

PB's Newsy News

All the news that's fit to PDF.

Tempus Fugit
Vol. 02 No. 01
Spring 2009

Six Months as a Fulbright Scholar
This is a partial list of various things I did in my official capacity...

The Last of the Travels



STOCKHOLM IN JANUARY



My official time as a Fulbright scholar ended on February 15th. The following list does not include paperwork, project proposals, studio and writing time, commuting by boat, family duties, family travel, or specific art projects. There are many things still in process and forthcoming.

Fulbright Norway

Fulbright Orientation, August 25 & 26, 2008 at the Nobel Institute

Fulbright Scholar Oslo Potlucks

Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony, December 10, 2008

Fulbright Seminar & Ski Retreat, February 12-15, 2009, Skiekampen

Artist's Residency

Tactical Nomadic Storytelling, Atelier Nord, March 2-20, 2009. "Atelier Nord is a project base for unstable art forms, such as electronic and new media art. Our aim is to create better conditions for these art forms, and to maintain a critical reflection in relation to them. Our work consists of producing and supporting projects that promote these goals."

Lectures/Presentations

The Oslo School of Architecture and Design:

September 5, 2008, Lecture to PhD Program, "Art Practice as Research – Case Study: Cyborg Mommy"

September 29, 2008, Lecture to Industrial Design Masters Program, "Identity and the Data Body"

October 20, 2008, Lecture/workshop to PhD Program, "Research Aids: Web 2.0 applications for data collection and mind mapping"

November 3, 2008, Lecture/workshop to PhD Program, "Blogging as a researcher, designer and educator"

December 4, 2008, Research by Design, An AHO Research Seminar, "The Mobile Manifesto: a work in process"

March 23, 2008, Lecture to Interactive Design Masters Program, "Mobile Misuse: Tactical Nomadic Storytelling"

University of Oslo:

GRIG - Guild for mixed reality integrators & generators (annual meeting) A group of European artistic and cultural operators creating & researching mixed reality works that intertwine digital media & physical materials, objects & spaces. Presentation on Mobile Misuse, Dec. 3, 2008

Høgskulen i Volda (Volda University College):

Ulsteinseminaret, December 8-9, 2008, Informasjonsutdanninga ved Avdeling for Mediefag. "Interactive Design Education: The precarious balance between theory and practice" (seminar presentation and participation)

Smart Mobs and Mobile Media Workshop, January 20-22, 2009. Three day hands-on workshop for undergraduate students in the Media and Journalism program.

Publications

Journal of Artists' Books, "I (heart) DIY CMYK," JAB25 (Spring 2009) JAB25 focuses on offset printing, guest-edited by Tony White.

Blogs

Performing the Art: <http://pattiebelle.blogspot.com>

Mobile Misuse: <http://mobilemisuse.blogspot.com>

A Few Quick Trips

Squeezing in short excursions before returning to regular life

Stockholm, Sweden

We took a long weekend in January and traveled to Stockholm, driving part of the way and riding the train the rest. We were struck by some similarities to the US on the drive. There were shopping centers that looked like the ones you drive by on freeways in any state USA. We half expected to see a Barnes & Noble or a Panera Bread pop into view.

On the way home we stopped at a Swedish fast food place called Max. The big draw was that they had veggie burgers. The most unusual aspect about Max, that makes it stand out from all the other burger joints, was the carbon offset info on each of the menu items and every item in and around the building (from napkins to bathrooms.)

Stockholm is situated among a complicated tangle of rivers and bodies of water. This makes it an amazingly beautiful city, full of islands, ferries, water taxis, houseboats and water life. We were there in the dead of winter, so all was quiet, but in the warmer months the waters are teeming with life.

Skiekampen, Norway

The Fulbright program in Norway has its own office and full time staff. They also have a couple of programs that are unique among all Fulbright programs around the world. One of the annual events for Norwegian Fulbrighters is the weekend ski trip to Skiekampen ski resort every February.

They loaded us all onto a tour bus and we drove about 3 hours northeast of Oslo (not far from Lillehammer.) We stayed in a cozy ski hotel that served three buffet style meals a day and had down hill skiing, cross country and snow shoeing. The kids had free range of the place all weekend. They were inseparable. It will be another treasured memory.

