitated vast quantities of duration in order to erect monumental buildings that otherwise would have been impossible. By the mid-15th century, however, a shift began to take root of “building-outside time,” which meant that the integral processes of planning and building were no longer fluid but became segmented into two distinct phases of work. In his book, Professor Trachtenberg raises from oblivion our now largely lost understanding of “building in time” and its many implications for European medieval and renaissance culture, history and science.

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George Sarton (1884-1956), a founding father of the history of science as an academic discipline, was an alumnus of Ghent University. In 1984, at the centenary of Sarton’s birth, Ghent University established the Sarton Chair of History of Science, which consists of a Sarton chair holder and the Sarton medallists.

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.