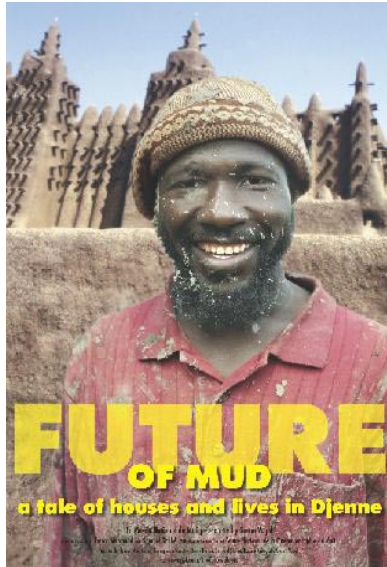


Occasional Seminars and Screenings in Interdisciplinary Studies

Co-sponsored by the Special Individualized Programs (SIP) and the Ph.D. in Humanities Program (HUMA)



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Date: 12:00, Friday, 26 October, 2007

Location: Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve Boulevard West, Room H-1120

Title: "Future of Mud: A Tale of Houses and Lives in Djenné."

Presenter: Trevor Marchand*

* Trevor Marchand will be on hand to introduce this documentary film (50. mins.) and discuss it afterwards.

Abstract: For centuries, Djenné's architecture has been sculpted and renewed by the town's masons. Mud bricks and secret incantations combine to make houses, and each year the majestic mosque is dressed with a fine new coating of mud. Konmusa is heir to this masonry tradition and he plans for his son to succeed him in the trade. But classroom education and connections to a globalizing world deliver new opportunities and lifestyles, and continuity is threatened. Grounded in Trevor Marchand's anthropological research, the film explores the challenges and choices faced by a mason's family and raises important questions about heritage and changing traditions. In addition to the film's documentary content, the technique of blending fact and fiction in the service of 'truth' raises a number of compelling issues.

Directed by Susan Vogel. Co-produced by Trevor Marchand (SOAS), Susan Vogel (Columbia University) and Samuel Sidibé (Director of the Musée Nationale in Mali). Bambara/French/English, English subtitles. Distributed by First Run / Icarus Films, New York. 2007 RAI International Festival of Ethnographic Film

Trevor Marchand is an ESRC Fellow and Senior Lecturer in anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies where he teaches a course on the Anthropology of Urban Space, Place and Architecture. He is the author of *Minaret Building & Apprenticeship in Yemen* (Curzon, 2001) and *the Masons of Djenné* (forthcoming).

** This screening and talk will be of particular interest to students in Fine Arts (Sculpture, Architecture) and Engineering (Building Studies) as well as Anthropology and Interdisciplinarity generally.