

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 have items for inclusion in the next issue, please email admin@hoa.ox.ac.uk

Department News:

People



Craig Clunas has been continuing to work on the drafts of his Mellon Lectures on 'Chinese Painting and its Audiences' for the Spring of 2012, as well as spending more time on the preparatory work for a major exhibition to be held at the British Museum in 2014, called 'Ming: Courts and Contacts', which he will co-curate with Jessica Harrison-Hall. As well as participating in the 'Image and Object' workshop, where he spoke about the then-imprisoned Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, Craig has given papers at a number of conferences. In March he spoke at a workshop on 'Rulers, Palaces, Wider Worlds: Ritual and Cultural Connections', at the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, and he participated in the 2011 Association of Art Historians Conference at the University of Warwick, where he spoke on 'Freedom of Brush and Ink: Chinese Literati Painting and Cold War Ideology', in a panel on 'Cold War Ideology and the History of Art'. He gave a paper at the Ming Provincial Courts Conference, Colgate University, USA, on a topic which relates to his forthcoming book, *Screen of Kings: Art, Power and Imperial Clan in Ming China*. And he gave the keynote address, on 'Beginning and Ending of Chinese Painting', at the Heidelberg Colloquy on East Asian Art History, where he also tried out his stand-up routine (pictured).

Hanneke Grootenboer has co-taught a new Special Subject Course on the Dutch Golden Age, together with colleague from History Dr Geert Janssen. The course is genuinely interdisciplinary whereby visual and verbal documentation are discussed side by side. Included in the course were trips to the Ashmolean Print Room, the Still Life Gallery and the National Gallery in London with Christopher Brown, Director of the Ashmolean Museum.

Hanneke's recent publications:

A review in the *Oxford Art Journal* entitled 'The Paradox of Still Life'; 'The Line of Thought', *Drawing a Hypothesis: Figures of Thought* A Project by Nikolaus Gansterer, ed. Nikolaus Gansterer (Vienna&New York: Springer Verlag, 2011), 305-15; 'The Thought of Painting', in *Vom Objekt zum Bild. Piktoriale Prozesse in Kunst und Wissenschaft, 1600–2000*, Bettina Gockel (Ed.), Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 2011, 43–63.

Geraldine Johnson continues to work on her Cambridge University Press book on the sensory reception of art in Renaissance Italy. She will be giving talks on this research at the College Art Association conference in Los Angeles and at the Renaissance Society of America conference in Washington, D.C., in the early Spring. Recently, she published a catalogue essay on a contemporary Anglo-Iranian sculptor and photographer for an exhibition held during London's Frieze Art Week in October: Reza Aramesh: 'Them Who Dwell on the Earth' (sponsored by Canvas Magazine and Mottahedan Projects). Her responsibilities as Tutor for Admissions at Christ Church have also been keeping her busy, especially during Michaelmas Term.

Giambologna, 'Venus Urania' (detail).
c. 1570s,
gilded bronze.
(Kunsthistorisches
Museum, Vienna)
[photo: Geraldine A.
Johnson]



Gervase Rosser and Jane Garnett have a forthcoming article in *Art Bulletin* (March 2012) which will be a trailer for their book, now complete and awaiting publication, on cults of miraculous images in Italy between 1500 and 2000.

In July, with **Alessandra Buccheri** (DPhil 2009), he led a group of thirteen first and second year BA students on a study tour in Sicily. They visited, sketched and discussed monuments from the diverse cultures of the island: Greek, Arabic, Norman, Baroque and twentieth century. They also swam.

Alastair Wright has written essays on Henri Matisse for forthcoming exhibitions at the Pompidou Centre in Paris and at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. He has also been researching the role played by sculpture in Paul Gauguin's construction of exoticized domestic settings. An essay on T.J. Clark's *Image of the People*, which appeared as part of the *Burlington Magazine's* series re-examining classic art historical texts, will be re-published by Thames and Hudson in a collected volume in the New Year. Alastair recently lectured at the University of Reading and continues to serve as editorial chair of the *Oxford Art Journal*.

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Rachel Woodruff showed one of her sculptures on the 'Fourth Plinth' in the Museum of the History of Science in August as part of the 'Eccentricity: unexpected objects and irregular behaviour' exhibition.

See www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/dog-and-bone-c-1997/



Visual Resources Centre

Many of you will remember the Department's Slide Library (now a part of the Visual Resources Centre) whose content we have recently been weeding, but less well-known are the Department's image archives, including (but not exclusively) a wealth of photographic material:

<http://tinyurl.com/44rcmrj> Largely unexplored, these collections could potentially represent part of a larger research project, so if you are interested in finding out more, Vicky - victoria.brown@hoa.ox.ac.uk - or Christine - christine.robertson@hoa.ox.ac.uk - would be glad to hear from you.

As well as appearing on the History of Art website, the Visual Resources Centre also maintains a public face on WebLearn (the University's VLE) <http://tinyurl.com/6a3qyz8> which is regularly updated with news about the VRC and new digital image collections from further afield.

