

## Brown Foundation Fellows Spring 2012



**Brian Chikwava, March and April.** Brian Chikwava is an African writer from Zimbabwe, who is a graduate of the University of the West of England and is currently living in London. His short story *Seventh Street Alchemy* was awarded the 2004 Caine Prize for African Writing and his debut novel *Harare North* won the National Arts Merit Award for fiction. While at Dora Maar House, Brian worked on his novel-in-progress *Chameleon's Song*.



**Andria Derstine, March.** Andria Derstine is Curator of Collections and Curator of European and American Art at the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College. She holds a certificate in Executive Education through the Center for Curatorial Leadership from Columbia University Graduate School of Business. She graduated *magna cum laude* in History and Literature from Harvard University and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. Dr. Derstine was awarded numerous graduate and post-doctoral fellowships, including a Theodore Rousseau Fellowship from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and an Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellowship in the European Paintings Department at the Detroit Institute of Arts. While at Dora Maar House, Dr. Derstine worked on a catalogue presenting significant new research on Dubuffet's 20-year relationship with the Joseph and Enid Bissett, important American art patrons.



**Jane MacAvock, May and June.** Jane MacAvock is an art historian based in Paris. She has worked as Curator of Prints and Drawings at the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin. She has been a visiting scholar at the American Academy in Rome. Dr. MacAvock has also taught at the Université de Haute Bretagne, Rennes II and has written for numerous publications. While at Dora Maar House, she plans complete over a decade's worth of research and writing on the 17<sup>th</sup>-century painter Jean Daret. Her book, when completed, will be the first monographic study of this artist who lived in Aix-en-Provence.



**Suzanne Opton, May and June.** Suzanne Opton is a photographer based in New York. Her “Soldier” portraits have been presented as billboards in American cities and sparked a passionate debate about issues of art and soldiering. Opton’s work lives on the edge between documentary and conceptual and often includes elements of simple performance. Her monograph, *Soldier / Many Wars*, was published by Decode in Fall 2011. Her photographs are included in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Fotomuseum, Winterthur, Library of Congress, Musée de l’Elysée, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Portland

Art Museum. She has received grants from the NEA, NYFA, Vermont Council on the Arts, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. While at Dora Maar House she worked on a new series of narrative images centering on femininity, fertility, aging and family culture.



**Lisa Williams, June.** Lisa Williams' two books of poetry were recognized with the Barnard Women Poets Prize and the May Swenson Poetry Award. She also received the Rome Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, among many other honors and awards. She is currently Director of Creative Writing and Associate Professor of English at Centre College in Kentucky. While at Dora Maar House she worked to complete a third volume of poetry.



**Rachel Withers, April.** Rachel Withers holds degrees in Fine Art and the History of European Art and Architecture. She teaches art practice and theory to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Withers also works as a freelance critic and art writer and is a frequent contributor to *Artforum International*, among other publications. She is the author of a monograph on Swiss artist Roman Signer. While at Dora Maar House, Withers continued to work on a collaborative project with Signer, provisionally entitled *Pictures from an Anonymous Collector’s Library*.