Thanks to an Otis Faculty Development Grant of $850 (that covered the cost of round trip airfare to Paris) I was able to travel to Paris to represent the Otis Graduate Fine Arts Department where Annetta Kapon has spearheaded a faculty exchange program with a distinguished graduate school in Paris, ENSAPC (Ecole Nationale Superieure d'Arts de Paris-Cergy). Over the last couple of years, Otis has been able to exchange three of our faculty members with theirs. This year, I was offered the opportunity to be the fourth faculty representing Otis to make the trip. In March, I exchanged places with a French professor from Cergy, who at the same time visited the Otis MFA program in L.A.

At the ENSAPC I presented a lecture on my work and conducted critiques and studio visits with students at the school. I found the students there perfectly on par with their counterparts at Otis, sophisticated, ambitious and smart. ENSAPC paid for the studio-residence where I stayed in the famous la Cité in Paris (a longtime residency in the Marais district that opened in 1965 and has been host to more than 15,000 artists). Several of the students I met at Clergy are prospective Otis students exchange students and have kept in touch with me over the ensuing months—I hope to see them soon in Los Angeles. Two former exchange students, who attended the Senior Studio class at Otis last year, met me a couple of times and showed me their school, the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

When I was not working at the university. I used the opportunity to attend museums, study, and to work on my own projects. I was able to collect a number of images and documentation on important shows at Palais de Tokyo and the Pompidou Center to share with my Otis students.

Students at ENSAPC and colleague, Jeff Guess, during critiques.
One of the important shows I was able to study was an installation at the Palais de Tokyo, the _L’Ennemi de mon ennemi_ project by Neïl Beloufa. It consists of a scenographic disposition that represents a chaotic and fragmented vision of the ways in which history is written and in which power is legitimized in the contemporary era. The museum was host to two other extraordinary shows this month.

I also spent a great deal of time at the Centre Pompidiou studying their video collection.