

# The University of Connecticut

Contemporary Art Galleries

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watch your thoughts  
they become words  
watch your words  
they become actions  
watch your actions  
they change the  
world



## Press Release

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### **TEMPUS NULLIUS** by LINA PERSSON

Contemporary Art Galleries

September 12 to October 21, 2011

#### **TEMPUS NULLIUS: Colloquium Dialogue**

Doris & Simon Konover Auditorium

Thomas J. Dodd Research Center

September: 12: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

*Swedish multimedia artist Lina Persson, independent curators Manuela Moscoso and Sarah Demeuse, physicist & astronomer Dr. Cynthia Peterson and theoretical physicist Dr. Ronald L. Mallett, author of *Time Traveler: A Scientist's Personal Mission to Make Time Travel a Reality*, converse about their collaborations that creatively wed true science and science fiction to form compelling narratives.*

#### **LINA PERSSON & PHYSICISTS RECEPTION**

Contemporary Art Galleries (Art Building)

September: 12: 7:30 to 8:30 PM

The Contemporary Art Galleries will kick off its new season of exhibitions by showcasing the work of Swedish artist and filmmaker Lina Persson. In a multitude of delightful ways, Persson astutely incorporates scientific research and science fiction narratives in her artwork, which investigates the complex relationship between the technological ideology of today and the way it shapes of our planet for the future. In line with these interests, *TEMPUS NULLIUS*, a play on "Terra Nullius" or "no man's land"—a term once used to justify colonization, artistically explores man's tendency to view the future as unclaimed territory.

In addition to several recent pieces, her exhibition will feature new work created in collaboration with the Physics Department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dramatic Arts and Art & Art History departments. Persson plans to spend nearly a month on campus utilizing the knowledge, expertise and creative talents of several professors at this leading research university including Dr. Ronald L. Mallett, a theoretical physicist best known for his scientific position on the possibility of time travel, and Dr. Cynthia W. Peterson, a physicist who is the director of UConn's observatory and planetarium, as well as the Thermoluminescent Dating Laboratory in the Physics Department. By making use the these facilities, as well as UConn's Media Lab's newly outfitted film-rendering farm, visitors to the CAG will see her new works taking shape within the back area of the gallery which will be transformed first into her studio and then an art installation.

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Although Persson has traveled to and exhibited in such far away cities as Istanbul, Bangkok and Budapest, as well as numerous venues throughout Scandinavia, Europe and China, this will be her artistic debut in the United States. Support for her CAG exhibition and interdisciplinary residency comes from IASPIS - The Swedish Arts Grants Committee's International Program for Visual Artists; the University of Connecticut's Graduate School; and Art & Art History and Physics Departments.

Exhibition and colloquium organized by Barry A. Rosenberg and Caitlin A. Smith.

*TEMPUS NULLIUS: Colloquium Dialogue participants*

Free and open to the public

**Lina Persson** maintains a studio in Stockholm, Sweden.

**Dr. Cynthia Peterson** received her B.A. degree from Bryn Mawr College, and her Ph.D. from Cornell University in Condensed Matter Physics. Her research interests include condensed matter physics, optical and electronic properties of semiconductors and biomaterials, vacuum ultraviolet spectroscopy, thermoluminescent dating of archaeological artifacts and heat-treated minerals, and most recently three-dimensional structure characterization of metalloproteins using NMR and other biophysical tools. At the University of Connecticut, Peterson teaches astronomy courses and is the director of the university's observatory and UConn's Planetarium, as well as the Thermoluminescent Dating Laboratory in the Physics Dept. She regularly gives astronomy lectures across the state and public outreach programs in UConn's Planetarium. Additionally, Peterson serves as an astronomy consultant for several newspapers and radio stations.

**Dr. Ronald L. Mallett** received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in physics from the Pennsylvania State University. In 1975, he joined the physics faculty at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, where he has been a professor of physics ever since. Prof. Mallett has published numerous papers on black holes and cosmology in professional journals. His breakthrough research on time travel has been featured extensively in the in print and broadcast media around the world. Professor Mallett's recently published memoir, *Time Traveler: A Scientist's Personal Mission to Make Time Travel a Reality*, has been translated into Korean, Chinese, and Japanese, and is to be made into a feature film by Spike Lee.

**Sarah Demeuse** and **Manuela Moscoso** recently founded Rivet, a curatorial office that combines exhibition-making with periodic publications and translations. Their current work centers on object-oriented thinking and tests out its resonances in the field of contemporary art. Both curators graduated with an MA from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College. Founder of an independent art-space in Madrid, los 29 enchufes, Moscoso has created several group exhibitions in Spain and the United States. Sarah Demeuse also holds a PhD in Romance Literatures from UC Berkeley. Literary theory continues to influence her work, not only in her writings (for ArtPapers, HArt International, Arquine, Paper Monument), but also in her most recent curatorial work. An essay about object-oriented aesthetics, written by Moscoso and Demeuse, is due to appear in the fall of 2011.

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