



History of Art Department Alumni Newsletter

Issue 12. April 2016

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 saw his 1991 book *Superfluous Things: Social Status and Material Culture in Early Modern China* appear in Chinese translation as, *Zhang wu: Zaoqi xiandai Zhongguo de wuzhi wenhua yu shehui zhuangkuang* 长物: 早期现代中国的物质文化与社会状况, translated by Gao Xindan & Chen Heng (Beijing, 2015).



He published an essay on 'Connected Material Histories: A response', *Modern Asian Studies*, 50 (2016), pp. 61-74, and reviewed Petra ten Doeschate-Chu and Ding Ning eds., *Qing Encounters: Artistic Exchanges between China and the West* in the new online journal *Journal18*: www.journal18.org/nq/qing-encounters-by-craig-clunas-2/.

Craig lectured at the Royal Academy in connection with the Ai Weiwei exhibition: www.royalacademy.org.uk/event/stuff-of-chinese-art, and gave a lecture sponsored by the [International Dunhuang Project](#) and the [Freud Museum](#) entitled 'Aurel Stein, Sigmund Freud and the Other' at the British Library in November 2015. He spoke at the V&A/RCA History of Design MA Research Seminar, and gave the keynote address at the *Dynasty and Dynasticism* Conference held at Somerville College in March 2016. Craig became a member of the Advisory Committee for the exhibition, 'Experimental Art from China', to open at the Guggenheim Museum NY in 2017, but said goodbye to his annual January trip to Helsinki when his term on the board of the [Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies](#) came to an end.

Craig continues to tweet @CraigClunas.

**** 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

Hanneke Grootenboer has been awarded a fellowship from the Netherlandish Institute for Advanced Studies and will be spending the year 2016-17 in Amsterdam to complete her book on *The Pensive Image*. Articles on 'Time Image or Automaton' on an 18th century clock-painting as philosophical argument for a special issue of *Art History* on early modern technology, and 'Sublime Still Life' in the *Journal for the History of Netherlandish Art* will come out this Spring. Hanneke was keynote speaker alongside Carol Mavor at the AAH student conference in November 2015, and presented at a symposium on the Dutch Golden Age at Ghent's Museum for Fine Art last month. She will present on Hegel and photorealism at a symposium on *The Art of Hegel's Aesthetics* at King's College, London in June. She co-chaired a session on *Early Modern Art Now* at the 2016 CAA and is currently preparing together with **Lucy Whelan (DPhil 2013-)** and **Anita Paz (MSt 2014)** a special issue on Thinking Images that includes contributions by Michael Ann Holly, Mieke Bal and Raymond Bellour.

Geraldine Johnson is currently on sabbatical, but as busy as ever. She is working on her monograph for Cambridge University Press on the materiality of art in Renaissance Italy and a book entitled *Photography and Sculpture*, which will be published by Reaktion Books. At the same time, she is co-organising with alumna (and recent Academic Visitor) **Deborah Schultz (DPhil 1998)** a conference that will be held in Oxford next Spring on 'The Place of Photography'. She chaired a workshop earlier this year on Julia Margaret Cameron at the Bodleian's new Weston Library, at which DPhil candidate **Nichole Fazio-Veighel** presented a paper. In May, she will be co-chairing a study day at Oxford with **Mirjam Brusius** (Mellon Post-Doctral Fellow) on new approaches to photography within a global context.

Gervase Rosser attended a conference in Messina in October, where he delivered a paper on the art historian Roberto Longhi. He is currently about to attend another, in Bologna, on the history of charity in Europe: he will speak about guilds and fraternities. Recently appearing in print is his contribution to an earlier conference, in Rome, on the subject of 'truth': 'True icons? The power of supernatural images in late medieval and early modern Italy', in *Vérité et crédibilité: Construire la vérité dans le système de communication de l'Occident (XIIIe – XVIIe siècle)*, ed. J.-P. Genet (Paris, 2015).

Alastair Wright has been greatly enjoying his return to teaching thanks to the remarkable enthusiasm and intelligence of the Department's undergraduate and graduate students. He has also continued writing up the two book projects he worked on during his research leave, one on Ford Madox Brown, the other on Seurat. Research drawing on the second of these will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Art History*. He continues to serve on the editorial board of the *Oxford Art Journal*.

