



History of Art Department Alumni Newsletter

Issue 11. October 2015

The Newsletter is produced twice a year to keep alumni informed about the activities of the Department – and each other! If you are not a member of the HoA Alumni Network and would like to be, or you have items for inclusion in the next issue, please email admin@hoa.ox.ac.uk



Department News:

Craig Clunas gave the keynote address at the 2015 Association of Art Historians Conference in Norwich, entitled 'All the Art in China?', in which he tried out some of the ideas about Chinese art of the 1920s resulting from his two terms of research leave. His 1991 book, [*Superfluous Things: Material Culture and Social Status in Early Modern China*](#), was finally published in Chinese translation in Beijing, after a lengthy struggle on the part of his translators with his written English style. In May Craig was a respondent to the Modern Asian Studies Lecture given in Cambridge by the historian Sanjay Subrahmanyam on 'Interrogating the question of "Asia" as a space', and he visited Cambridge again in August to speak at the Xu Zhimo Poetry Festival, where he received the inaugural Xu Zhimo China-UK Cultural Exchange Prize, named after the early 20th-century poet and art historian. Over the summer Craig began a three-year term as Chair of British Academy Section H11 (Art History and Music), and also joined the Editorial Board of the Naples-based journal, *Ming Qing yanjiu*. He took over as Head of Department in Michaelmas 2015 for a two-year term.

Hanneke Grootenboer continues to be the Head of the Ruskin School of Art for 2015-16 as the School opens its state-of-the-art practice space at the Bullingdon Road and launches its brand new MFA course. Hanneke presented a paper at CAA in NY in February on stillness and movement in early modern art, and will co-chair a panel with Professor Amy Powell of UC Irvine in the US on the state of the field of Early Modern Art with a terrific line-up of speakers. Hanneke was a fellow at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA over the summer where she worked towards the completion of her book on *The Pensive Image*. Two reviews on her *Treasuring the Gaze* were published in *Art History* and *The Art Bulletin* last June. She will present the key note lecture for the 2015 AAH Students New Voices Conference in Manchester in November. Next term will see the publication of two articles in *Art History* and in the *Journal of the History of Netherlandish Art*, and she has been invited to present on a conference of Hegel and Art History in London in June 2016.

Geraldine Johnson has just completed her term as Head of Department and is now looking forward to a year's sabbatical to finish various projects, including a book on art and the senses in Renaissance Italy and a number of publications on sculpture and photography. The new Photography Research Seminar that she co-founded last year with Mirjam Brusius had a very successful run, with more exciting speakers and visits to various Oxford photographic collections scheduled for this academic year. One of the seminars will feature DPhil alumna Kelley Wilder in conversation with Martin Kemp about a set of Muybridge photographic albums recently discovered in the Sackler Library by Clare Hills-Nova. Geraldine gave a lecture at Edinburgh University in the autumn on the photography of sculpture and in the spring was interviewed on [Radio 4's Women's Hour](#) about women artists who might be selected to go on a new £20 bank note. She has also been busy raising funds for a new Visiting Professorship in American Art underwritten by the Terra Foundation, with the first one-year appointee arriving in Oxford in 2016.

Gervase Rosser, with Dept alumna Alessandra Buccheri, took a party of second year BA students to Sicily in June.



They saw Greek temples at Agrigento, Byzantine mosaics in Palermo and the late-20th-century architecture of Gibellina, rebuilt after an earthquake as a statement about the power of art.

Here, the students inspect graffiti left by 17th- and 18th-century prisoners of the Spanish Inquisition.

Gervase continues to research the 15th-century Sicilian painter Antonello da Messina. After the appearance earlier in the year of his book on medieval guilds, he is currently writing a blog on the meaning of solidarity today.

Alastair Wright is delighted to be returning to teaching after a year's research leave funded by a Leverhulme Research Fellowship. During his research leave he worked on two book projects. The first of these explores the politics of embodied spectatorship in the work of Ford Madox Brown. The second examines how the emergence of modernism in the later 19th-century might be understood in relation to shifting notions of the public sphere. During the year Alastair has also published essays on Gauguin and Matisse, and an article on Seurat will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Art History*.

