

Summer 2021 at OPUS

Dear Friends,

On behalf of OPUS, heartfelt congratulations to all newly minted graduates! Your milestone is an important and fitting cultural facet of spring renewal, and this season it comes with extraordinary meaning after more than a year of adjustments capping your steadfast and hard work. We wish you well as you carry on through the next phase of your journey.

We would also like to congratulate Verity Birt, the awardee of the 2021 Christine Downing Dissertation Fellowship. Verity is a graduate student at Northumbria University in England. Because of the pandemic, Verity's time in the archives will be deferred, but we look forward to working with her in the future.

The CDDF fund is made possible through the generosity of private donations and is available to students in a doctoral program of any institution whose dissertations include original scholarly thought that builds on depth psychology and/or mythology. The 2022 CDDF guidelines and application will become available this summer on the OPUS website.

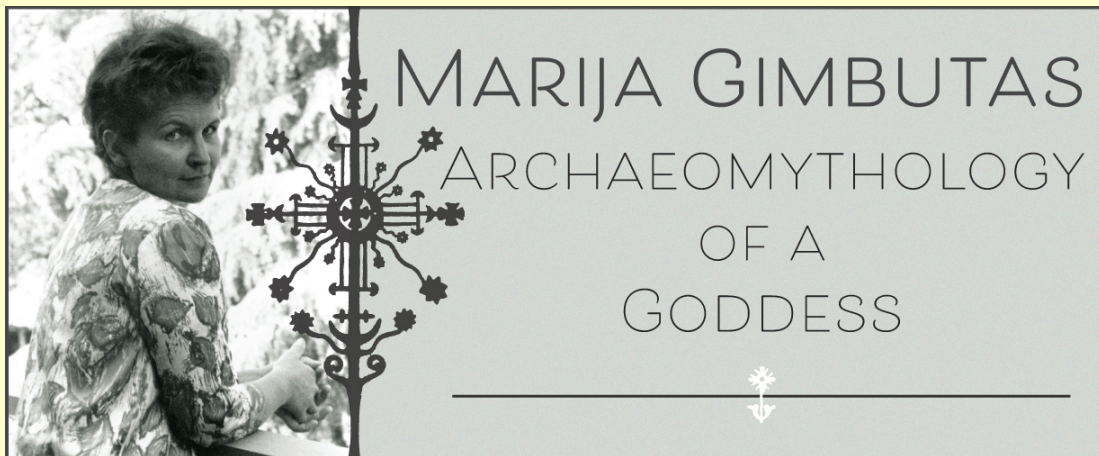
Coming in July is *Christine Downing: Exhibiting Gratitude*, a modest but special electronic exhibit in tribute to Dr. Downing, who is retiring from teaching at Pacifica Graduate Institute after the summer. Her tenure is iconic, and we continue to be honored to house her collection at OPUS, where it will remain for the benefit of current and future generations. The Gimbutas centennial exhibit, *Archaeomythology of a Goddess*, will be accessible through the rest of the year, and you can link to it within this newsletter or from the OPUS website.

Warm summer wishes,

Jennifer Maxon, Director / Archivist

Continuing Virtual Exhibit

Marija Gimbutas: Archaeomythology of a Goddess



Our year-long exhibit in celebration of Marija Gimbutas, Lithuanian-American archaeologist, author, and professor, is on view through December 2021. You can learn more about Marija and her illuminating work at the link below.

Marija Gimbutas: Archaeomythology of a Goddess

<https://tinyurl.com/OPUSgimbutasexhibit>

This is a Google Slides presentation best viewed in Full Screen by pressing the "Present" button at the top right of the screen. You may then begin your exploration of the exhibit by clicking "Begin Virtual Tour" on the title screen.

Please note that not all features work across all platforms. Mobile devices may need to download the Google Slides app prior to viewing.

For more information on the exhibit and the OPUS collections, visit the [Exhibits](#) page of our website.

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New Virtual Exhibit Coming Soon

Christine Downing Retires and Continues to Inspire

Christine Downing

Christine Downing Exhibiting Gratitude



After nearly 60 years of teaching, Dr. Christine Downing is retiring from the classroom. Since 1988, she has taught at Pacifica Graduate Institute, where she co-created the Mythological Studies curriculum and where her collection at OPUS continues to impart her wisdom.

In appreciation of her work and dedication, OPUS will be presenting a virtual exhibit featuring selections from the Christine Downing archive collection, foregrounding the scholastic heart of her

life.

Christine Downing: Exhibiting Gratitude will be on view as a virtual slideshow beginning mid-July 2021.

Collection Spotlight

Lithuanian Postage Stamp featuring Marija Gimbutas

Lithuania continues to mark the centennial anniversary of Marija Gimbutas' birthdate in celebratory and high-profile ways, including with a special edition postage stamp.

Lithuania Post issued the stamp created by artist Eglė Kulbytė for the series "Famous People of the World Originating from Lithuania". The stamps feature an image of Marija among company she would have very much enjoyed: a group of stunning goddess figurines.



Through a generous donation from Daiva Cekanauskas Navarrette, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania in Santa Barbara, CA, OPUS has received a half sheet of these beautiful stamps. With 100,000 in circulation, we are privileged to have a set of these in our collection.

2021 CDDF Fellow

Verity Birt

We are pleased to announce that Verity Birt has been awarded the 2021 Christine Downing Dissertation Fellowship.

Verity is part of the Art, Design, and Social Sciences program at Northumbria University in England. She will receive \$5,000 to support research for her dissertation titled *Re-enchanting the World: A Feminist Symptoiesis*. Her research will largely focus on the collection of Marija Gimbutas as she seeks to demonstrate “the importance and power of aesthetic, imaginative practice as a fundamental cultural tool of knowledge production throughout (and beyond) history.” OPUS materials will contribute to Verity’s creative research practice of writing, sculpture, ceramics, performance, sound and film-making.

Congratulations Verity!

The CDDF is an annual fellowship available to dissertation students in the fields of depth psychology and mythology. Once awarded, the Downing Fellow must use the collections at OPUS for a significant amount of their research. For more information on this Fellowship, please visit our [website](#).

Support OPUS All Year Long

Your contribution to OPUS helps with our mission to preserve collections and make them accessible to researchers.



Donate online today via credit card by simply clicking the icon above and filling out the secure form. We also graciously accept donations via check, sent to:

OPUS Archives and Research Center
P.O. Box 1078
Carpinteria, CA 93014

OPUS

Holding the Archival Collections of:

Joseph Campbell
Christine Downing
Marija Gimbutas
Adolf Guggenbühl-Craig
James Hillman
Tony Joseph
Jill Mellick
Katie Sanford
Jane Hollister
Wheelwright
Joseph Wheelwright
Marion Woodman

Rare Book Collections of:

William Henry Barnes
John Sanford



Visit our website at www.opusarchives.org

**The Administrative Office and Archives
and
The Joseph Campbell & Marija Gimbutas Libraries
are temporarily closed**

For more information on the status of the physical campus during virus safety measures, see the [Campus Updates](#) tab on the [OPUS website](#).

OPUS Archives and Research Center

on the grounds of Pacifica Graduate Institute

a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization

801 Ladera Lane | Santa Barbara, CA 93108 | (805) 969-5750

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