



History of Art Department Alumni Newsletter

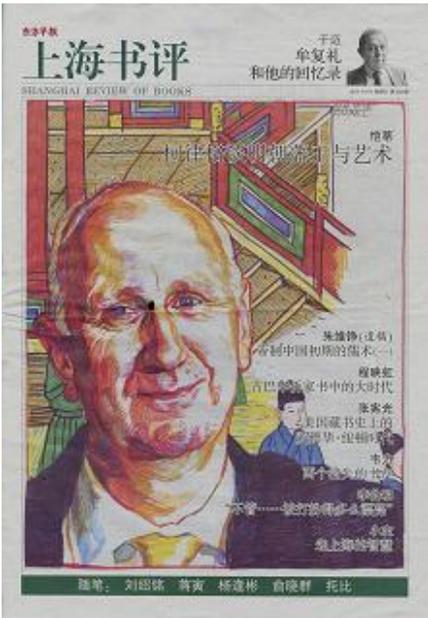
Issue 10. April 2015



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 was on sabbatical in MT 2014 and HT 2015, but his autumn was, as anticipated, completely taken up with events surrounding the BM exhibition *Ming: 50 Years that Changed China*. In a short film <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/News-and-Events/Watch-and-Listen/Pages/Ming-50-years-that-changed-China.aspx> he talks about the show, along with departmental alumna Dr Yu-Ping Luk and Jessica Harrison-Hall of the BM. In connection with the exhibition, he gave numerous public lectures, one of them in a tent at the Cheltenham Literary Festival. He spoke at the international conference in connection with the exhibition (the largest gathering of Ming scholars ever seen in Britain), on 'Precious Stones and Ming Culture'. He also blogged and tweeted furiously about the exhibition, examples of his posts are at <http://blog.britishmuseum.org/category/exhibitions/ming-50-years-that-changed-china/>.



He reflected on the experience of curating the show with Oxford colleagues at TORCH, and an interview with him can be seen here <http://torch.ox.ac.uk/clunasonming>.

He also made the front cover of the *Shanghai Review of Books*!

In January 2015, Craig went to Lyon to look at archives there relating to Chinese artists who studied in 1920s France, and to give a lecture at the Université Jean Moulin on 'Writing on and Writing in the Modern Chinese Painting'. He is beginning to think seriously about getting the Ming dynasty out of his system with a new research project on the circulation of images in Republican China.

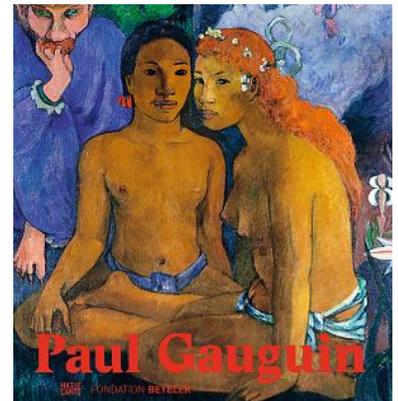
Hanneke Grootenboer continues her secondment as the Head of The Ruskin School of Art for the remainder of this academic year and 2015-16.

Geraldine Johnson is currently Head of Department, as well as Coordinator of the MSt degree. In September, she gave the keynote lecture at a conference on sculpture and photography at the Clark Art Institute at Williams College and she is currently working on several projects related to this topic. During a sabbatical next academic year, she is planning to finish her book on sculpture and the senses in Early Modern Italy. With Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow Mirjam Brusius, she recently set up Oxford's first Research Seminar on Photography, which includes both lectures and site visits to photographic collections located throughout the University

Gervase Rosser and Jane Garnett gave a lecture in Cambridge on miraculous images in February, and a paper on Renaissance Genoa in March at the Renaissance Society of America conference, which this year was held in Berlin. Gervase's new book, *The Art of Solidarity in the Middle Ages: Guilds in England 1250-1550*, has just been published by Oxford University Press.

Alastair Wright continues his Leverhulme Research Fellowship for the remainder of the academic year. During his research leave he has been working on two books, the first of which considers how the emergence of modernism in the visual arts relates to political transformations in later nineteenth-century France.

The second examines the politics of embodied spectatorship in the work of Ford Madox Brown. He has recently contributed to the catalogue of the Beyeler Foundation's Gauguin exhibition and continues to serve on the editorial board of the *Oxford Art Journal*.



