

GRAHAM FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ceci n'est pas une rêverie: The Architecture of Stanley Tigerman on view at the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts January 26 – May 19, 2012.



Image: Stanley Tigerman, American, born 1930, *The Titanic*, 1978, Photomontage on paper, Approx. 28 X 35.7 cm, Gift of Stanley Tigerman, 1984.802, The Art Institute of Chicago. Photography © The Art Institute Of Chicago.

Chicago, January 13, 2012 – *Ceci n'est pas une rêverie (This is not a dream)* is both a retrospective and a reexamination of the architectural concepts of Stanley Tigerman. Throughout the exhibition, Tigerman's texts, sketches, cartoons, object designs, architectural drawings, and models are organized in relation to nine themes that single out certain leitmotifs of his thought since 1960: Utopia, Allegory, Humor, Death, Division, (Dis)Order, Identity, Yaleiana, and Drift. Evident in this work is Tigerman's insistence on the transitory nature of architectural interpretations and on the spiritual and ethical value of ambivalence. The installation spreading through all three floors of the Graham Foundation's Madlener House builds on the playful, oneiric, and surrealist undercurrent of Tigerman's work and underscores the abiding importance of his approach.

Exhibition curator Emmanuel Petit, Associate Professor in the Yale School of Architecture, notes that "Tigerman combines the nonchalant imaginativeness of a dreamer with the pragmatic focus of a realist. His belief in the pedagogical dimension of the 'project' of architecture accounts for the versatility of his work, which by far exceeds that of routine professional production." This range of thought can be found in such early and mid-career exhibition highlights as Tigerman's thesis projects from Yale University; a selection of his satirical architectural sketches, or *Architoons*; and projects such as the Five Polytechnic Institutes in Bangladesh (1966–75); the Urban Matrix proposal on Lake Michigan (1967–68); the Daisy House, in Porter, Indiana (1975–78); Little House in the Clouds project (1976); Dante's Bathroom Addition, an unbuilt, allegorical project for Kohler (1980), and in more recent work including the Commonwealth Edison Energy Museum, in Zion, Illinois (1987–90); the Park Lane Hotel in Kyoto (1990); the Berlin Wall project (1988); and the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois, in Skokie (2000–2009).

A Chicago native and principal in the architectural and design firm of Tigerman McCurry, **Stanley Tigerman** (b. 1930) has undertaken nearly 400 projects, resulting in more than 175 built works. Tigerman trained in some of Chicago's top firms from 1949 until 1959 including the office of Keck & Keck, Milton Schwartz, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, and Harry Weese. Following his graduation from Yale University, where he received both his BArch (1960) and MArch (1961) under the leadership of Paul Rudolph, Tigerman established his own firm, working with several partners, before founding Tigerman McCurry Architects in 1986 with his wife Margaret McCurry. Tigerman is the author of seven books including *The Chicago Tribune Tower Competition and Late Entries* (1980); *Versus: An American Architect's Alternatives* (1982); *The California Condition: A Pregnant Architecture* (1982); *The Architecture of Exile* (1988); *Stanley Tigerman: Buildings and Projects 1966-1989* (1989); *Schlepping through Ambivalence* (2011); his autobiography *Designing Bridges to Burn* (2011), and he has edited numerous others. In addition to being chosen as was one of the architects to represent the United States at the 1976 and 1980 Venice Biennales, the work of Tigerman's firm has been exhibited in major galleries and art museums around the world, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Metropolitan Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

In addition to his own work, Tigerman has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing the discussion of architecture in Chicago for more than five decades. During this time he was a founding member of the critically engaged group The Chicago Seven; he was the director of the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago between 1985 and 1993; and he co-founded ARCHEWORKS, a school and "socially oriented design laboratory" with Eva Maddox in 1994. Most recently, Tigerman co-curated the exhibition *Design on the Edge: Chicago Architects Reimagine Neighborhoods*, featuring transit projects commissioned by the city's top young design talent, and dedicated to the city's new mayor Rahm Emanuel. The exhibition is currently on view at the Chicago Architecture Foundation and was supported with a grant from the Graham Foundation.

"While he's never been shy of controversy, he has also made a point of championing the work of younger generations" said Sarah Herda, director of the Graham Foundation. "This exhibition presents a significant opportunity for new audiences to gain exposure to the full spectrum of Tigerman's work—the range of ideas that he has explored over the last 50 years—all rendered in exquisite drawings."

