



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

## Art and Museum Studies

Issue 1, Spring 2015

Dear Art and Museum Studies Students, Faculty, and Alumni,

As our program's tenth anniversary approaches, we are happy to be inaugurating a biannual newsletter to keep you informed about updates and events, as well as alumni news. We hope you will enjoy hearing about the program, and will be inspired to send news and contributions of your own.

It has been a tremendously rewarding first year for me as the program's Director. We had a terrific class of students who are about to embark on some exciting professional endeavors, including an internship with the prestigious New York gallery Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd., and doctoral studies next fall at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

For the first time this year, we offered the opportunity for students to remain at Georgetown for the Spring semester. Students engaged in independent studies on collecting history and on the education and development departments at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, as well as internships, and courses on writing for museums and American material culture. We also hired a new instructor to teach a curatorial course focusing on *Contemporary Art: Curating Art Museums and Galleries* (see below). Finally, this winter, some of our New York students and alumni enjoyed a behind the scenes visit to Christie's, hosted by Allison Whiting, Senior Vice President and Director of Museum Services.

I look forward to welcoming our incoming class, with students hailing from as far away as Sydney and Beijing. Our new students have a range of interests, including designing accessible museum programs for the disabled and curating non-western art. With our class in place, we anticipate another great year.

Best regards,

Dr. Lisa Strong

Director, Art and Museum Studies M.A. Program and Associate Professor of the Practice

### Welcome Sarah Newman



This fall, Sarah Newman will join our adjunct faculty. Professor Newman is Consulting Curator of Modern Art at the National Gallery of Art. Until 2014, she was the Curator of Contemporary Art at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, where she developed the museum's contemporary series and organized commissioned projects and exhibitions by artists including Spencer Finch, Mia Feuer, Ellen Harvey, and Chris Martin. She is also a specialist in early-20th-century American art and has published and organized exhibitions in the field. She holds a B.A. from Williams College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

Her new course, **Curating Art Museums and Galleries**, will encourage participants to think critically about the discipline of curating as it exists today, and will provide an extensive inquiry into curatorial theory and practice. With an emphasis on contemporary art, the class will address issues including working with artists, curating permanent collections, the place of biennials and art fairs, the politics of display, and strategies for engaging the public.

## Faculty News

In 2014-15...

**Al Acres'** book, *Renaissance Invention and the Haunted Infancy* (London: Harvey Miller), appeared in summer 2014. He gave a lecture on it at the National Gallery of Art in January 2015. In March he lectured in Berlin on "The Deaths of Pieter Bruegel," at the 61st annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America.

**Alison Hilton**, founding director of AMUS, continues to work closely with faculty and students in the program. Last fall, her seminar on Russian Art was designated a Doyle Seminar, part of the Doyle Engaging Difference program at Georgetown. It culminated in an exhibition of non-conformist art from the Soviet and post-Soviet eras, for which students contributed presentations on the artists. Professor Hilton is currently conducting research on art in Eastern Europe and plans to introduce a related course. At next year's annual meeting of the College Art Association she will chair a session on "Exploring Native Traditions in East European and Russian Art."

**Elizabeth Prelinger** is enjoying a sabbatical that began this past Spring and extends to the end of the Fall semester. During her time away, Professor Prelinger has been researching print culture during World War I, writing several book reviews on World War I and on Paul Gauguin, and traveling.

**Anne Kingery-Schwartz** gave a talk entitled "[The Analytical Puzzle of Martha Washington's Cross-Stitched Chair Cushions: Study Design, Challenges, and Results](#)" at the American Historical Association in January as part of a [panel](#) focused on textiles.

**Lisa Strong's** essay on John Mix Stanley will appear in *Painted Journeys: The Art of John Mix Stanley*, edited by Peter Hassrick and published in conjunction with the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's exhibition, opening in Cody, Wyoming, this June. She gave a talk on Stanley at the Smithsonian American Art Museum's lunchbag series in December and will also present her research at the Stanley Symposium in Cody, June 5-6. This summer, Professor Strong will be working on a new online catalogue raisonné of the work of Alfred Jacob Miller and researching the career of Washington, D.C., artist Charles Bird King.

**Michelle Wang** co-organized a Mellon Foundation-funded series of twelve workshops titled "Critical Silk Road Studies." The events brought together an international roster of speakers and local participants from D.C.-area universities and museums in a critical examination of the Silk Road from a *longue durée* and interdisciplinary perspective. During the year, she also worked on two journal articles analyzing paired images of Buddhist deities in the Mogao cave shrines at Dunhuang in northwestern China and miracle tales of animated Buddhist sculptures, in addition to her book manuscript titled *Mandalas in the Making: The Visual Culture of Esoteric Buddhism at Dunhuang*.

## Student & Alumni News

**Gillian Fruh** became the Head Project Manager, Exhibitions and Design, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, this spring.

