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

This fall saw the successful opening of the Maria & Alberto de la Cruz Art Gallery, which has been under construction since February 2017. The Gallery is housed in the Walsh Building, along with the newly renovated Louise and Richard F. X. Spagnuolo Gallery and the Nora Cooney Marra Memorial Atrium. The Art and Art History Department and the university owe a debt of gratitude to College Dean Chester Gillis and current dean Christopher Celenza, Maria (C’87, P’17, P’22) and Alberto de la Cruz (B’89, P’17, P’22), members of the College Board of Advisors, alumni, parents, and others. It is the product of years of careful planning by former College Dean Chester Gillis and current dean Christopher Celenza, Art & Art History Department faculty, and lead donors Maria (C’87, P’17, P’22) and Alberto de la Cruz (B’89, P’17, P’22), members of the College Board of Advisors, alumni, parents, and others.

The gallery launched its performance art and public engagement series in August with Rob Pruitt’s Flea Market, held in both the Maria & Alberto de la Cruz Gallery and the adjoining Nora Cooney Marra Memorial Atrium of the Walsh Building. Flea Market, which has occurred in many different locales, including the Tate Modern and the Venice Biennale, is one D.C. area native Pruitt’s more notable projects. The event allowed a select group of vendors — including local artists and Georgetown University student clubs, performers, and entrepreneurs — to sell their goods in a market-like environment. The Maria & Alberto de la Cruz Gallery iteration of Flea Market marked the first time the event was staged on a college campus.

Jeffrey Gibson: DON’T MAKE ME OVER inaugurated the annual exhibitions cycle in September. An acclaimed Choctaw-Cherokee artist, Gibson makes work which celebrates Native culture, queer identities, and Modern aesthetics. The exhibition presented new work, including paintings on rawhide, an installation, and a performance piece. Graduate students, alumni, faculty and museum professionals from around the district attended the opening festivities, making the event a great success.
Georgetown’s Lucille M. and Richard F.X. Spagnuolo Art Gallery has also received extensive renovations, improving the Gallery’s appearance and ability to host multimedia projects. The renovations to the Spagnuolo Gallery, originally established in 2003, were made possible by generous support of the Spagnuolo family. This fall, the Gallery hosted Beth Katleman: Strange Arcadia, a 3D installation of objects such bobbleheads, erasers, dog toys, and cake toppers hand-cast in porcelain, and Hybrids, an exhibition of new paintings by Georgetown Studio Art professor Scott Hutchison.


In August, we celebrated our second expanded Completion Ceremony in the Mortara Center. We were delighted to have guest speaker Catherine Nuzum, MA ’14, who spoke to the graduating class about the importance of building strong peer networks and of being open to new challenges. In October, the program co-hosted its fourth panel on Careers in Museums and the Arts with the Cawley Career Education Center. Panelists included Tessa Lummis, Registrar, The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum, Joanna Baker, Head of Collection Management and Visitor Services at The Kreeger Museum, Grant Quertermous, Curator of Collections, Tudor Place, and Darren Milligan, Senior Digital Strategist, Center for Learning and Digital Access as the Smithsonian Institution. We were also honored to welcome Molly Donovan, Georgetown alumnus and Curator of Art, 1975-Present, to deliver the fall lecture on her exhibition of Rachel Whiteread on view at the National Gallery of Art. Students were fortunate to be able to walk through the exhibition with Molly the week following her talk.

Finally, this fall we said goodbye to two valued members of the program. Dana Allen-Greil moved to California to take a position as Director of Digital Strategy at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Maggie Ayres (featured below) left to take a wonderful position as Development Associate at Hillwood Estate and Gardens. We will miss them both and wish them all the best.

Best wishes for a happy and productive 2019,

Dr. Lisa Strong
Director, Art and Museum Studies MA Program and Associate Professor of the Practice
This spring, we welcome **Darren Milligan** as the newest member of our adjunct faculty. Professor Milligan will be taking over AMUS 545 *Museums and New Media.*

Professor Milligan is the Senior Digital Strategist for the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Learning and Digital Access in Washington, D.C. His work has included producing educational publications and interactive experiences, such as online games, alternate reality games, and simulations; managing communication and marketing to teachers across the Smithsonian's museums and research centers; developing methodologies for the creation and dissemination of educationally-relevant metadata; and directing web platforms, including the Webby-award-winning online portal for educational resources at the Institution, [SmithsonianEducation.org](http://SmithsonianEducation.org). Darren is currently the director and research lead for the Smithsonian Learning Lab, an online software platform that encourages the creative and educational reuse of more than 3 million digitized objects from the Smithsonian collection. Darren was formerly the producer and art director of the teacher magazine, Smithsonian in Your Classroom, distributed to every elementary and middle school in the United States, and codesigned the exhibition, *The World of Your Senses,* in collaboration with the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and the Exploratorium. He holds bachelor’s degrees in Biology (Ethology and Evolution) and Spanish (Latin American Popular Cultures) from Allegheny College and a master’s degree in Digital Heritage from the University of Leicester. His nonprofit board and volunteer service includes Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Museum Computer Network and as a voting member of the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences. Please join us in welcoming Professor Milligan to the Art and Museum Studies faculty!