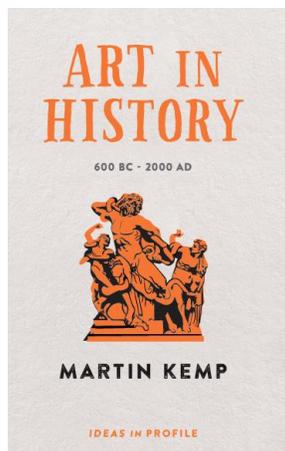
Matthew Walker, Departmental Lecturer, is currently finishing the manuscript for his first book, which will be published by Oxford University Press. The (new) title is *Architects, Builders and Intellectual Culture in Post-Restoration England*. He is also hard at work co-editing this year's volume of the journal *Architectural History*. In May he will present a paper on the library of Robert Taylor in the Royal Academy in London at a conference on eighteenth-century British architectural publishing. He is also giving a paper in April at a major conference in Edinburgh entitled 'The Architectural of Scotland in its European Setting: 1660-1750'; Matthew will be speaking on cultures of collecting architectural material in late seventeenth-century Scotland.

Mirjam Brusius, Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow, launched her co-edited book *W.H.F. Talbot: Beyond Photography* (YUP, 2013) in the Divinity School after a joint session with Prof Larry Schaaf and Bodley's Librarian Richard Ovenden at the Oxford Photography Festival last October. She also co-organised a workshop at the V&A on 'Tales from the Crypt: Museum Storage and Meaning'.



Mirjam has given a number of talks on European and Middle Eastern photography, archaeology and museum history across Oxford, but also at three workshops in Berlin, a photography symposium in Nicosia, and most recently at the 'Photography's Shifting Terrain' conference at NYU Abu Dhabi. Some of her thoughts on the 175th anniversary of photography have appeared in *The Guardian* - <http://www.theguardian.com/science/the-h-word>, *Scientific American* and the *FAZ*. She has also reached the final of the BBC Radio 3/AHRC New Generation Thinkers 2015 competition.

Martin Kemp, Emeritus Professor, has a new book out, including an animated ebook, details at <http://www.profilebooks.com/art-in-history-the-latest-in-our-innovative-ideas-in-profile-series/>



Visual Resources Centre

Vicky was on secondment at the Government Art Collection (GAC) between January and March, working as a Digital Media Officer. Vicky was involved in preparing images from the collection for ingest into new Content Management and Digital Management Systems, as well as contributing to short and longer term strategies for the future storage, handling and managing of images that serve the GAC staff, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (of which GAC is part) and external users. Working in a collection and team that lends to embassies, consulates and British government premises all over the world was a fascinating experience and she looks forward to bringing back what she has learnt to Oxford. Whilst away, Vicky also worked on an article on copyright and visual resources for the *Journal of Digital Media Management*, presented remotely at the Visual Resources Association's Annual Conference in Denver, and collaborated on a visual literacy panel session at the LILAC (Libraries' Information Literacy Annual Conference) in Newcastle at the beginning of April: lilconference.com/WP/programme/parallel-sessions.

Association of Art Historians – Dissertation Prize

Oxford History of Art was particularly prominent this year at the Association of Art Historians Conference, held in Norwich from 9-11 April. In addition to a keynote address from Craig Clunas on 'All the Art in China? Art History in an Expanded Field', panels were convened and papers presented by a number of past and present members of the Department.

A number of volumes in the bookfair also bore the name of an Oxford HoA author. Most gratifying however was the award of the Prize for the Best Master's Dissertation to **Dina Akhmadeeva (BA 2013, MSt 2014)**; that makes four AAH prizes in the past five years, a terrific level of achievement by our students.



Student News:

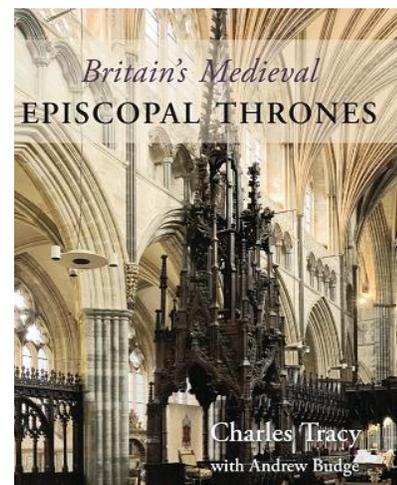
Sarah Grant (DPhil 2012-) published an article on the eighteenth-century Viennese artist and printmaker, Ignaz Unterberger, in *Print Quarterly*, and a review of the British Museum and Royal Academy's exhibitions: 'Germany Divided: Baselitz and his Generation, British Museum and Chiaroscuro: Renaissance Woodcuts, Royal Academy' in *Art in Print*. Her display at the V&A on the designs of the neoclassical French-born architect Ennemond-Alexandre Petitot runs until 6th December.

Alumni News:

Isabella Augart (MSt 2010) passed her DPhil at Freie Universität Berlin in autumn 2014. Isabella's thesis concerned the mediality and function of altarpieces with embedded miracle-working images in Early Modern Italy. Recently, she has been awarded a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in History of Art at the University of Hamburg. Her research within the DFG-project 'natura - materia – artificio' centres on the imitation and fiction of stone in Early Modern painting and art theory, with a special focus on the Bolognese painter Amico Aspertini.

