



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

## Art and Museum Studies

Issue 3, Fall 2016

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

As we closed our tenth year, Art and Museum Studies saw more exciting developments for the program. Architectural plans for the new Maria and Alberto de la Cruz Gallery, which will house a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled exhibition space for contemporary and historic exhibitions, were finalized. We strengthened our offerings for the spring semester with our new course, *Museums and New Media*, taught by Professor Dana Allen-Greil, and added *Collections Management*, taught by Dr. Jerry Foust (please see below), for the fall semester. *Collections Management* is offered onsite at Dumbarton House and Heurich



Jayme McLellan with Fred Wilson at The Phillips Collection

House, and will give students the opportunity to witness first-hand two core collections management projects: a collection inventory, and the installation of a new HVAC system. We also welcomed a dynamic new instructor for our *Curating Art Museums and Galleries* course. Jayme McLellan has spent the past two decades as a curator, gallery director, artist, educator, and activist for the arts in Washington, D.C. She co-founded Transformer in 2002 and Civilian Art Project four years later. She also led the *Save the Corcoran* campaign to prevent the closing of the venerable, nearly 150 year old Corcoran Gallery of Art in 2012-14.

Students from the class of 2016 secured an array of challenging internships, particularly in New York City, where they worked at museums (Guggenheim, Whitney, Frick), galleries (Pace Prints, bitforms), and consultancies (Uprise Art Consulting). We also had students interning as far away as Miami (Related Group and NAME Publications) and Asheville, North Carolina (Blue Spiral 1). A highlight of this summer's Capstone week was a visit with Melissa Chiu, Director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, who spoke to us about the role of women in museum leadership.

I would like to end this note by thanking alumni from across the country who emailed, visited, or attended our anniversary receptions during the College Art Association conference and the American Alliance for Museums conference here in Washington. It was wonderful to have an opportunity to share news and renew connections with such an accomplished and collegial group.

Please join me in congratulating the class of 2016 and welcoming the class of 2017!

Best regards,

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

## Faculty News

**Al Acres**, Chair of the Department of Art and Art History, has continued working closely with colleagues on development of the new Maria and Alberto de la Cruz Art Gallery, which will open in the Walsh Building in 2017. His other work on campus recently has included membership on the Provost's Humanities Task Force, which is developing plans for a new humanities center at Georgetown. This fall he is teaching an upper-level seminar on "Bosch, Bruegel, and Life"—timed to coincide with the quincentennial of the death of Hieronymus Bosch in 1516. His recent visit to the unprecedented Bosch exhibition at the Prado in Madrid confirmed that the more we learn about this artist, the stranger and more brilliant he becomes.

**Alison Hilton** continues to study the arts of Eastern Europe and Russia, the subject of a new seminar last spring. She has been elected to membership in the Polish Association of Art Historians (*Stowarzyszenie Historyków Sztuki*), and will give a lecture on "Borderlands and Conceptual Boundaries—Poland and Beyond" at the National Museum in Szczecin this September.

**Michael Lesperance**, Chair of the American Alliance of Museum's LGBTQ Professional Network, is co-author of the recently published "AAM LGBTQ Welcoming Guidelines," available [here](#). Relatedly, he co-authored "LGBTQ Welcoming Guidelines for Museums: developing a resource for the museum field" in the forthcoming edition of the journal *Museums and Social Issues*, available [online](#). He recently contributed a "Notes from the Field" article on inclusive interpretation for the revised edition of the Museum Studies textbook *Museums in Motion*, to be released in early 2017.

**Lisa Strong** and colleagues from the Communications, Culture, and Technology and Creative Writing programs completed work on The Pilgrimage Project this past spring. The project culminated in a three-hour, multi-media exhibition in Old North. 17 projects, many of them extensions of the research generated by students in the *Museum Studies Foundations* course last fall, were exhibited in the conference rooms, stairways, and hallways of the building.

**Michelle C. Wang's** most recent article "The Thousand-Armed Manjusri at Dunhuang and Paired Images in Buddhist Visual Culture" was published in the journal *Archives of Asian Art* earlier this summer. Continuing her research on Chinese Buddhist painting and sculpture, she conducted three weeks of fieldwork across China in July and August.

## Featured Alumni

**Zeynep Simavi (MA'11)** entered the program in August 2010 with a B.A. in Western Languages and Literatures from Bogazici University in Istanbul and an M.S. in Media and Cultural Studies from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. During her studies at Georgetown, she focused on a variety of issues related to the museum profession, from curatorial practice to postwar reconstruction of cultural heritage sites. In the second semester of the program, she studied

Art and Business at the Sotheby's Institute of Art in London.

