Welcome to the first annual Columbia College Chicago Publication Celebration!

When the call was emailed to faculty with fewer than three weeks to submit, I told myself I’d be happy if twenty people participated. Certainly not because I thought there were only twenty faculty members who published something during the 2016 calendar year. I assumed that the short notice, at the beginning of new semester, in the context of a newly created Faculty Development Portfolio would negatively impact the response rate.

I am thrilled to report that I was wrong.

This first Publication Celebration includes more than one hundred texts by more than fifty-six people. Representation cuts across schools and departments, and includes part- and full-time faculty. There are texts contributed by Lecturers, Assistant, and Associate Professors. There are works by those with the rank of Professor; most still working, at least one retired, with Emeritus status.

Indeed, such inclusivity is the main objective of Faculty Works. Faculty Works is a program intended to create a space to recognize, share and honor the wide-range of creative and scholarly endeavor produced by faculty at Columbia College Chicago, which thus far, includes a Publication Celebration, Exhibition Showcase and Spotlight on Performance. In addition to faculty participation, those individuals who lead college-affiliated centers, programs, and areas are invited to contribute their academic work that extends beyond the walls of our institution.

One hope of Faculty Works is to challenge, rather than reinforce, disciplinary siloing. To make clear that we are, as faculty of Columbia College Chicago, a constellation of academics who identify as artists, writers, scholars, and practitioners. Even more, we are often between and among these identities/identifiers.
We are a community of artist-scholars, scholar-practitioners, practitioner-artists; making, writing, producing, composing, and performing across all sorts of boundaries. Columbia College Chicago is an institution where there are faculty with expertise in traditional, disciplinary-specific intellectual and creative endeavor, as well as those engaged in transmedia, transdisciplinary, and transgenre work.

In considering set-up for this first Publication Celebration, I thought about separating the submissions by format—online texts on one table, print journals and periodicals on another, books on another, that sort of thing. But, as I well knew, Columbia College Chicago faculty publish and produce work in and across genres and formats. Rather than reinforce particular hierarchies, and segregate by format, the intention is to open a space for recognizing an ecology of creative and scholarly endeavor at our institution, to provide a way to appreciate individual accomplishments as being connected to a wide range of work.

As a result, the pieces here appear in alphabetical order according to contributor, so you can see how and when participants publish across genres and forms. When you move around the room, you’ll see scholarly and creative monographs, co-written and -edited works. There are a variety of pieces digitally born—including blog postings, magazine articles, peer-reviewed journals. iPads are the means by which these pieces are displayed and we encourage you to pick them up, press the on button and take a look. When necessary, we’ve printed hard copies of first pages of journal publication galleys and book chapters, alphabetic texts that appear may appear online and/or in print. Beyond what you’d also assume to find, there are a one-of-a-kind volume purchased by an archive, a white paper, magazine spreads, an art exhibition catalogue, a multi-modal composition, and a coloring book.
The Columbia College Chicago Publication Celebration intends to acknowledge the widest range of roles involved in textual production and work. There are entries from authors and editors; a bibliographer, an art director, a designer, an illustrator. One participant, a long-time member of peer-review journal’s Advisory Editorial Board, submitted an issue of the journal in which a piece of art appears, the result of her scholarly collaboration with an artist to produce the front piece for the text.

A bibliography, following this introduction, has been created to both document the event and help you identify the participants and their works. As inclusive as the event may be, all work here is considered to be in its final form (i.e. published in 2016, rather than somehow in process) and written/produced/composed for audiences and/or clients located primarily beyond the walls of Columbia College Chicago. In perusing this list (tens of times), I kept thinking about how many of these texts appeal to niche audiences, are notable in and relevant to particular disciplines. Yet, collectively, they offer us a possibility for critical consideration of what it looks like to engage in knowledge-making in the academy. As an accumulation of texts, they present us an opportunity to both think about the work we do here at Columbia College Chicago, and to consciously examine, beyond institutional tradition, the ways we in the academy set the terms for and articulate what counts as creative and scholarly work.

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Robert Watkins

Stan West

Albert Williams


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**Ellen Yeh**


**Jessica Young**


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Thanks to Kim Hale who, among other efforts, worked with the bookstore to provide books to be available for sale. Gratitude for Cole Roberts who designed the event poster. Credit Jen Sauzer with organization of the iPads so that attendees might easily peruse all of the online work.

My deepest appreciation goes to Jessica Jacobs for the design and production of this catalogue. She worked with Kathy Krajicek of our on-campus Xerox center who made sure we would have it on time.

Finally, I want to thank all who participated—through submission of work and/or attendance at this event. I am elated by your interests, excited by your engagement, and grateful for your trust.

with appreciation,

Ames

Cover photograph by Cole Robertson (MFA ‘06), artwork by Molly Hart.