Andrew Budge (MSt 2011).

Part of Andrew's MSt dissertation on Bishops' Thrones has appeared as a chapter of a book, co-authored with eminent medieval woodwork specialist Charles Tracy and entitled *Britain's Medieval Episcopal Thrones*. The book was published by Oxbow in January and was accompanied by a lecture by Charles and Andrew at the Society of Antiquaries in February.



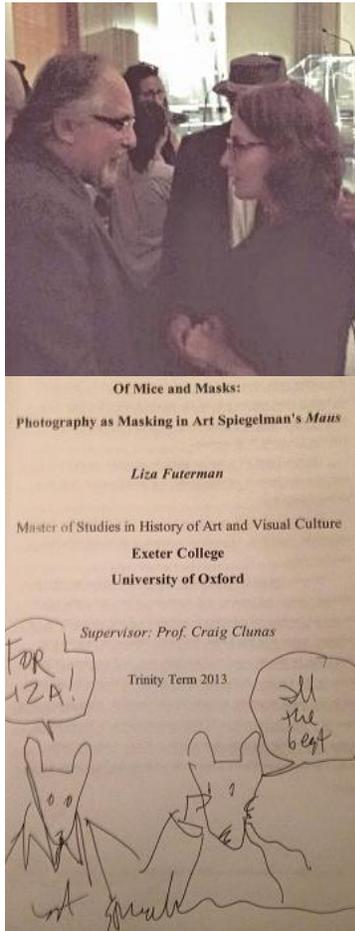
More Alumni News:

Annwen Elizabeth Evans Bates (MSt 2005) has recently taken on a position as a Copyright Assistant at the [Public Catalogue Foundation](#). She is also still writing - see <https://beadedquill.wordpress.com/> @BeadedQuill - and teaching Tai Chi.

Liza Futerman (MSt 2013).

After writing her MSt dissertation on the relationship between masks and photographs in Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, Liza met Spiegelman at the opening night of 'CO-MIX: A Retrospective' at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto last December. Liza is currently working towards her PhD at the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto.

She was recently invited to present her research on *Maus* at a conference dealing with Jewish culture, identity and the comic book at Princeton University. She is in the process of organising a MemoryLoss cross-disciplinary conference on behalf of the Centre for Memory and Testimony Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario.



Fiona Gatty (DPhil 2014) successfully defended her thesis on *Ideal Beauty in late Eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century French art and art criticism, with special reference to the role of drapery and costume* and now works as a Research Coordinator for the Templeton World Charity Foundation based in the Materials Department at Oxford University.

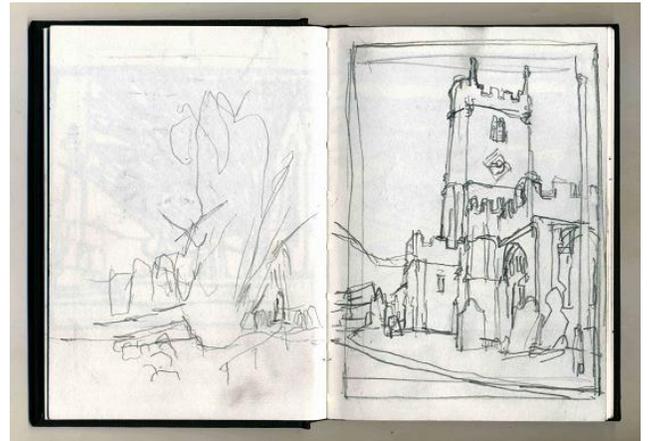
Allison Goudie (MSt 2010; DPhil 2014) was appointed as Harry M. Weinrebe Curatorial Assistant at the National Gallery in September. She is currently based in the Post-1800 office and has been working on projects including the *Inventing Impressionism* exhibition and the catalogue of the forthcoming exhibition on Goya's portraits.

Ani Kodzhabasheva (MSt 2013) is finishing the first year of her PhD at Columbia University in New York City, where she is studying History and Theory of Modern Architecture. At Columbia, Ani is co-organising the Collins/Kaufmann Forum for Modern Architectural History. She will be spending the summer doing some research in Berlin. Contact from Oxford alumni is always welcome at ask2224@columbia.edu.

Patrizia Koenig (MSt 2014). In the months following graduation, Patrizia Koenig received the Graduate Scholar Award for the Seventh International Conference on the Inclusive Museum in Los Angeles, where she also held the position of Session Chair, and subsequently presented independent qualitative research at the Sotheby's Institute of Art and Burlington Magazine Art Market Conference in London. Since then she has been completing a research internship at Christie's London in the Post-War and Contemporary Art Department. She would also be very happy to connect with other alumni based in London and can be contacted via patrizia.koenig@gmail.com

Arthur Laidlaw (BA 2013) exhibited some work at Muse Gallery in Notting Hill, in preparation for his MA degree show in September (MA Fine Art, City & Guilds of London Art School).

