



Issue 6, Spring 2018

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

This spring saw the completion of major renovations to the lobby of the Walsh Building and the Lucille M. and Richard F.X. Spagnuolo Art Gallery, as well as the final touches on the new Maria & Alberto de la Cruz Art Gallery. The Maria & Alberto de la Cruz Art Gallery will open with an exhibition of the artist Jeffrey Gibson's show "Jeffrey Gibson: *DON'T MAKE ME OVER*" in October, stay tuned for details and a schedule of the first year's activities.

This spring, the program, together with the Art and Art History Department, offered two new, museum-oriented art history electives: *Monuments and Memorials*, taught by Professor Shana Klein, and *Museum Architecture*, offered by Professor Stephanie Rufino. In the fall, we will offer a new elective course on Controversial Exhibitions, taught by Jayme McLellan. And we are excited to have our new Director/Chief Curator of Galleries Al Miner to offer the Curatorial course. We are also thrilled to announce the hiring of a new faculty member this spring, Professor Ian Bourland (see biography below). Professor Bourland's contemporary course offerings will be an important complement to the new gallery, and will create new opportunities for our students to hone their interests in working with contemporary collections and artists.

Program alumni will recall our informal completion ceremony and reception held in the Walsh Building at the conclusion of the Capstone Workshop. Last summer we moved the ceremony from Walsh to the Mortara Center. The new space gave us an opportunity to expand the program to include an alumni speaker, and we were honored to have Whitney Kellaher '13 give the inaugural address. Whitney spoke about the importance of finding a mentor and using contacts when job-hunting, but she also encouraged new graduates to keep learning, to become a mentor, and to give back to the field wherever possible. Whitney's speech was wise and inspiring, and provided the perfect send-off for the program's largest class. We look forward to continuing the newly established tradition this August as we say goodbye to this year's class, and welcome the class of 2019.



Best wishes,

Dr. Lisa Strong

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

New Faculty



Ian Bourland (SFS '04) originally came to Georgetown in hopes of becoming a diplomat. But between lectures on modern art and visits to the Hirshhorn Museum, he found his true calling. He continued on to a Ph.D. program in art history at the University of Chicago and the Critical Studies program of the Whitney ISP. For the past ten years he has contributed to exhibition catalogs and a range of international publications as a critic and historian of global contemporary art. Before returning to Georgetown, he was on faculty at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, where he taught classes on critical theory, the African diaspora, and photographic history. His first major monograph, on the photographer Rotimi Fani-Kayode (COL '80) and black British art in the 1980s will be published in early 2019 by Duke University Press. He is delighted to be back on the Hilltop!

Faculty News

Michelle Wang just published her first book, *Maṇḍalas in the Making: The Visual Culture of Esoteric Buddhism at Dunhuang* (<http://www.brill.com/products/book/mandalas-making>). In it, she addresses the Maṇḍala of Eight Great Bodhisattvas, an iconographic template in which a central Buddha is flanked by eight attendants, during the eighth-tenth centuries at Silk Road sites in northwestern China. At the recent College Art Association annual conference in Los Angeles, she co-organized the panel "Materiality and Metaphor: The Uses of Gold in Asian Art" with Donna Strahan, Head of the Department of Conservation and Scientific Research at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery.

Professor Liz Prelinger and University art curator **LuLen Walker** co-curated an exhibition marking the centennial of WWI. Exhibited in the Booth Center of Special Collections from March to May, the show drew upon all aspects of the University's wide ranging and impressive holdings: rare books, manuscripts, archival material, and fine prints, including posters and sheet music. Objects from Professor Prelinger's personal collection were featured as well. The

exhibition demonstrated the richness and diversity of WWI culture and suggested many avenues for future research in the field.

We are sad to announce the departure of **Shana Klein**, who accepted a tenure track position in American Art at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio beginning next fall. An excellent lecturer and valued colleague, Shana has taught seminars on *Native American Art* and *Monuments and Memorials*. This fall, in her course on African American art, she collaborated with students to create a proposal for a slave memorial on Georgetown's campus. The proposal has now gone live on the Georgetown slavery archive

website: <http://slaveryarchive.georgetown.edu/items/show/211>, and has been well received.

This past course and her current class on monuments and memorials have been generously funded by the Doyle Diversity Grant and the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs. This past fall, Shana also participated in a faculty lunch hosted by the Provost's Office for professors on campus who treat the subject of slavery in Georgetown's history.