London, England

Bjørn made another trip to London and met up an old art school buddy from Jacksonville, FL. It sounds like they had a fantastic time and they also met up with another friend that now lives in London. You'll have to ask him for more details on this trip, but he seemed to return refreshed from his daily tasks here.

Kiel, Germany

Our last trip was a mini cruise on the Color Line from Oslo to Kiel and back. The ship had a water park, spa, shopping mall, several restaurants, a casino and a live theatre with a variety show.



THINGS WE MISS IN NORWAY (BESIDES OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY) - IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

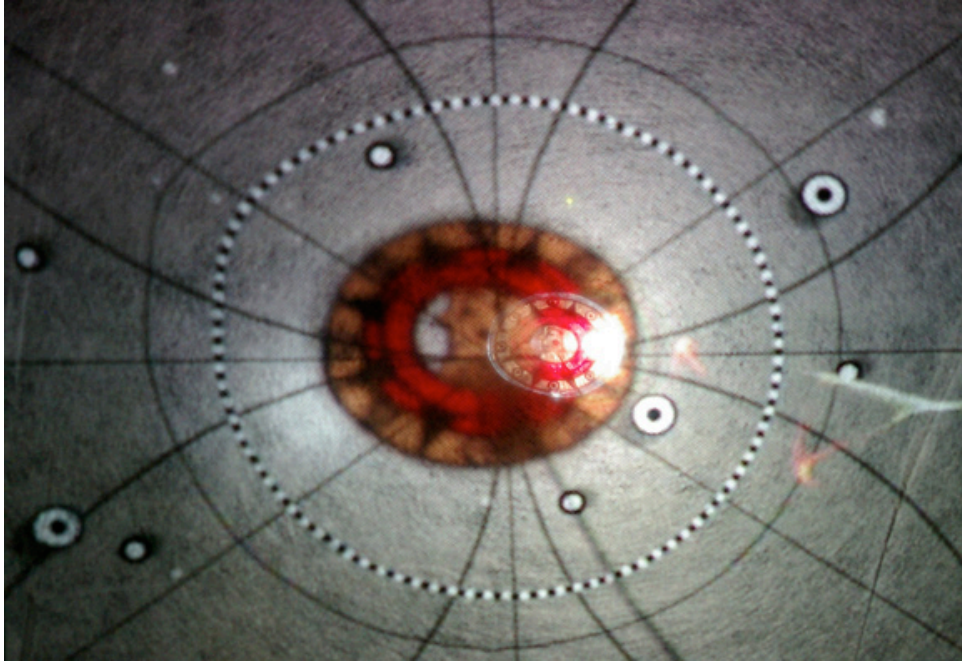
TAKING A BOAT TO WORK OR TOWN ✓
NESODDTANGEN SCHOOL ✓
BROWN CHEESE ✓
THE FJORD ✓
FOG HORNS ON BIG SHIPS..... ✓
THE BOTTLE CREEK HOUSE..... ✓
EASY (AND CHEAP) TRAVEL TO EUROPE ✓
DEER GRAZING IN THE YARD..... ✓

ENTERTAINING AT THE BOTTLE CREEK HOUSE ✓
HAVING A BOAT HOUSE ✓
MY NORWEGIAN COLLEAGUES ✓
THE WALK TO AND FROM SCHOOL..... ✓
NORWEGIAN RICE PUDDING ✓
THE CHOCOLATE ✓
HANGING OUT WITH FULBRIGHTERS ✓
OSLO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ✓

THE LICORICE ✓
HAVING COFFEE & WAFFLES IN THE FOREST ✓
DRØBAK ✓
SUMMER AT THE HUT ✓
SKATING & SKIING ✓
LOPPEMARKED (TAG SALES) ✓
FREETEX (SALVATION ARMY STORES) ✓
I'LL STOP HERE FOR NOW (BUT I COULD GO ON) .. ✓

Art, Research and Teaching

Things I did and made during my sabbatical



I'm only going to talk about my creative process and the finished work, because I don't want to divert energy from the things I'm still working on that are at various stages in production.