He currently has a show at the Embassy Tea Gallery, next to the Jerwood space. The show is curated by Pintora Art, whose aim is to exhibit the work of young, emerging British artists. Arthur is one of the seven artists selected for their debut exhibition. The exhibitions and the MA programme have acted as catalysts for a number of new works, many of which he hopes to exhibit this year in London.



Matthew Landrus (DPhil 2006). Last Michaelmas Term, Matthew co-organised and co-convoked a History Faculty Research Seminar with Mallica Kumbera Landrus (Ashmolean UEP) on 'Transcultural Objects: Exchanges of Ideas and Identity, c. 1000-1800'. The eight speakers included Partha Mitter, Stephen Johnston, Giorgio Riello, Linda Baez, Marta Ajmar, Nigel Llewellyn, Martin Kemp, and Anna Contadini.

In February, a third, revised edition of his book, *The Treasures of Leonardo da Vinci: The Story of His Life and Work*, was published by André Deutsch (London, 2006, 2009).

At the Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference in Berlin in March, Matthew chaired a session on 'Humanists, Doctors, and Italian Renaissance Wines'.

Yu-ping Luk (DPhil – 2010) has accepted a three-year position as Curator of Chinese collections at the Asia Department of the V&A, London.

**** 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

Even More Alumni News:

Nicola McCartney (MSt 2008) has organised a series of free talks in London on behalf of the Association of Art Historians' 'Art History in the Pub' on the themes of Animals in Art. They are taking place on the last Monday of each month, concluding in May with Katrin Joost of Cumbria; 7.30 pm at The Monarch in Camden, London.



Details at:
<http://www.aah.org.uk/events/art-history-in-the-pub>

This coincides with Nicola's exhibition contemplating the role of animal metaphors and the animal gaze at Gracefield Arts Centre until 18 April.
www.nicolamccartney.co.uk / @NAMcCartney

Monica Merlin (DPhil 2013) has been appointed lecturer in the Arts of China programme at Christie's Education (London) - a postgraduate course accredited by the University of Glasgow entirely dedicated to Chinese art.

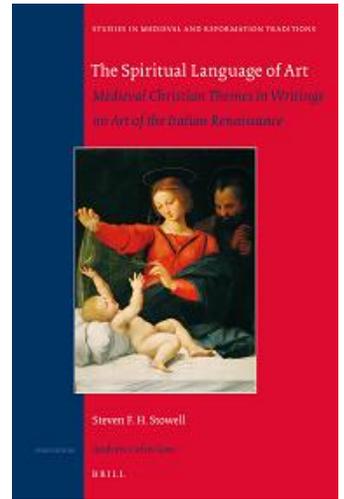
Sarah Ng (DPhil 2013) co-curated *Silent Poetry: Chinese Contemporary Ink* in the spring at the University Museum and Art Gallery in Hong Kong where she is Associate Curator, as well as being the Honorary Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong.

The featured works, by Chen Jun, Du Xiaotong, Hao Shi-ming, Li Wei, Pan Wen-xun, Sun Hao, Xu Hua-ling, Xu Jia-cun and Zhu Zheng-ming, challenged traditional painting practice, illustrating the transformation of ink art from the May Fourth Movement to the 1990s.



Anita Paz (MSt 2014) started her DPhil in Art Theory at The Ruskin School of Art in October, supported by the Oxford-Dowding Scholarship from Wadham College.

Steven Stowell (DPhil 2009) is pleased to announce the publication of his book, *The Spiritual Language of Art: Medieval Christian Themes in Writings on Art of the Italian Renaissance* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2014), an expanded and revised version of his DPhil thesis, completed under the supervision of Martin Kemp and Gervase Rosser, offering close re-readings of many important writers including Alberti, Leonardo and Vasari.



Steven has been Assistant Professor of Art History at Concordia University in Montreal since 2012, where he teaches and supervises students working on medieval and Early Modern art history. He is currently working on a project investigating the use of images in prayers for sexual fertility and chastity, for which he is the recipient of a research grant from the Fonds de Recherche du Québec – Société et Culture.

And finally...

Hanneke sent us this photo of a select gathering she organised of HoA alumni at the College Art Association Conference in New York in February. You may recognise some faces!



***60th Anniversary Event ***

Save the Date!

2015 marks the 60th anniversary of the appointment of the first Professor of the History of Art and the beginning of the History of Art Department. To mark the occasion, we will be inviting research alumni to a lunch event at Trinity College on **Saturday 19th September**. Further details and formal invitations will follow in due course.

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