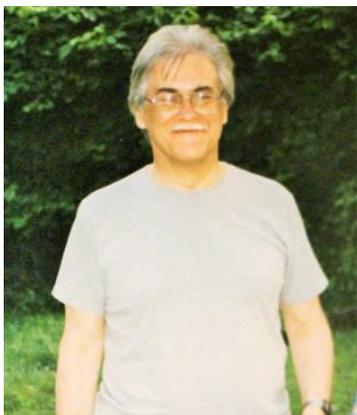
Matthew Walker, Departmental Lecturer, has just returned from Los Angeles, where he joined colleagues from around the world for the annual meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians. He presented a paper on seventeenth-century antiquarian accounts of the architecture of Roman Britain. Before that, Matthew was in Tuscany with the St Peter's and Worcester Third Years for their annual reading week in Borgo Pignano. Alice McAndrew, Nina Foster and he made art historical excursions to Siena, San Gimignano and Volterra (where they encountered the creepiest alabaster carving of all time). Matthew has also been busy writing for the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and for various architectural history journals. This summer he will be planning for the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain's annual conference in his home city of Plymouth. He is one of the organisers and they are currently making arrangements to visit important naval buildings in the dockyard as well as the postwar town centre.

Mirjam Brusius, Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow, presented her work at the annual meetings of the History of Science Society and the Middle Eastern Studies Association in the US where she also gave a lecture on Persian Photography at NYU's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. At Oxford she organised a symposium and a small display on Julia Margaret Cameron at the Weston Library and continued convening The Photography Seminar with Geraldine, which resumes in Trinity Term with a Study Day on non-Western photography. Upcoming lectures will take her to Rome, the World Archaeology Congress in Tokyo and the CIHA World Congress in Beijing.

Jennifer Johnson, Visiting Lecturer in History of Art, continues to work on her first book, which revolves around questions of materiality and meaning in the painting of Georges Rouault. She has given research papers this year on world-making and will in Cézanne's landscapes, and on narrative theory in relation to modernist painting. In October 2016, Jennifer will take up a Junior Research Fellowship at St John's College.

Faculty News:

The History Faculty was very sad to announce that the Faculty's long serving Graduate Officer, Hubert Stadler, died peacefully in hospital on 9 January after being taken ill over the Christmas and New Year break.



Hubert was a much-valued member of the staff of the Faculty for more than twenty years, and had been responsible for looking after successive generations of graduate students.

A graduate scholarship has been established in Hubert's memory, details at <http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/alumni/donate-now.html>

Visual Resources Centre

Emma Walshe became our new Visual Resources Assistant in February following Vicky Brown's departure. Emma completed both her Masters in English, 1700-1830 and her English Literature undergraduate degree at Trinity College, Oxford. After her academic studies concluded, she worked for an international education organisation in New York before returning to Oxford to work in the Department. Emma looks forward to hearing from alumni, particularly those interested in the VRC and its collections. She can be reached at vr@hoa.ox.ac.uk.



We were also very pleased to welcome Academic Visitor and Department alumna **Deborah Schultz (DPhil 1999)** back to Oxford in March. Deborah, who is exploring the VRC's photo archives and the role of the image collection in the history of art history, presented her work as part of the Oxford Art History Research Seminar series. It was a fascinating talk which prompted many valuable conversations, and we look forward to hearing more from her in the future.

The blog for the Department and Visual Resources Centre has some excellent new posts, including an update on the HEIR crowd-sourcing image project, Deborah's piece on the VRC's photo archives and a recent post on the Lee Johnson Delacroix Archive in the Department, co-authored by Emma and **Fiona Gatty (DPhil 2015)**: <https://oxfordarthist.wordpress.com/>. If you are interested in submitting a piece, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Emma at vr@hoa.ox.ac.uk to find out more.

Centre for Visual Studies

The Centre will be joined in Trinity Term 2016 by Erna Fiorentini from the Institute of Art and Visual History, Humboldt University, Berlin, who will be continuing her work on a critique of the concept of visualization. We will also be joined over the summer by Pedro Luengo from the University of Seville who will be working on 'Xiyanglou: A conflictive European dream in an 18th century Chinese garden'.

The Centre continues to host a number of research seminars and events, including the annual Image and Object workshop, this year taking the theme 'Enigma'; more to follow.