**Faculty News**

**Al Acres** is beginning his second three-year term as Department Chair. This Fall he is teaching a seminar *On Painting: Idea, Object, Interpretation.* In May he presented a paper on "The Comparative Language of Jan van Eyck" in Ghent--which is home, not coincidentally, to van Eyck's Ghent Altarpiece. A highlight of the visit was the opportunity to meet with conservators examining and restoring the huge polyptych, which is a cornerstone of the Northern Renaissance. In November he will spend a few days with its capstone, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, who is the subject of an unprecedented exhibition at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. Al has recently been named the Wright Family Term Associate Professor in Art History, a chair previously held by Professor Emerita Alison Hilton, the Founding Director of Georgetown’s Program in Art and Museum Studies.

**Alison Hilton**’s paper for a conference in Moscow last June has been published in Russian translation. She also wrote a forward for the exhibition catalogue *From Nonconformism to Feminisms* (The Museum of Russian Art, 2018) and finished three other articles now in press.
This semester, Stephanie Rufino led a Modern Architecture course which surveyed European and American building history from 1750 to the present. The class recently visited the Octagon House museum located at 1799 New York Avenue, NW in Foggy Bottom. The Octagon was designed by William Thornton (1759-1828), who is also the architect of the US Capitol building. During the course, students visited the library's Booth Family Center for Special Collection's to research campus buildings as well. Along with teaching, Prof. Rufino is working on an article revision relating to Washington National Cathedral's ironwork and serves as a Board member of Washington, DC's Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians.

Students in Professor Rufino's
Modern Architecture at Octagon House

Lisa Strong traveled to the Joslyn Museum of Art in Omaha in June to research the art of Karl Bodmer for an upcoming catalogue essay to accompany the Joslyn’s Faces from the Interior: The Native American Portraits of Karl Bodmer opening at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in January 2021.

Michelle Wang was interviewed about her first book Mandalas in the Making: The Visual Culture of Esoteric Buddhism at Dunhuang for the New Books in Buddhist Studies podcast: http://newbooksnetwork.com/michelle-c-wang-mandalas-in-the-making-the-visual-culture-of-esoteric-buddhism-at-dunhuang-brill-2018/. Over the summer, she conducted fieldwork for new projects at Buddhist sites in northwestern China and participated in a workshop on texts interred inside Buddhist statues at the Kanazawa Bunko Museum in Yokohama, Japan. The workshop was organized by the international project From the Ground Up: Buddhism and East Asian Religions, to which Professor Wang is a newly-appointed member of the Central Steering Committee.

Alumni News

Emily Banas, ’12 was promoted from Curatorial Assistant to Assistant Curator, Decorative Arts and Design, at the RISD Museum in July.

Rachel Barclay, ’17 moved from Advancement Associate at the Smithsonian Institution to become Development Manager for Campaign and Donor Relations at the Salzburg Global Seminar in Washington, D.C. this fall.

Maiji Castro ’18 started as Development and Education Program Coordinator at the Department of State, U.S. Diplomacy Center in November.

Molly DePippo ’16 was promoted to Education Specialist at the 9/11 Memorial Museum in April.

Grace Dubuque ’15 recently moved from Museum Services to become Associate Account Manager, Valuations at Sotheby’s, New York

Emily Edwards ’16 became Curatorial Assistant at the Dallas Contemporary this past spring. Heather Glenny ’18 teaches IB English at Sturgis Charter Public School in Hyannis, MA.

Charlotte Hord ’18 became Assistant Protocol Officer at the National Gallery of Art in December.

Madlyn Kaufman ’18 is Cultural Program Associate in the Cultural Diplomacy Department at Meridian International Center, Washington, DC

Evian Kuznik ’16 was promoted from Marketing Coordinator at Cultured Magazine to Marketing & Sales Manager within Whitehaus Media Group. She is also managing two private art collections in Miami, helping to digitize them and update catalog records.
Bridget Mazet ’15 became Associate Proposal Writer at Sotheby’s in late June. Christopher McCloskey ’17 is moving from the Hirshhorn to become Manager of Advancement Communications at the FIT Foundation in New York. Amy Muth ’15 became OCA Digitization Team Cataloger at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in June 2016. Christopher McCloskey ’17 is moving from the Hirshhorn to become Manager of Advancement Communications at the FIT Foundation in New York. 

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Cara Nolan ’18 is Digital and Youth Engagement Fellow at the Freer|Sackler. Yesenia Perez ’18 started as Assistant Curator of Education at the Worcester Art Museum in November.

Camila Rondon ’17 became Retail Executive Assistant at the White House Historical Association in July. Hannah Storch ’17 accepted a position as Project Archivist and the other is Photo Services Assistant in the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art in September.

Farewell to Maggie Ayres

This November, we bid farewell to Maggie Ayres, who took a position as Development Coordinator at Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens. Maggie began her tenure as Department Coordinator in the fall of 2016. In that role, she managed the daily operations for the department’s four programs: Studio Art (BA program), Art History (BA program), the on-campus Art Galleries, and the Art and Museum Studies MA program. Within Art and Museum Studies, Maggie managed the admissions process, assisted with internships, and coordinated events such as the Career Panel, Fall Lecture, Capstone week and the Completion Ceremony. Maggie also advised prospective students, oversaw the recruitment process, and met and corresponded with prospective students. Few students passed through the program in the past two years without the encouragement and support of Maggie. She was indispensable to the program and the department, and we all will miss her dearly.

For news, events, and student and alumni updates, please follow the department and gallery Twitter accounts: @GeorgetownAAH (https://twitter.com/GeorgetownAAH) and @delaCruzArtGU (https://twitter.com/delaCruzArtGU)