Zeynep's museum experience during the Georgetown program included internships at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in the publications department, and in the curatorial departments of the Textile Museum and the Freer and Sackler Galleries conducting research on women artists, African textiles, and contemporary Iranian and Turkish art as well as on the artistic exchange between the Ottomans and the Safavids respectively.



Her summer internship at the Freer and Sackler led to a research assistant position at the curatorial department where she started to research the historiography of Islamic art in the U.S. and continued the research on the artistic exchanges between the Ottoman and Safavid courts. In 2012, Zeynep started her current position as a specialist on scholarly programs and publications. In her current role, she coordinates the fellows program and scholarly events such as conferences and workshops. She is also the managing editor of *Ars Orientalis*, a peer-reviewed annual journal in print and digital.

As part of her professional development, Zeynep participated in Getty Leadership Institute's NextGen 2016 program last March. She also continues her research on the formation of Islamic art in the U.S. as part of her Ph.D. studies at the Istanbul Technical University.

**Anna Boatwright (MA'13)** entered the program in August 2012. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 2007 with a major in mathematics and a minor in art history. Her work in the museum field began with a volunteer docent position at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. while employed as an actuary in the pension consulting sector. Having discovered a passion for museums through her volunteer work, Anna began searching for a way to transition into the museum field and applied to the AMUS program for deeper education and training to help make this career move. While at Georgetown, Anna interned in Finance at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and also studied Art and Business at the Sotheby's Institute of Art in London. She spent her final semester at the Guggenheim, followed by a temporary position in Corporate Development at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



From there, Anna was hired to work in Foundation and Corporate Relations at the Brooklyn Museum. In this position, Anna worked with institutional funders who supported exhibitions, specific programs, or other general support for the museum. She gained experience working on several corporate events and eventually decided to move to a new position focusing specifically on events and fundraising galas at The Frick Collection. She is currently the Manager of Special Events and Coordinator of the Young Fellows Steering Committee at The Frick Collection. In this capacity, Anna raises funds for the museum through corporate and private events and through the annual Young Fellows Ball. In addition, she liaises with the Young Fellows Steering

Committee, a dedicated group of young leaders who serve to address the needs of all Young Fellows and actively engage in supporting the fundraising efforts of the museum.

Anna stays connected to her undergraduate alma mater by serving as a Young Alumna member of the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum Advisory Board.

## New Faculty

This fall, Dr. **Jerry Foust** joins our adjunct faculty to teach a new course, *Collections Management*. The course considers the definition and role of collections within a museum context; the philosophy of cultural preservation, issues of repatriation; the importance of collection ethics; and the significance of a sound collections management policy. The course is taught on-site at Dumbarton House, museum and headquarters of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, and includes labs using the building and its collections.

Prof. Foust holds an M.A. in American History and Historic Preservation from the University of Cincinnati and a doctorate in American History from Loyola University, Chicago. As the Collections & Facilities Manager at Dumbarton House, Dr. Foust manages and assesses the condition and accessibility of collections, ensures preservation of the objects, and coordinates researchers, incoming and outgoing loans, and digitization efforts, as well as overseeing the preservation of the structure.



## Alumni News

**Joanna Baker (MA'16)** started as Head of Visitor Services and Private Events, Kreeger Museum, this summer.

**Lynn Clouser (MA'08)** was promoted to Assistant Director of the Drexel Collection, Drexel University, in January 2015.

**Molly DePippo (MA'16)** was hired as Visitor Services Host, National September 11 Memorial & Museum, this September.

**Emily Doll (MA'16)** started as Development Assistant, Phillips Collection, this fall.

**Emily Edwards (MA'16)** started as Collections and Exhibitions Coordinator, National September 11 Memorial & Museum, this September.

**Grace Harlow (MA'16)** started as a Contract Exhibition Researcher at Christie's, New York, this summer.

**Danika Jensen (MA'14)** left the Building Museum to become Membership and Annual Giving specialist, Friends of the National Zoo, this summer.

**Whitney Kellaher (MA'13)** was promoted to Membership Manager, Smithsonian's Freer and Sackler Galleries, this summer.

**Wren Manly (MA'16)** started as Membership Assistant, Smithsonian's Freer and Sackler Galleries, this fall.

**Kelly Richman-Abdou (MA'14)** became Contributing Writer at *My Modern Met* and Educator at Paris Muse this summer.

**Alli Roe (MA'15)** became Program Manager, Global Partnerships, American Alliance of Museums, this past spring.

**Amy Root (MA'16)** was hired as Membership Assistant, The Morgan Library and Museum, New York, this fall.

**Rochelle Safo (MA'15)** became Digitization Specialist, the National Museum of Natural History, this past winter.

*Do you have alumni news? Keep us up to date by sending your news to [gradamus@georgetown.edu](mailto:gradamus@georgetown.edu).*

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