**** Alumni! Keep us posted!! ****

Please remember to update us on your activities and your contact details if they have changed since you left the Department: admin@hoa.ox.ac.uk

Matthew Walker, Departmental Lecturer, spent the summer completing the manuscript for his first book, *Architects, Builders and Intellectual Culture in Restoration England*, which will be published by OUP. He has also been given another book contract, by Ashgate Press, to publish the proceedings of a conference that he organised last year on the reception of the 17th-century architect Christopher Wren in the 19th- and 20th-centuries. He plans to spend the next few months focussing on smaller projects, including an essay review of recent books on 18th-century antiquarianism for the journal of the European Architectural History Network and an entry on Lord Burlington and his circle in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. He will also continue as one of the editors of the journal *Architectural History*.

In April, he accompanied the third-year St Peters students on a revision and reading week in Tuscany. Whilst there, they visited Siena and Florence and had many scholarly conversations in front of the Lorenzetti frescoes in the Palazzo Pubblico, the Ghiberti and Donatello reliefs in Siena Baptistery and the various treasures of the Uffizi.

Mirjam Brusius, Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow, published a monograph on W.H.F. Talbot (De Gruyter, 2015). She was invited as a roundtable participant at the 'Rethinking Early Photography' conference (Lincoln, June 2015) and interviewed on 'Photographing the Past' by Radio New Zealand National.



Her projects in the history of collecting took her to a conference on ['Lost Museums' at Brown University](#) and the Staatliche Museen in Berlin where she undertook archival research, lead a round table at an event on 'Museum, Power and Identity', and gave a guest talk at the 'Globalized Classics' summer school.

New Manager of Administration!

Rachel Woodruff became **Rachel Leach** on 12th September when she married Ant! Please note that her email address has changed to rachel.leach@hoa.ox.ac.uk



Jennifer Johnson (DPhil 2014) has joined the Department this year as Visiting Lecturer in History of Art. She will teach the Second Year core Approaches course and contribute to other BA and graduate courses. She is History of Art Tutor at Christ Church during Geraldine's research leave.

Visual Resources Centre

Over this summer, the VRC employed two HoA students, **Alice McAndrew (BA 2013-)** and **Hannah Olsen-Shaw (MSt 2015)** to work through the second phase of digitising selected unique materials from the analogue collections – this time focusing on a subset of the 35mm slides, photographed and donated to the VRC by the historian Ellis Kirkham Waterhouse. These will be made available for teaching and research via the VRC's brand new digital image database (still under development) as well as a selection feeding into the [HEIR Project](#) (that went live in May 2015). Vicky is also contributing to a paper at the DCDC15 (Discovering Collections, Discovering Communities) conference in Salford in October 2015 with colleagues from the Institute of Archaeology.

The blog for the Department and Visual Resources Centre has now been up and running for almost a year. Please follow us: oxfordarthist.wordpress.com. If you are interested in submitting a piece, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Vicky at victoria.brown@hoa.ox.ac.uk or Clare at vrc@hoa.ox.ac.uk.



Centre for Visual Studies

Deborah Schultz (DPhil 1999) is an Academic Visitor in the Department in MT15. Her research project focuses on the Image Collection, comprising about 600 boxes of reproductions of works of art and architecture. The project investigates the scope of the collection, and how it was used as a core teaching and research resource. It also explores the anonymous albums that combine purchased images of works of art with amateur photographs, illustrating the travels and interests of past academics. More broadly, the project examines the role of the Image Collection in the history of art, setting the case study in Oxford within the wider history of the discipline, in relation to comparable collections at the Courtauld Institute, the Art History Institute in Florence, the Frick Collection and the Institute of Art Research in Tokyo.

The Department will also be joined in Hilary Term 2016 by **David Peters Corbett**, Professor of Art History and American Studies at the University of East Anglia, who will be working on American City Painting and the Landscape Tradition, 1880-1930.

