French Artist in Residence Explores Transmedia, Film
French filmmaker and photographer Valérie Morignat visited MSU and the College of Arts and Letters in November 2013 as an artist-in-residence. She conducted a film-editing workshop, a symposium, and a public talk coordinated by MSU Professor of French Safoi Babana-Hampton of CAL’s Department of Romance and Classical Studies.

Morignat is a professor of Cinema and Digital Studies at the University of Montpellier III in France. Her research and professional activity focus on cyberculture, transmedia, experimental cinema and digital innovation.

STUDENT WORKSHOP
The student workshop was a hands-on free experimentation and conceptual exploration of the film editing process, including:

• processing raw images
• producing frame grabs
• working on final cuts from film rushes
• considering editing as a way of generating narrative and storytelling
• examining the role of lighting and framing in meaning-making

SYMPOSIUM
Morignat’s symposium brought together four MSU College of Arts & Letters scholars in an energetic, free-flowing panel discussion.

Through diverse critical and disciplinary perspectives, panelists Ellen Cushman, Jon Frey, Rocio Quispe Agnoli and Stephen Rachman engaged the notions of innovation and narratives of possible worlds as forms of adapting human understanding to:

• new trends of digital production, and
• dissemination, reception, use and archiving of knowledge

Panelists also explored the ethical, political, pedagogical, methodological and disciplinary implications of this important shift in research culture.

PUBLIC TALK
Morignat’s public talk examined a double phenomenon inherent in the cyberculture expansion:

• the weakening of frontiers between real, virtual and fictional worlds, and
• the emergence of an ecosystem of alternative realities.

Morignat noted that as these phenomena are advanced by video games, virtual worlds, immersion and interactive cinema and more, every medium, every base of transmedia story telling, becomes a full-fledged narrative agent.

Morignat demonstrated that through the emergence of transmedia, the second age of media convergence is well underway. She foresees a future where media symbiosis across all platforms will transform fictional worlds into veritable interactive ecosystems.

Valerie Morignat’s films, photos and artwork have been exhibited internationally in contemporary art fairs, galleries and national museums, including Rome, Tokyo, Mexico City, Amsterdam, New York, Paris, Sydney, and Venice. They have been shown in more than 20 countries and are part of national and private collections.