

FALL 2002 FACULTY SEMINAR
Directed by Vyacheslav Ivanov,
Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities

The Center for the Humanities invites applications from faculty interested in participating in the Fall 2002 Faculty Seminar directed by Vyacheslav Ivanov, Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities. Up to ten faculty members will be selected as Fellows to meet weekly to discuss selected readings on the seminar theme "Semiotic Approaches to the Total Work of Art." The seminar will meet Tuesdays from 4:15-6:00 p.m. A weekly lunch meeting will also be scheduled, and it is expected that the seminar group will continue their lunch meetings into the spring semester.

Seminar Theme: Semiotic Approaches to the Total Work of Art

The idea behind synthetic art—the *Gesamtkunstwerk*, art that combines a variety of media into a unified whole—is not new, despite the current popularity of multimedia events, exhibits, and publications. In fact, a synthetic approach to art was characteristic of the first half of the twentieth century and of artists including Skriabin, Eisenstein, Man Ray, Meyerhold, and Fellini. Even intellectuals and scholars outside the arts were influenced by this new approach: Lévi-Strauss, Victor Turner, and Olga Freidenberg adapted a synthetic approach to their own revolutionary works on anthropology, theater, and literature. In this seminar we will trace the total art movement from its pre-history (which can be seen in the works of Baudelaire, Nietzsche, Rimbaud, and Wagner) to the present day. Particular attention will be paid to the first decades of the twentieth century and the influence this period had on later music, theater, cinema, literature, and visual arts.

Workshop:

To allow faculty to prepare for the seminar, a week-long summer workshop will be scheduled for August 19-23. Faculty will meet to discuss readings suggested by Professor Ivanov. Kelly Herold will lead the summer workshop and a stipend of \$650 will be provided to participants.

Application Procedure:

The Center seeks participants from a broad range of disciplines and from all the divisions. To apply faculty are asked to submit a 1-2 paragraph description of their interest in the seminar topic.

Deadline for Applications:

Applications must be turned in by Monday, April 8, 2002 to Alan Schrift, Director of the Center for the Humanities.

Review Committee:

The Center for the Humanities Advisory Board will review the applications. Further information about the Center and Professor Ivanov can be found at: <http://web.grinnell.edu/CentHumanities/index.html>