

# KIDSPACE

2012 SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATORS

## **SPEAKERS & INSTITUTE ORGANIZERS BIOS**

(Partial Listing)

### **SPEAKERS**

#### **Michael Cassin**

**Director of the Center for Education in the Visual Arts, The Clark**

Michael Cassin studied art history, painting and printmaking at the University of Leeds in Great Britain. He began his career as a museum educator in 1979, at Southampton City Art Gallery, moving to London's National Gallery three years later. In 1991, he was appointed Head of Education at the National Galleries of Scotland. Michael moved to the United States in 2007 to become Curator of Education at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute. In 2007 the Clark launched a new initiative: Center for Education in the Visual Arts (CEVA) with Michael as Director. CEVA presents docent training programs in museums all over the US and convenes topical colloquia in museum education with professionals from all over the world. An active member of the International Council of Museums Committee for Education and Cultural Action, Michael has lectured on museum education at conferences in Europe, America, Australia and elsewhere. He recently ended a six-year term as Regional Coordinator for North America on ICOM-CECA's Board. In October 2011 Michael gave the Keynote Lecture at the National Docent Symposium in St Louis.

#### **Jessica Hoffman Davis**

**Writer/Researcher and Founder, Arts in Education Program, Harvard's Graduate School of Education**

Jessica Hoffmann Davis is a writer and researcher with an abiding interest in children and the arts. At Harvard's Graduate School of Education Dr. Davis founded and was the first director of the Arts in Education Program and the Patricia Bauman and John Landrum Bryant Senior Lecturer in arts in education. Her research has focused on arts learning and development within and beyond school walls and her recent books include *Why Our High Schools Need the Arts* (2012), *Ordinary Gifted Children: The Power and Promise of Individual Attention* (2010), *Why Our Schools Need the Arts*, (2008), and *Framing the Arts as Education: The Octopus Has a Good Day* (2005). Her website can be found at [www.jessicahoffmandavis.com](http://www.jessicahoffmandavis.com).

**Rachel Heisler**  
**Coordinator of Education Programs, MASS MoCA**

Rachel Heisler is a recent graduate from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a major in K-12 Art Education. In the summer of 2011, Heisler interned in Kidspace where she helped develop the *Under The Sea* curriculum and family activities, and interacted with the public during gallery hours. Soon after her internship, Heisler became the Education Coordinator for MASS MoCA where she now develops tours for all ages, works with school groups, and organizes community programs. As a Wisconsin native Heisler likes to enjoy her free time exploring the New England via foot, car, and snowboard.

**Dana Rapp, Ph.D.**  
**Professor of Education, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts**

Dana Rapp teaches "Ethics and the Foundations of Education" and "Education and Society" at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. He is interested in a number of issues related to education, including the politics of education, the use and abuse of high-stakes testing, and teacher and student resistance. Rapp holds a Ph.D. from Indiana University, an M.A. in Educational Leadership from James Madison University, and a B.A. in English with certification from Indiana University. He lives with his family in Southern Vermont.

**Patti Vitale**  
**Head of School, Brown School, Schenectady, NY**  
**MindUp Teacher Trainer**

Patti Vitale received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Marymount Manhattan College. She has been a member of the Brown School, Schenectady, NY faculty since 2001. The first four years as an assistant teacher in the Pre-K program, then as a second grade teacher, and now as Head of School. Vitale has experience teaching second, fifth and sixth grades, prior to her experience at Brown, in both public and parochial schools for 15 years. Since the program was piloted at Brown School in 2006, Vitale has been working with Mindful Education as a mentor and teacher trainer through the Hawn Foundation. As a trainer for the Hawn Foundation, she has shared her knowledge of the MindUP program and her teaching experiences with teachers in California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Virginia. Mrs. Vitale continues to expand on the MindUP Program at Brown School and to create opportunities to bring the benefits of mindfulness to the community.