60th Anniversary Event:

On 19th September c. seventy current and former doctoral students of History of Art and their supervisors gathered for an event and lunch in Trinity College, where four successive Professors of the History of Art (Edgar Wind 1955-1967; Francis Haskell 1967-1995; Martin Kemp 1995-2007; Craig Clunas 2007-) have been professorial fellows. In his introduction Craig reviewed the course of art historical research in those years, and pointed out that there are some surprising links with the study of the arts of Asia which go back to early graduates George Kates (DPhil 1930) and Olgierd Straza-Majewski (Diploma 1961). He talked too about the degree to which changing research topics mirror developments in the wider discipline. Then alumni from five decades spoke about their experiences: for the 1970s, Jon Whiteley, for the 1980s Iain Pears; 1990s Juliet Simpson; 2000s Alessandra Buccheri; 2010s Ros Holmes.



After lunch Martin Kemp gave his perspective on the changing context of doctoral research, and Neal Shasore spoke from the point of view of a current DPhil student. As a celebration of the intellectual vibrancy and diversity of the Department's research, the event was much enjoyed by all who attended.

It remains an aspiration to hold similar gatherings for Diploma and MSt alumni in the future. Watch this space!

More Alumni News:

Dina Akhmadeeva (BA 2013; MSt 2014) has begun her appointment as Manfred and Hanna Heiting Fellow at the Rijksmuseum to work on a project on the history of early Russian photography.

This summer, she completed a MuSe graduate curatorial internship at the Metropolitan Museum, where she assisted in the preparation of the forthcoming 2016 exhibition *Jerusalem in the Middle Ages* and its accompanying catalogue. Dina is also involved in writing on contemporary art from Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus. Her articles recently appeared in *The Guardian*, *Canvas Magazine* and *the Calvert Journal*. She is currently producing a catalogue on contemporary art from Central Asia.

Dina would be very happy to connect with other alumni, especially if they are visiting Amsterdam. Get in touch via dina.akhmadeeva@gmail.com

Katarzyna Falecka (MSt 2014) worked on a project at the Pitt Rivers Museum after completing the MSt. She researched a box of 88 previously undocumented 19th-century photographs from North Africa. The digitised photographs and the outcomes of her research are now available on the museum's website. Kasia started a PhD at University College London this month, supported by a AHRC studentship. Her essay about documentary photographer Bruno Boudjelal, written for the Image and Thought course and supervised by Hanneke Grootenboer, will be published by *Ibraaz* in November.

Ana Finel-Honigman (DPhil 2015) has recently completed her DPhil and has bought her perfect apartment in Friedrichshain, Berlin. She is currently travelling and working on starting an art gallery with her boyfriend, Jonathan Katzman, while finishing the GmbH paperwork for 'AFH-Culture Writers Agency'. The agency is composed of seasoned writers with expertise in art, fashion and design who will edit, ghostwrite and author written material for artists, galleries and designers, as well as consult with established brands. Once the legal status is finalised in Germany, she will launch the agency in December and the gallery opens in Santa Fe, NM, in August!

Liza Futerman (MSt 2013) is in the second year of her doctoral studies at the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto. Her PhD project explores the relationship between Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and improvisational comedy.

Over the past 12 months Liza has been leading a research group entitled *MemoryLoss* on behalf of the Centre for Memory and Testimony Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University. On 26th September she hosted a conference entitled *MemoryShift: Rethinking the Discourse of Pathological Memory Loss*. The conference featured leading scholars and professionals including nurses, social workers, literary theorists, cultural critics and social scientists all of whom were discussing the necessary shift that should take place in AD and dementia Health Care. In March 2016 Liza will be hosting a panel at the NeMLA in Hartford, CT. The panel is called 'Forgetting to Remember: Pathologizing Cultural Amnesia'. Finally, a chapter from the MSt dissertation Liza wrote under the supervision of Craig Clunas will be published in *The Comics of Art Spiegelman*. The edited volume will assess the fundamental contribution of Spiegelman's work to the development of graphic literature from the 1970s to the present.