Student News:

Emily Knight (DPhil 2014-) will be carrying out research for her doctoral thesis, 'Art, Death and Memory: Posthumous Portraiture in Late Eighteenth to Early Nineteenth-Century Britain' at the Yale Center for British Art throughout April. Her time at the Center will focus on posthumous portraits of children and will make use of several important paintings and other works in the collection associated with death.

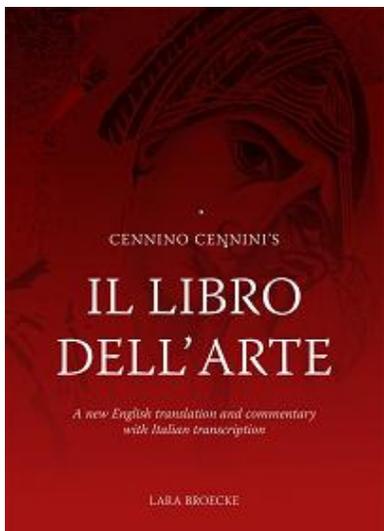
Alumni News:

Erik Bijzet (MSt 2008) has co-authored a book on a well-known Dutch collection of medieval sculpture and works of art: <http://www.waandersdekunst.nl/de-collectie-neutelings.html>.

He has recently left his position as Head of Auction Sales in the European Sculpture and Works of Art department at Sotheby's in London to start Erik Bijzet Sculpture and Works of Art in his hometown Amsterdam. He will be dealing in sculpture and works of art from the Middle Ages to the 19th century and providing art advisory services. His email address is info@erikbijzet.com.

Kerry Bourbié (née Gavaghan) (MSt 2009; DPhil 2014) has been working at the Hirsch Library at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston since January 2015. She recently co-curated an exhibition, *Violence and Precision: Artists' Manifestoes*, which was on view in the Library reading room from November 2015 to February 2016. She also published this blog post on the Museum website to accompany the exhibition: <http://www.mfah.org/blogs/inside-mfah/2015/how-make-artists-manifesto-recipe-revolution/>.

Lara Broecke (née Wilson) (MSt 2000) published a book last year, *Cennino Cennini's Il Libro dell'Arte. A New English Translation and Commentary with Italian Transcription*, which is reviewed at: <http://letteraturaartistica.blogspot.fr/2015/09/lara-broecke-cennino-cenninis-il-libro.html> and <https://www.iiconservation.org/node/6088>.



Sria Chatterjee (BA 2012), currently a PhD candidate at Princeton University, has been awarded the Paul Mellon Junior Research Fellowship for research towards her doctoral thesis *Making Nature Matter: case studies in the politics of art and ecology in modern India*. She will, therefore, be based in the UK in the autumn and will also speak at the 'Showing, Telling, Seeing: Exhibiting South Asia in Britain 1900 to Now' conference in London organized by the Paul Mellon Centre and the Tate Modern this summer. She is also a participant in the '[Anthropocene Campus: The Technosphere Issue](#)' at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), Berlin taking place this spring.

Rachel Dedman (BA 2011) is curating the inaugural satellite exhibition for the Palestinian Museum (based in the West Bank, Palestine), opening in Beirut this May, entitled *At the Seams: a Political History of Palestinian Embroidery*. She is presenting an expanded research exhibition, *HALCYON*, at the Transart Triennale in Berlin this August, continuing her work on Arabic science fiction; as well as exhibitions *Unravelled* at the Beirut Art Center and *Midad*, on Arabic calligraphy, at Dar el-Nimer in Lebanon. Rachel has contributed a chapter to the forthcoming Ibraaz publication *Future Imperfect: Cultural Institutions and Contemporary Art Practices in the Middle-East*, on the role of radical art pedagogy in the region, and is presenting a paper on this subject at the conference *Troubled Contemporary Art Practices in the Middle-East: Post-colonial conflicts, pedagogies of art history, and precarious artistic mobilisation*, held by the Universities of Nicosia and Birkbeck in Cyprus this June. Rachel is always happy to hear from other alumni working in the Middle-East: racheldedman@hotmail.com.