**Cara Leepson** became the Collections Assistant at Glenstone this winter.

**Danika Jensen** started as a development coordinator at the National Building Museum this winter.

**Faith Webber** started as the assistant to the chair in the department of learning and interpretation at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston this fall.

**Lily Abt** started as a staff member (assistant paintings and administration) at the Potomack Company this fall.

**Nathalie Akkaoui** started as the exhibitions coordinator at the Leila Heller Gallery this fall.

**Amy Andersson** started as the special exhibitions registrar at the Cleveland Museum of Art this fall.

**Kanani Hoopai** started as curator of education at the Mission Inn Foundation in Riverside, CA, this winter.

**Catherine Nuzum** started as NSCDA Membership Assistant at Dumbarton House this fall.

## Alumni Profiles

**Debrah Bell Dunner** was accepted to the Museum Studies program after completing two Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in art history and art education. While enrolled at Georgetown she began working as an intern at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Upon completion of her internship Debrah was asked to stay on as the curatorial assistant and assist in the creation of the Renwick's 40th anniversary exhibition "40 Under 40: Craft Futures." After several years of working at the Renwick, Debrah returned to the classroom to obtain an accreditation in personal property valuation through the American Society of Appraisers. In 2013 Debrah launched [Aesthetica Art Services, LLC](#), specializing in appraisals and consulting for fine art, decorative arts and contemporary American craft.



**Tabitha Jacques** entered the program in 2007 with a B.A. in Art History from Gallaudet University. Her studies focused on contemporary art, and she was one of our first participants in the Sotheby's Institute of Art's New York program. During her semester in NY, she was inspired to design a series of museum talks in ASL in the Washington D.C. area and later implemented programs at the Smithsonian American Art museum and the National Gallery of Art. Her other museum experience included internships and

volunteer positions at the Ellipse Arts Center (now known as Artisphere), the Phillips Collection, and the Seattle Art Museum, and a staff position at the National Postal Museum. A few months ago she began her new appointment as Director of the Dyer Arts Center at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. The center showcases artworks created by current students, alumni, and artists who are nationally and internationally renowned. All of these artists are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or allies of the Deaf community. Tabitha is working on expanding the permanent art collection, and increasing educational programs. The position

requires playing several roles at once—the curator, the collections manager, the educator, and online content manager, to name a few. In a few years, she hopes the center will expand enough to justify hiring new full-time positions to manage the center. In a few years, she plans to pursue an MBA degree.

## Farewell to Alana Housholder



An alumna of the AMUS program's first year, Lana has served as Assistant Director of AMUS for six and a half years. In her tenure as Assistant Director, she worked with the program director on all aspects of the admissions process, internships, student registration, coordination with Sotheby's Institute of Art, and the final capstone and completion ceremony. Lana played a crucial role in admissions by advising prospective students on admissions procedures, managing the application and admissions process, and serving on the admissions committee. She was also a key to the recruitment process, meeting and corresponding with prospective students and representing the AMUS program at Career Education Center annual events, including the DC Winter Break Tour, Careers for the Common Good, Communications, Marketing, & Creative Industries Week, and the Creative Careers Networking Night. Most AMUS students enjoyed the benefits of Lana's expertise as Internship Coordinator. In that role, Lana reviewed and approved student internships for academic credit, found and circulated internship advertisements, and networked with colleagues to help students find placements. Finally, Lana seamlessly organized special events, such as graduation, orientation, and the capstone. Throughout her time with AMUS, Lana has been dedicated to improving the student experience and making the graduate program successful. Please join Professor Hilton and me in thanking Lana for her years of dedicated service to the program, and wishing her luck in her future endeavors.

## Mark Your Calendars—Art and Museum Studies 10th Anniversary Receptions

For the first time in twenty-five years College Art Association will hold its 104th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The four-day event will be held at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel from Wednesday, February 3 through Saturday, February 6. Georgetown University's Art and Art History Department will be hosting some conference related events, including an informal Art and Museum Studies anniversary reception. In a fortuitous coincidence, the American Alliance of Museum's annual conference will also be held in Washington, D.C. May 26-29, and AMUS hopes to hold another alumni reception during that event. Look for more information to follow this fall.

*For general AMUS program information and deadlines, please consult our website [art.georgetown.edu](http://art.georgetown.edu). Send student, alumni or faculty updates to [gradamus@georgetown.edu](mailto:gradamus@georgetown.edu).*

Georgetown University Office of Advancement | PO Box 571253 | Washington, DC 20057

Please contact us at [gradamus@georgetown.edu](mailto:gradamus@georgetown.edu) with any questions or comments.

Unsubscribe/Manage Office of Advancement email preferences | [Privacy Policy](#)

This **Graduate School** email was sent to .  
To ensure you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

Need your NetID, [please click here](#). | [Make a gift](#)