



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Art and Museum Studies

Issue 5, Fall 2017

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

Construction on the new Maria and Alberto de la Cruz Gallery and renovation of the Walsh lobby and the Lucille M. and Richard F.X. Spagnuolo Gallery are nearly complete. An innovative public engagement program will officially kick off the Maria and Alberto de la Cruz Gallery activities with performance art starting in winter 2018; a series of interdisciplinary dialogues was launched in November with internationally acclaimed artist Wangechi Mutu in partnership with the Georgetown University Law Center. An annual cycle of engaging and relevant special exhibitions will begin in April. Together with the Spagnuolo Gallery, the Maria and Alberto de la Cruz Gallery will provide exciting opportunities for course projects and programs for Art and Museum Studies students.

The Gallery's new director, Al Miner, (profiled below) has hit the ground running, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and prodigious experience to planning gallery exhibitions and programs. Professor Miner will also begin teaching the department's Curatorial course next fall. The program looks forward to further expanding course offerings in the area of Contemporary Art. The Art and Art History Department is currently searching for a new professor of Contemporary Global Art, who will begin in the fall.



Students walk in Commencement, May 2017. From top left: Abby Simmons '17, Amy Root '16, Morgan Fox '17, Phillip Spradley '17, Rachel Barclay '17. Bottom left: Huanchen Liu '17, Sedona Heidinger '17, Camila Rondon '17, Joanna Baker '17

This fall we said goodbye to our largest class yet (nineteen students!) and welcomed a new group of students hailing from ten different states and three countries. Our new class also boasts a range of interests and experience, including teaching in Vietnam, leading public

programs in Mumbai, India and Allentown, Pennsylvania, and steering development at the Katonah Museum of Art in New York.

In October, the program hosted its annual Career Panel, featuring Amy Kuhnert, Murphy-Kuhnert Fine Art; Caroline Danforth, Preservation Specialist, National Gallery of Art; Caroline McCune, Exhibitions Associate, National Gallery of Art, our own Al Miner, Director of Galleries and Associate Professor of the Practice, Georgetown University, and Zeynep Simavi, Program Specialist, Public and Scholarly Engagement, Freer|Sackler. The department also hosted a lecture by Melissa Ho about her upcoming exhibition on the Vietnam War at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

This spring we will have two students studying at Sotheby's New York, nine in London, and six staying in Washington, D.C. We look forward to an exciting semester and wish everyone happy holidays.

Best wishes,

Dr. Lisa Strong

Director, Art and Museum Studies MA Program and Associate Professor of the Practice



Students from the class of 2017 celebrate on Georgetown graduate student's Potomac cruise.

New Faculty and Staff



Al Miner became the Director of Galleries and Associate Professor of the Practice at Georgetown University in 2017. Just prior to his appointment at Georgetown, Miner served as Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston from 2010 – 2017. There Miner organized several exhibitions of note and authored two catalogues. His MFA exhibitions include Ori Gersht: History Repeating, and Megacities Asia, the largest contemporary exhibition mounted by the MFA to date and winner of the 2017 Association of Art Museum Curators' annual award for excellence. Curatorial projects currently on view include Seeking Stillness, Annette Lemieux: Mise en Scène, and (un)expected families, all at the MFA, and Tara Sellios: Sinuous at C. Grimaldis Projects in Baltimore. Previously Miner worked at the Hirshhorn Museum and

Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C. where he organized site-specific commissions with Dan Graham and Yoko Ono among other projects. He has received fellowships from the Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC), Goethe-Institut, the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), Artis foundation, the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the Smithsonian Institution among other honors.

Last September, **Virginia Margaret Ayres** joined the Art & Art History, and Art & Museum Studies staff as Department Coordinator. Virginia manages the daily operations for the department's four programs: Studio Art (BA program), Art History (BA program), Art and Museum Studies (MA program), and the on-campus Art Galleries. Additionally she provides support for teaching and other activities pursued by the four main programs in the department. Previously, Virginia worked as the assistant to the Art Sales & Leasing Coordinator at the Burlington City Arts Gallery in Burlington, Vermont where she is from. Virginia holds a B.A. in Art History with a minor in Museum Studies from the University of Mary Washington. She has interned in several art galleries and small museums, including Gari Melchers Home and Studio at Belmont.

Faculty News

Al Acres, now in his third year as Chair of the Department, has continued work with architects and contractors on our galleries: construction of the new Maria & Alberto de la Cruz Gallery of

Art and renovation of the Lucille M. and Francis X. Spagnuolo Gallery. Both will open in Spring 2018. With visiting curator Anita Nilert and our new Gallery Director, Al Miner, he coordinated "Dialogues on Being Human: Intersections of Art, Health, and Dignity" with acclaimed artist Wangechi Mutu in November 2017. The series "Dialogues on Being Human" is a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the Department of Art and Art History and Georgetown's O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law. Al's other university work this fall includes service on the Provost's Task Force to develop a Georgetown Humanities Center. He is teaching an upper-level seminar on Albrecht Dürer, the highlight of which is class visits to the Department of Old Master Prints and Drawings at the National Gallery of Art. He is writing a monograph on Jan van Eyck for Reaktion Books, and will present a portion of the work at a conference in Ghent in May.

Alison Hilton retired from teaching last June and had time to write three articles and participate in an international conference at the Università Ca' Foscari Venezia. Her paper, "How to Formulate the New Art: National Singularity and Tentative Modernism at International Exhibitions" owed much to recent museum studies research.

