
Note from *Opticon1826*'s Editor-in-Chief

Marlies Gabriele Prinzi*

Here we are, then. It is with these words that Gesche Ipsen, one of the founders of *Opticon1826* and its original editor-in-chief, commenced the editorial for the journal's inaugural issue in Autumn 2006, offering a prospective readership the first compilation of scholarly and creative musings of UCL staff and students. In the thirteenth issue since then, I hope to do the same by placing the very first printed – not just virtual – *Opticon1826* on your tables. (An online version is, of course, available for those further afield.) It is a special issue that brings you a fine selection of papers from the SELCS postgraduate conference *Fragile Realities: Intersecting Interpretations of the Real*, organised by and for members of the UCL community, and beyond, in July 2012. Carefully investigated

and passionately argued by the academics of tomorrow – all authors are PhD candidates at UCL, some in the earlier stages, others in the final stretch of their research projects – the discussion ranges from the potential social impact of a schoolboy's suicide on the screen to the depiction of the complex immigrant reality in painting. Although *Fragile Realities* is, contrary to tradition for *Opticon1826*, not a cross-faculty publication, it is very much an interdisciplinary effort that strives to break the chains we so easily impose on our fields and reach further – geographically, thematically, methodologically but also in its intended readership. Echoing Gesche's words, I thus invite you – all members of UCL as well as others, elsewhere – to peruse and enjoy these pages: *Here we are, then, again.*

* Editor-in-Chief, *Opticon1826*
School of European Languages, Culture and Society, UCL
opticon1826@ucl.ac.uk