Tigerman also has a long history with the Graham Foundation. In 1965, Tigerman received a grant, under the directorship of John Entenza, to explore the subject of optical phenomenal systems, influenced by Op Art of the period. A selection of Tigerman's own paintings from this period is on view in the current exhibition. He also went on to organize significant public programs at the Graham Foundation, such as the controversial 1977 conference the *State of the Art of Architecture* and the *Chicago Townhouse* exhibition of 1978. A selection of documents from the Graham Foundation archive related to these and other projects by Tigerman that received support from the foundation will be on view in the Madlener House library.

The exhibition marks the 2012 transfer of Stanley Tigerman's drawing archive to Yale University's Manuscripts and Archives depository.

CURATION

Ceci n'est pas une rêverie was curated by Emmanuel Petit, Associate Professor in the Yale School of Architecture. The Chicago presentation is organized by Sarah Herda, Graham Foundation Director, with Ellen Hartwell Alderman, Program Coordinator.

Emmanuel Petit received his MA and a PhD degrees from Princeton University (2001, 2006), and an MArch from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH, 1998). He is editor of *Philip Johnson: The Constancy of Change*, published by Yale University Press in 2009, a project made possible

in part by an institutional grant from the Graham Foundation. His essays have appeared in *JSAH*, *Log* (ANY Corporation), *Thesis* (Bauhaus), *Trans* (ETH), *Thresholds* (MIT), *Archithese*, *Perspecta*, and *Constructs* (Yale), as well as in a number of exhibition catalogues (V&A London, MAK Vienna, Vauban Luxembourg). He is guest curator of *An Architect's Legacy: James Stirling's Students at Yale, 1959-83* and co-curator of Peter Eisenman's exhibition *Barefoot on White-Hot Walls* at the Museum for Applied Art in Vienna (2004).

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Ceci n'est pas une rêverie coincides with the release of two new publications by Stanley Tigerman: *Schlepping Through Ambivalence: Essays on an American Architectural Condition*, a selection of Tigerman's collected writings from 1964 to 2011, edited by Emmanuel Petit and published by Yale University Press (\$45); and *Designing Bridges to Burn: Architectural Memoirs by Stanley Tigerman*, Tigerman's autobiography, published by ORO Editions (\$24.95). These books and a selection of out of print books by Stanley Tigerman will be available for sale in the Graham Foundation bookshop during run of the exhibition.

EXHIBITION TOUR

The exhibition originated at the Yale School of Architecture, supported in part by Elise Jaffe and Jeffery Brown, and a grant from the Graham Foundation. After the Graham Foundation presentation in Chicago, the exhibition will travel to the Temple Buell Gallery at the School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

RELATED EVENTS

SCAFFOLDS OF HEAVEN: ON TIGERMAN

Talk by exhibition curator Emmanuel Petit

Thursday, February 2, 5PM

Opening reception with Stanley Tigerman

Thursday, February 2, 6-8PM

DISPLACEMENT

Talk by Stanley Tigerman

Wednesday, February 15, 6PM

NO DO-OVERS

Panel discussion led by Sam Jacob

Thursday, March 29, 6PM

For more information about the events, or to RSVP, visit:
www.grahamfoundation.org/public_events.

ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations and produces public programs to foster the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society.

The Graham Foundation was created by a bequest by Ernest R. Graham (1866–1936), a prominent Chicago architect who was a protégé of Daniel Burnham.

THE MADLENER HOUSE

Since 1963, the Graham Foundation has been located in the Madlener House, a 9,000 square foot Prairie-style mansion located in the historic Gold Coast neighborhood of Chicago. The work of architect Richard E. Schmidt and designer Hugh M. G. Garden, the house was built in 1901–02. In its compact, cubic massing the house is related to the German neoclassical work of Karl Friedrich Schinkel and his followers in Berlin, but in many of its details clearly reveals the influence of Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

EXHIBITION LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts
Madlener House
4 West Burton Place
Chicago, IL 60610
www.grahamfoundation.org

Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, 11AM to 5PM; every third Thursday of the month, 11AM to 8PM. Group tours available. Admission: Free

The Graham Foundation will offer public tours of *Ceci n'est pas une rêverie* every Saturday at 2PM. Saturday tours do not require reservations and are free and open to the public. Tours will begin in the foyer on the first floor and last approximately 30 minutes.

Accessibility: Galleries are located on the first, second and third floors of the Madlener House. The second and third floors are only accessible by stairs. The first floor of is accessible via an outdoor lift. Please call 312.787.4071 to make arrangements.

###

High-resolution digital images and exhibition text are available on the press section of our website; email Ellen Hartwell Alderman at ealderman@grahamfoundation.org for the press login or additional information. Press tours available by appointment.

312.787.4071 / ealderman@grahamfoundation.org
<http://www.grahamfoundation.org>