Shana Klein arranged for her spring class on Contemporary Native American Art to take a tour of the Native American imagery in the Capitol Building with Michele Cohen, Curator of the Capitol. In the photo below (front row, from the left), Gabriel Kinney '17, Caroline Byrd '17, Professor Klein and undergraduates visit the office of Congressman Clay. Clay's office now holds a controversial painting of Ferguson by a high-school student from the Capitol Art Competition. It was displayed and then taken down three times before it was removed to Clay's office. Professor Klein invited students to view the painting in person after the Capitol tour. Prof. Klein felt funny smiling in front of the artwork but all agreed that we were smiling in solidarity with the student who painted it.



Professor Klein's class in Congressman Clay's office, Spring 2017

Mike Lesperance coordinated a week-long series of American Alliance of Museums Convenings on the LGBTQ Welcoming Guidelines. Twenty-five institutions across the country—including, locally, the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery—hosted over 550

participants in discussion focused on creating environments for staff and visitors that focus on welcoming members of the diverse communities they serve. Lesperance also co-authored, "Think of a Time When You Didn't Feel Welcome," in the Jy-Aug. '17 edition of *Museum*.

Stephanie Rufino led a new upper level seminar focused on Washington, DC's architecture and urban development. Students visited various areas of the city as well as landmark buildings such as the Embassy of Finland, the Library of Congress and the Folger Shakespeare Library. In October, Stephanie served as a Session Chair for the Society of Architectural Historian's Latrobe Chapter conference on Washington, DC architecture where she presented a paper on the American artist Samuel Yellin's (1885-1940) wrought iron work within the National Cathedral.

Lisa Strong, together with colleagues published an article on the Pilgrimage Project, a teaching partnership between CCT and Art and Museum Studies: Wayne Osborn, Evan Barba, Gretchen Henderson, Lisa Strong, and Lesley Kadish, "The Pilgrimage Project: Speculative Design for Engaged Interdisciplinary Education" *Arts and Humanities in Higher Education (AHHE)*, October 27, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1474022217736510>

Michelle C. Wang's first book, *Mandalas in the Making: The Visual Culture of Esoteric Buddhism at Dunhuang*, will be published by Brill in late January. (<http://www.brill.com/products/book/mandalas-making>). The first scholarly monograph to address Buddhist mandalas in China, the book focuses on cross-cultural interactions between Chinese and Tibetan devotees in the Silk Road oasis city of Dunhuang.

Featured Alumnus

Tish Greenwood '15, Executive Director, [California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks \(CMATO\)](#) is



dedicated to creating cultural spaces where ideas are shared and people connect. With the support of the City of Thousand Oaks, CMATO is the new neighbor of the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza and is in the distinct position to realize its goal of establishing an enduring arts institution that will bring civic pride to the Conejo Valley Region. Tish's professional experience includes positions at the J. Paul Getty Museum, photo i.a. and ArtSlant. Her experience working for the National Endowment for the Arts spurred her recent curatorial project [Mass Appeal: The Art of Corita Kent](#). Tish shares her connoisseurship expertise with artists and collectors through her private advisory firm. Tish received her BA in Art History from John Cabot University, Rome, Italy and her MA in Museum Studies from Georgetown University and Sotheby's Institute of Art-New York.

Alumni News

Lily Abt (MA '14) became Affiliate Loan Coordinator for Education Resources at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. this fall.

Rachel Barclay (MA'17) completed her degree this December and accepted a position as Development Associate in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

Caroline Byrd (MA '17) is Development Associate, Frye Art Museum, Seattle.

Victoria Hamilton (MA '12) is Senior Training Business Partner at the Museum of the Bible, Washington, D.C.

Grace Harlow (MA' 16) received her appraiser's license in August and accepted a position as Fine Art Appraiser at O'Toole-Ewald Art Associates, New York City.

Sedona Heidinger (MA '17) is Registration Administrative Assistant, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles.

Sarah Henderson (MA '17) is Education and Civic Engagement, National Czech and Slovak Museum, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Caitlyn Kennedy (MA '17) is Collections Consultant, Historical Society of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.

Julianne Levin (MA '17) is Collections Manager and Events Coordinator, White House Historical Association, Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Lindrew Thistlethwaite (MA '10) is now a Client and Estate Specialist at Everything But The House, Washington, D.C.

Sterling Lucas (MA '17) is Art Consultant, Wentworth Gallery, McLean, Virginia.

Christopher McCloskey (MA '17) finished his contract as Marketing Assistant, Communications and Marketing Department at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. and has taken a position there as Public Engagement Coordinator.

Catherine Nuzum (MA '14) has been promoted from NSCDA Museums & Archives Coordinator to NSCDA Projects Manager at Dumbarton House this fall.

Madeleine O'Hare (MA '17) has left her position as Gallery Assistant, Uprise Art to work in the Arts & Culture division at Nadine Johnson & Associates, New York City.

Luke Perez (MA '17) began a position as Exhibitions Aide, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. this fall.

Alexandria Rojas (MA '17) is Gallery Assistant, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles.

Rebecca Roman (MA '16) has accepted a position as Registrar/Exhibitions Assistant, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati.

Abigail Simmons, (MA '17) is Engagement Associate, Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, Penn.

Nik Sonfield (MA '17) is Gallery Manager for Emily Payne Art, San Francisco.

Phillip Spradley, (MA '17) is Events Manager, Hauser and Wirth, New York City.

Hannah Storch (MA '17) is Contractor with Pixel Acuity Imaging and Digitization, Washington, D.C.

For general AMUS program information and deadlines, please consult our website art.georgetown.edu. Send student, alumni or faculty updates to gradamus@georgetown.edu.

Please contact us at gradamus@georgetown.edu with any questions or comments. To ensure you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.