Harriet McNamee, together with **Lisa Strong** and two of our students, Katie Lee and Vanessa Vaz, attended the Museums Advocacy Day sponsored by the American Alliance of Museums. The first day (Feb. 26) we heard from the president of AAM Laura Lott; NEA Chairman Jane Chu; Deputy Director for Museum Services of IMLS Paula Gangopadhyay; and others about the issues facing museums. We also learned of a new study, *Museums as Economic Engines* and a public opinion survey showing the high level of trust in museums and the fact that voters overwhelmingly approve of legislators acting to support museums.

The following day Harriet visited the offices of her two senators, Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, and congressman Steny Hoyer along with other advocates from Maryland. Meeting with their staffs, we requested support for the funding and reauthorization of IMLS; funding for NEA and NEH; and enacting a universal charitable deduction and told stories about the positive impact of museums in our communities. We were fortunate to have a very favorable reception in all of our visits.

During the spring semester, **Stephanie Rufino** led a new seminar focused on museum architecture. In this course, students studied the work of architects such as Renzo Piano, Tadao Ando and Zaha Hadid and analyzed the challenges associated with designing buildings for contemporary art. Course readings also addressed the evolution of institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Art Institute of Chicago. Throughout the semester students visited multiple area sites including the Kreeger Museum, Dumbarton Oaks and the Archives of the National Gallery of Art.

Alison Hilton took part in international conferences in Venice and in Moscow, on different aspects of Russian art. She also wrote two articles on 19th century art and is working on a paper for a special issue of *Experiment*.

Lisa Strong's review of Neil Harris, *Capital Culture: J. Carter Brown, the National Gallery of Art, and the Reinvention of the Museum Experience* appeared in [caareviews](#) this April.

Featured Alumni

Gillian Fruh is the Manager for Exhibitions at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, overseeing the logistical planning, project development, installation and implementation of exhibitions at The Met 5th Avenue, The Met Breuer, and The Met Cloisters. She leads a team of project managers who are responsible for working with staff across the Museum to ensure the successful implementation of exhibitions that come in on time and within



budget. Before The Met, Gillian was the Head Project Manager at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She holds a BA in Art History from Stonehill College and an MA in Art and Museum Studies from Georgetown University.

Danika Jensen (MA '14) graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) with a BA in Interdisciplinary Archaeology. Having participated in multiple field schools abroad, including Italy and Guatemala, Danika understood the significant role of museums in the preservation of



cultural heritage across the globe. After graduating from USC, she spent a summer working at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, further solidifying her love of museums and her enthusiasm for educating the public about the importance of preserving art and culture. These experiences led Danika to apply for the graduate program in Art and Museum Studies at Georgetown.

While at Georgetown, Danika interned at the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the National Museum of American History (NMAH). It was during her internship in the Development Office at NMAH that Danika realized her passion for cultivating relationships and stewarding donors and decided to pursue a career in nonprofit fundraising. Upon graduating from Georgetown, Danika was hired as Development Coordinator at the National Building Museum. In this role, she assisted in the

acquisition, cultivation, and stewardship activities for donors, and contributed to program development for various membership groups at the Museum.

Danika currently works as the Membership and Annual Giving Specialist at Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ). She acts as the liaison between the Membership team of FONZ and the Office of Advancement at the Smithsonian's National Zoo. Danika supports the cultivation, stewardship, and solicitation strategy for approximately one thousand midlevel donors giving between \$250 and \$10,000 yearly. She also manages the strategy and execution of various annual giving efforts, including membership renewals, standalone reinstatement campaigns, and annual fund appeals. When not stewarding donors, Danika enjoys walking around the National Zoo visiting her favorite animals, specifically the screaming hairy armadillos.

Alumni News

Cassandra Bellison MA '17 has accepted a position as Collections Assistant at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

Abigail Bisbee MA '14 became Client Relationship Coordinator at Christie's last spring.

Claire Hendren MA '15, PhD candidate, Université Paris Nanterre will present "Women Critics and Impressionism: A Case Study of Mariana Schuyler Van Rensselaer," at the Sixth Feminist Art History Conference, Washington D.C., September 28-30, 2018.

Cara Leepson MA '11 became Executive Director of Redux Contemporary Art Center, Charleston in September.

Wren Manly MA '16 will be leaving the Freer | Sackler to become Advancement Associate at the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the end of May.

Karyn Miller MA '10 is Public Space Activation Curator at Golden Triangle Business Improvement District

Catherine Nuzum MA '14 has been named Curator of Special Projects for the National Society of Colonial Dames.

Luke Perez MA '17 is Museum Technician, Political History, National Museum of American History beginning in March.

Lia Trangucci MA '17 is Gallery Assistant at Marlborough Gallery, New York City

Ann Wadsworth MA '15 is Business Development and Marketing Manager at Art Media Holdings, New York City.

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.