## **INSTITUTE ORGANIZERS**

### **Joann Harnden**

#### **Coordinator of Education Programs, WCMA**

Joann Harnden has 10 years of experience in museum education. For the past three years, Harnden has been the Coordinator of Education Programs at WCMA. She organizes all education programs and ensures that teachers and students visiting the museum have a high-quality experience. She develops and facilitates gallery tours and art-making experiences for visiting school groups, leads professional development workshops for teachers, generates print and online resources for teachers, and coordinates the WCMA Museum Associates, the Williams undergraduate who serve as tour guides. She worked for seven years at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, MA where she coordinated 5 intensive summer institutes for teachers. As an independent museum education consultant, she has developed online educational resources, and educational programs and resources for schools and families. She holds a B.A. in Art and English from Colby College.

### **Laura Thompson, Ed.D.**

#### **Director of Education and Exhibitions, Kidspace at MASS MoCA**

Laura Thompson has over 21 years experience in arts and museum education. As Director of Exhibitions and Education for Kidspace at MASS MoCA for the past nine years, Thompson has brought about Kidspace's expanded gallery and artist residency program, established educationally appropriate curriculum materials and programs, strengthened the collaboration between the museums and school districts, and curated highly-acclaimed Kidspace exhibitions. Thompson is also a visiting assistant professor of art history and arts administration at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams. Since 1998, Thompson has served as an education consultant and lecturer at a variety of museums, arts organizations, and universities in the Northeast. Thompson was formerly Director of Education and Public Programs at several NY history museums, and a faculty member of the Creative Arts Laboratory at Columbia University. She has published articles and chapters in professional publications, and initiated and organized a teacher institute program for the Museum of the City of New York (1995-1998), as well as conducted sessions at other NYC teacher institutes. She holds a doctorate in Arts Education from Columbia University Teachers College.

### **Shannon Toye**

#### **Education Coordinator, Kidspace at MASS MoCA**

Shannon Toye began her tenure with Kidspace in 2004 when she interned as an education major at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. After completing her B.A. in education and fine and performing arts, Shannon worked as a teacher in Clarksburg Elementary School, while continuing to run art classes and public hours on weekends in

Kidspace. In 2007, she became a full-time member of the Kidspace staff as the Education Coordinator, teaching in the gallery and schools, as well as coordinating many program aspects including the artist residency program, TeenSpace, and Kidspace's after school programs. Shannon is a certified educator and has over 16 years experience working with children in educational setting. She also completed children's yoga and creative movement certification at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Stockbridge, MA.

**Ronna Tulgan Ostheimer, Ed.D.**  
**Head of Education Programs, The Clark**

Ronna Tulgan Ostheimer is in charge of planning and organizing the education programs for the general public at the Clark. In this role, she runs the school, docent and community programs. The Education Department at the Clark is proud to engage thousands of school children and families each year with the collection, and to teach them how art can enrich their day-to-day lives. Ostheimer has served as a consultant, presenter and advisor to many educational organizations and has published extensively in the field. She developed the award-winning RAISE (Responding to Art Involves Self Expression) program, a model for working with adjudicated youth in an art museum which has been replicated at many other museums in the United States and abroad. Before coming to the Clark, Ostheimer was on the faculty of the Education Department at MCLA and served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. She holds a doctorate in Psychological Education from the University of Massachusetts.

**Cynthia Way**  
**Director of Education and Visitor Experiences, WCMA**  
**Director, Kidspace**

Since 2006, Cynthia Way has been the Director of Education at WCMA, which includes serving as Director of Kidspace. In this role, Way oversees the program and the collaboration among the three museums, serves as a liaison to the consortium, and is WCMA's key advisor to Kidspace. For nine years, Way directed the Community Programs at the International Center of Photography (ICP) in New York, and for five years, she worked as Senior Writer/Editor at The Education Alliance at Brown University to address issues in K-12 education reform relating to literacy, teacher development, online technologies, and art education. She published *Focus on Photography: A Curriculum Guide*, a 450-page curriculum guide on photographic education, in 2006. Way holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature from Brown University and an M.F.A. in Fiction Writing from Columbia University.