Liza Futerman (MSt 2013) has recently been granted the prestigious Vanier Doctoral Award on behalf of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for her ongoing doctoral research entitled 'Shifting Paradigms: Reframing the Discourse of Alzheimer's Disease (AD) through Cultural Representations and Personal Experience'. Liza's research focuses on the ways popular discourse of AD affects policymakers, patients and their families. She volunteers with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Israeli Alzheimer's Association to improve and institutionalize the respective national dementia strategies. In June, Liza is going to participate in the Institute for World Literature at Harvard University. Liza is happy to be contacted at: liza.futerman@mail.utoronto.ca.

More Alumni News:

Emily Girkins (BA 2012) is in the very early stages of a career as a painter, working out of a small studio in London. She is currently working as one of two artists in residence at the Dulwich Picture Gallery and has been producing work in the gallery one or two days a week since February. The work is geared towards a small exhibition in the gallery's Linbury Room beginning in mid May. The residency was set up principally in response to the final Van Dyck self-portrait saved for the nation in 2014, currently on display at the DPG but due to tour a number of institutions before finally returning to the National Portrait Gallery.

Assimina Kaniari (DPhil 2006), former graduate and Academic Visitor to the Art History Department, currently Lecturer in Art History at the Athens School of Fine Arts and Department of Art Theory and History, has been appointed member to the new Board of Directors of the Hellenic Festival S.A: <http://greekfestival.gr/en/news/article/new-board-of-directors>.

Ani Kodzhabasheva (MSt 2013) is finishing her second year as a PhD student at Columbia University in New York City. She was awarded the MA degree from Columbia in February and is excited to attend the graduation ceremony in May. Ani participated in three conferences over the past academic year. In October, she was a respondent in 'Accommodations', a workshop on architecture in East and Central Europe held at Columbia. In November, she presented the paper 'Elizabeth Bishop and Lota Soares: Architecture, Poetry, and the Pitfalls of Modernism' at the annual conference of the New York Metro American Studies Association (NYMASA). This March, Ani took part in the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association at Harvard University and spoke about 'Bauhausbauten Dessau (1930): Another Possible History of the Architecture Book'. Ani continues her position as co-organizer of the Collins/Kaufmann Forum for Modern Architectural History at Columbia. She is enjoying the intellectually stimulating environment and the spirit of interdisciplinary scholarship, and is learning to like New York City. This summer, Ani will be in Bulgaria on a research trip with the goal of pinning down a dissertation topic.

Alice Purkiss (MSt 2012) recently returned to the University as Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associate, working on a new collaboration between Oxford and the National Trust. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are part-government funded programmes intended to help spread knowledge from the academic world more widely to public bodies and the business sector. KTPs are most frequently employed within the science and technology industries, and this is the first time that such a project has been awarded to the Humanities Division at Oxford. Embedded within both TORCH and the National Trust's London and South East team, Alice has been tasked with crowdsourcing an online knowledge bank of bite-sized information about Trust properties for use by both staff and visitors.

The resource, *Trusted Source*, will draw out connections between collections, places, properties and people to allow visitors to gain a better understanding of their wider historical, social and geographical context, with entries rigorously researched and written by Oxford University academics, in particular DPhil students and early-career researchers in the Humanities division.

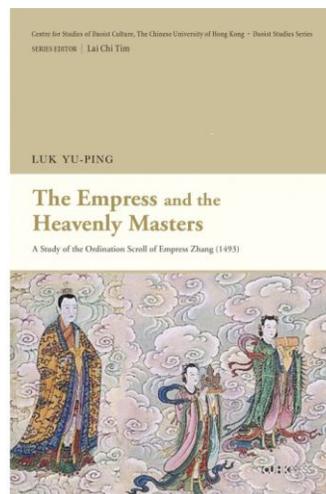
Please contact Alice at alice.purkiss@history.ox.ac.uk for information on collaboration opportunities or visit www.torch.ox.ac.uk/trusted-source.



An early subject for *Trusted Source*: The National Trust's gardens at Stowe.

Craig Simms (BA 2015) will be starting an MSc in Spatial Planning (Urban Conservation) at the University of Dundee this coming September.

Yu Ping Luk (DPhil 2010) has published her first book, *The Empress and the Heavenly Masters: A Study into the Ordination Scroll of Empress Zhang (1493)* (Chinese University Press, Hong Kong). Based on her DPhil thesis, the book explores Daoist practices and the relationship between a Ming empress and a Daoist institution through a monumental scroll in the collection of the San Diego Museum of Art. Yu Ping is currently Curator of Chinese Collections in the Asian Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum.



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