

SEMINAR SERIES 2007

Tuesday, 10 April 2007

Dr Anne Brennan

The Art Theory Workshop, ANU, HRC Visiting Fellow

Remembering Proskurov

On February 15 1919, a pogrom erupted in the small city of Proskurov, one of many which occurred in the Ukraine in the dying days of the Ukraino – Russian Civil War. The pogrom is a little-known historical event, except to scholars of Ukrainian-Jewish relations during the Civil War. However, the commemorative impulse of Proskurov's expatriate community in the form of a memorial (or Yizker) book anticipated those produced by survivors of the Holocaust to commemorate their lost communities by some twenty years. Proskurov was my mother's birthplace, and the pogrom was the event which precipitated her departure from Russia with her family to begin a new life in Australia. In this seminar I will explore the unique form of the Memorial Book, drawing connections between this communal form of remembrance, the way in which Proskurov is remembered in our family imaginary, and the role of the Net in expanding the Memorial Book's commemorative significance.

Biographical information

Anne Brennan is an artist and writer; she lectures in the Art Theory Workshop at the School of Art, ANU. She has written and published extensively on issues in contemporary visual arts, craft and design. Anne's research interests focus on history, memory and commemoration; she is especially interested in the way in which these are configured in public artefacts such as the museum and the memorial. She has undertaken several important artistic projects in museums, including *Secure the Shadow at the Hyde Park Barracks Museum* with Sydney artist Anne Ferran in 1994 and *Is It Real at the Australian War Memorial*, part of the Archives and the Everyday project in 1997. More recently, she worked with Anne Ferran on a commissioned work, *Twice Removed*, for the Maitland Regional Gallery as part of the HunterArt1: Art Tourist project in 2004. The exhibition dealt with the mass migration from Calais to Maitland in 1848 of English artisans working in the French machine lace-making industry.

Venue: Theatrette, Old Canberra House, Lennox Crossing, ANU
Inquiries: Email: administration.rsh@anu.edu.au. Phone: 612 52700