Liza is also happy to stay in touch and make new connections with HoA students and faculty:

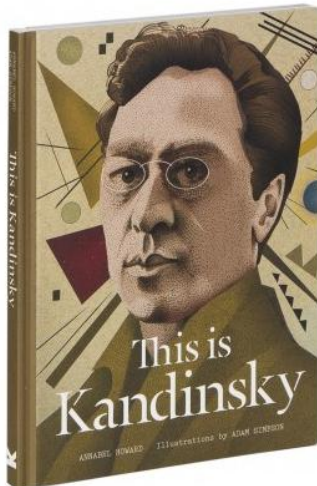
liza.futerman@mail.utoronto.ca.



Even More Alumni News:

Tanya Harrod (DPhil 1978) has taught at the Royal College of Art, is a design historian and author of various key books in the field. She is the author of the prize-winning *The Crafts in Britain in the Twentieth Century* (Yale University Press, 1999). She contributes regularly to *The Burlington Magazine*, *The Guardian*, *Crafts*, *The Literary Review* and *The Times Literary Supplement*. She is on the Advisory Panel of *The Burlington Magazine* and of *Interpreting Ceramics* and is Advisor to the Craft Lives Project based at the National Sound Archive of the British Library. She is a member of the International Association of Art Critics, of the London-based Critic's Circle and of the Art Workers Guild. In 1999 she was given a Ceramics Arts Foundation Award for distinguished service to the Ceramic Arts. With Glenn Adamson and Edward S. Cooke she is the founder editor of *The Journal of Modern Craft*. *The Last Sane Man: Michael Cardew, modern pots, colonialism and the counterculture* (2012) won the 2013 James Tait Black Prize for biography. Her latest book *The Real Thing: essays on making in the modern world* (2015) is published by Hyphen Press. She is currently writing a study of painter Leonard Rosoman (1913-2012).

Amanda Hilliam (MSt 2013) has received a collaborative doctoral award funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to work on the 15th-century Venetian painter Carlo Crivelli and his interest in three-dimensionality, supervised by Marika Leino at Oxford Brookes and Caroline Campbell at the National Gallery.



Annabel Howard (BA 2007) has had her writing published in *The White Review*, *The Spectator*, and *The World of Interiors*. She is currently artist in residence at the Centre for the Study of Religion and Society at the University of Victoria, Canada. Her first book, a graphic biography of Kandinsky, was released by Laurence King Publishing this month.

Patrizia Koenig (MSt 2014) has, after a 9-month research and writing internship at Christie's London Post-War and Contemporary Art department, recently taken on the position as Artist Liaison and Sales Associate at the 1301PE gallery in Los Angeles whilst also working as a freelance writer. She is excited to be working on exhibitions, projects and publications with such artists as Rirkrit Tiravanija, Phillippe Parreno and Superflex. Patrizia would love to connect with other alumni based on the West Coast and can be contacted at patrizia.koenig@gmail.com.

Arthur Laidlaw (BA 2013) has just finished his Fine Art MA at the City & Guilds of London Art School, which ended with his degree show. His practice seeks to explore the relationship between the historic, cultural value of an object within its original context, and its contemporary value as a translated, aestheticised art object, and to investigate the birth and codification of one at the expense of the other. A number of drawings, paintings, sculptures, photographs, video, audio, and mixed media works comprise his ongoing 'Modern Relics' series.



Gregory P Lehman (MSt 2013) was recently shortlisted as Manager of Indigenous programs at the National Museum of Australia, but has now accepted an appointment as a Senior Lecturer at Deakin University. He will also be working as Consultant Curator at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston, to develop a permanent exhibition titled the 'Gallery of First Tasmanians'. He recently published a paper drawn from his MSt dissertation 'Benjamin Duterrau: the art of conciliation', in the *Journal of War and Culture Studies*, vol 8, no 2, 2015.

Special Offer for Students and Alumni

The next publication of the [Public Catalogue Foundation](#) will be the two-volume catalogue for Oxford University and its constituent colleges and departments. Publication is due on 1st November and PCF is offering a special pre-publication price to Oxford alumni and students. The books are large format hardbacks and will each be £35 plus postage and packing, but both volumes are being offered for the price of one for orders placed before publication.



The image featured on the cover of volume 1: a modern triptych at All Souls by Ben Sullivan.

Many thanks to our contributors, and well done to all alumni, current students, staff and visitors on their achievements.