

The Urban Studies Program organized excellent lectures and events at the SFAI, often co-sponsored with student organizations. Besides Robin Balliger, other key faculty members included Laura Fantone, Eddie Yuen, Andrej Grubacic, and Thor Anderson. Ella Diaz (now at Cornell) organized two 'standing-room-only' events focusing on renowned Latinx artists, including Dignidad Rebelde and Malaquias Montoya (listed below.)

URBAN STUDIES-SPONSORED EVENTS 2011-12

Urban Studies presented an event entitled *Mem/Wars of Baghdad*, a lunch talk with artists Sama Alshaibi and Dena Al-Adeeb, followed by a discussion with Laura Fantone. "The project *Baghdadi Mem/Wars* is a video and photography series emanating from Dena Al-Adeeb and Sama Alshaibi's collaboration as Iraqi artists in diaspora, working with lived experiences and bodily memory of a lifetime in the trenches of an undying war. The psychosomatic narrative presented in *Baghdadi Mem/Wars* manifests a topography of annihilation, chaos, memory, body and spirit." The event took place on September 30th, 2011 at the SFAI Lecture Hall.

Urban Studies Lecture & Workshop Series with Indigenous Arts Coalition put together a **lecture by Malaquias Montoya & Maceo Montoya** in solidarity with National Day of Action for Public Education on March 1st, 2012 at the SFAI Lecture Hall. Malaquias Montoya and his son, Maceo Montoya are long-time distinguished artists, educators and political activists. The opening ceremony included a Rumsen Ohlone blessing by Luta Candelaria as well as a Mexican Danza by In Xochitl In Cuicatl.

Urban Studies, SIS, and Graduate Program presented a lecture titled "**Debt**" by **David Graeber**. "The anthropologist David Graeber has a strong claim to being the house theorist of Occupy Wall Street. A veteran of the anti-globalization uprisings in Seattle and Genoa, he helped orchestrate the first 'General Assembly' in New York this summer, and has since become one of the movement's most outspoken defenders." The event took place on January 27, 2012 at the SFAI Lecture Hall.

Urban Studies presented a lecture titled "**A Spark in Search of a Powder Keg: Music, Social Movements, and Revolution**" by **Mat Callahan**. Mat Callahan is a musician and author from San Francisco, now residing in Bern, Switzerland. He composed and performed music with seminal world-beat band, The Looters, whose success led to the founding of the artists' collective Komotion International. For eleven years Komotion was a center of radical art making and revolutionary politics in San Francisco. Komotion's performance space, art gallery and sound magazine brought together artists and activists from around the world. Callahan continues to compose and perform today, including a recently completed tour of Swiss Prisons and a revival of James Connolly's "Songs of Freedom". He is the author of three books, *Sex, Death, and the Angry Young Man*, *Testimony*, and *The Trouble With Music*. The event took place on May 3rd, 2012.

Urban Studies and Film Salon presented a documentary titled *Precious Knowledge* on May 1st, 2012. “The documentary interweaves the stories of students in the Mexican American Studies Program at Tucson High School. While 48 percent of Mexican American students currently drop out of high school, Tucson High’s Mexican American Studies Program has become a national model of educational success, with an average, 93% of enrolled students graduating from high school and 85% going on to attend college. The filmmakers spent an entire year in the classroom filming this innovative social justice curriculum, documenting the transformative impact on students who became engaged, informed and active.” Producer, Eren McGinnis was in appearance, with Q&A following the screening.

SFAI Urban Studies, the Indigenous Arts Coalition, and Student Union presented an **Indigenous Arts & Activism Lecture with Melanie Cervantes and Jesus Barraza of Dignidad Rebelde**. “Dignidad Rebelde is a graphic arts collaboration between Oakland-based artist-activists Jesus Barraza and Melanie Cervantes. Grounded in Third World and Indigenous movements their visual work encompasses people's power to transform the conditions of fragmentation, displacement and loss of culture. Representing social movements through visual art means connecting struggles and seeking to inspire solidarity among communities worldwide.” The event took place on April 25th, 2012 at the SFAI Lecture Hall, with opening blessings by Point Arena Pomo Dancers.