Atelier Nord

I had the great fortune to be awarded project support by an Oslo based arts organization. Atelier Nord describes itself like this:

...a project base for unstable art forms, such as electronic and new media art. Our aim is to create better conditions for these art forms, and to maintain a critical reflection in relation to them. Our work consists of producing and supporting projects that promote these goals.

For 3 weeks I went into their offices and worked with the equipment and studio space to realize the beta version of my latest experiment in Digital Live Art making. I'm calling it *Tactical Nomadic Storytelling* – a description of the project and a spoof of pretentious art world titles – not sure if it

really works, but there has been a positive response...

The project combines live storytelling and props with mobile devices of various kinds. After much thought and research, I started by creating a "mobile projection unit" – my first piece of wearable technology. Then I wrote a couple of short stories and created animations and shadow puppets to go with each. The animations and their sound tracks are projected from my wearable kit and the puppets are used in front of the projections. The music or sound track comes from the mobile speaker mounted to the top of the kit and I tell the story as the visuals are projected.

My goal is to perform these as street theater – strategically and spontaneously at bus stops, corners, alleys, bathrooms – virtually any spot on the street or any unexpected place around a town or city. The live demo in Oslo went very well and I learned a lot from the performances and preparations.

My friends and colleagues, Andrew Morrison, Rolf Steier and Jon Olav Eikenes helped me various aspects of the project and I am so grateful for their support as well. While at Atelier Nord, I was able to meet many artists and professors from the art academy.

At some point soon, when I am better rested and have time to reflect, I will write more about the details of all the work I have done for the Mobile Misuse project. Work on the blog continues, which has about 300 unique visitors per month. I think most of them end up there by mistake, but ah, well. ;)



"What's Bjørn been up to?" you ask.

We would never have been able to have this amazing year without all his work behind the scenes



Imagine all the paperwork that is involved in our daily lives in the US - insurance, taxes, car, house, forms, immigration, buying, selling, renting, etc. - and all the myriad details that go into each of those tasks. Now imagine doing all those same tasks in another country, in another language (one you don't know very well.) I'm extremely

lucky, in that I am married to someone that has intimate knowledge with the culture, language and paperwork. We could never have done this without all Bjørn's effort. He has had to deal with everything thing from setting up an "Easy Pass" for the car to August's nightly homework in Norwegian. He has overseen every little detail of life

here, in addition to taking care of the life, house and paperwork back in the US. He has had client work from the US and he's been primary care giver for August, as I have commuted to work and traveled for business.

This is why I often refer to him as the "Long Suffering Husband of The Artist." The list of work and details is too long to even try and go into here, but I wish I could, for only that would truly communicate the use of his time. He really is an amazing partner.

He has kept his balance by running, walking or cross country skiing almost every day. He has landscaped and worked on the summer cottage. If there are spare moments, he brushes up on his CSS coding skills or does yoga. I think the thing he has enjoyed most, though, is getting to spend enormous amounts of time with his daughter - hiking, skiing, playing, going to the library, building campfires, skating, etc. I think the time with August has made all the details worth it for him.

Life Bilingual

Winter in Norway with the most snow in 25 years.

SOCCER (known in all of Europe as Football) is played and practiced outdoors all winter long - from late August right through to the following June. The fields are heated to keep the snow and ice off and the girls bundle up. This has probably been one of August's favorite activities.

CROSS COUNTRY skiing has been a family favorite. August has earned a gold medal for skiing over 50 kilometers in a month. All the kids here have cross country skis and start at about 3 years old. This is another thing she is better at than her mother - the first being the Norwegian language, of course.

SHE ALSO fell in love with down hill skiing while we were at Skiekampen. One of the Fulbright scholars is a former professional children's ski instructor. She spent a couple of hours with the kids the first morning and they couldn't be pulled off the slopes for the rest of the weekend.

ONE OF the things we really love about the schools here is the emphasis on nature and outdoor activities. Since she began school they have taken a full day at least once a month to go hiking, ice skating, skiing, or boating. The entire class, grade or 5th-7th grades have participated in these full day outdoor excursions. The last one was a day of skating. They take a lunch to grill, something to sit on, a thermos of hot chocolate, and they are outside all day.



Fulbright Ski Weekend

August had a blast during a long weekend with other Fulbright kids (& adults) that speak English. It was three solid days of playing and skiing.