Dept on the Web

The HoA Dept [Facebook page](#) goes from strength to strength, with 350 followers at the time of going to press. Further lectures and seminars from the Department have also been added to [iTunes U](#), including a number of sample core lectures and Dawn Ades' Slade Lectures on Surrealism from 2009.

Summer School

The second History of Art UNIQ Summer School took place from 17th to 22nd July, giving 15 state school teenagers the opportunity to find out about studying art history at university. They enjoyed talks at the Oxford museums, and independently researched and gave presentations on objects from the collections. The Summer School will run again in 2012. Further details at http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/working_with_schools_and_colleges/uniq/new_summer_school.html

Meeting of the Centre for Visual Studies 2011: Image and Object Workshop

The third workshop took place at the end of May, under the theme of 'The Senses'. Academics from across the University, including the Ruskin School and Modern Languages, explored the interrelations between visual objects and the senses, and their relation to visual culture at large, with talks grouped in themed sessions: 'Walking Living', 'Drawing Choking', 'Touching Feeling', 'Listening Remembering'.

The next workshop will take place on 18th May 2012, working title: 'Time'. More information to follow.



Many thanks to Shu Yi for the photograph, featuring two of Ai Weiwei's porcelain Sunflower Seeds.

Student News:

Edgar Wind Society

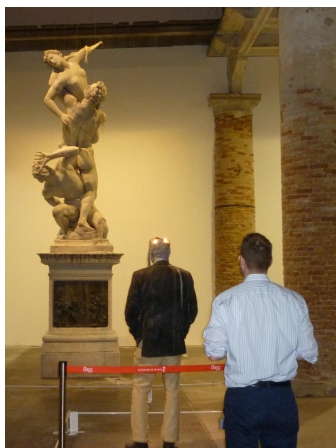
As well as successfully launching the second issue of the Edgar Wind Journal (with the theme of Art and Obscenity), the Edgar Wind Society has this term hosted talks by Professor Martin Kemp and Dr Hannah Williams. Fortnightly gallery tours of Oxford's collections, led by academics of the university, have been added to the calendar of regular events. The Society has had the pleasure of viewing Michelangelo and Raphael drawings with Dr Jon Whiteley in the Ashmolean Print Room, and next term looks forward to behind-the-scenes tours of the Ashmolean conservation department. www.theedgarwindsociety.com has been launched and is regularly updated with latest information about the society's events and its journal.



Kate Barush (DPhil 2007 -) has secured a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. The primary responsibility is to conduct full-time advanced scholarly research in the history, theory, criticism, and historiography of art and architecture under the direction of a dean for various research projects of the Center. Furthermore, research associates are encouraged to pursue their own research projects while at the Center (and have full use of the research facilities).

Monica Merlin (DPhil 2009 -) had an article published in the November issue of the prestigious journal 'Gender and History', entitled 'The Nanjing Courtesan Ma Shouzhen (1548-1604): Gender, Space and Painting in the Late Ming Pleasure Quarter'.

Alex J. Taylor (DPhil 2010 -) is was awarded the Robert L. Platzman Memorial Fellowship at the University of Chicago and the Terra Foundation for American Art Predoctoral Fellowship at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington DC. He also received the 2011 Terra Foundation for American Art International Essay Prize for his essay 'Unstable Motives: Propaganda, politics and the late work of Alexander Calder.' Drawn from his MSt dissertation, it will be published in the Spring issue of American Art. Alex's review of this year's Venice Biennale appears in the September issue of Art Monthly Australia.



A photo of Alex at the Arsenale with Urs Fischer's recreation of Giambologna's The Rape of the Sabine Women as a gradually melting wax candle.

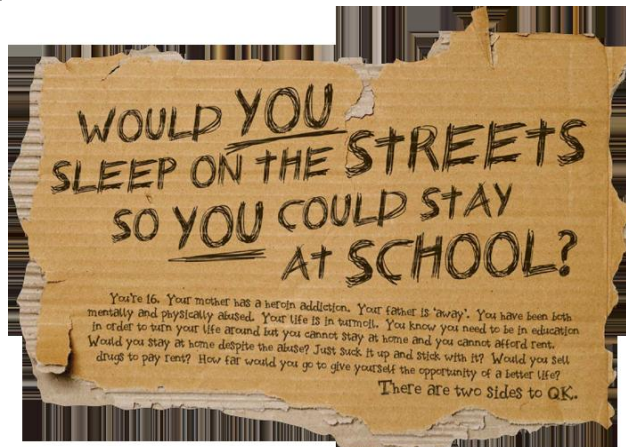
Alumni news:

Christina Anderson (DPhil 2011) has been awarded the Drapers' Company JRF at Hertford. Also, Christina's research business, 'Anderson Art Research' celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. The business offers a unique research service to dealers and collectors of fine art and antiques. As a professional art and antiques researcher with specialist knowledge of the relevant sources, Christina can help to solve difficult problems of provenance and place items within the appropriate historical context. See the website for more details:
<http://www.andersonartresearch.com/>

Andrew Budge (MSt 2011) has been awarded the Murray Research Studentship to study for a part time PhD at Birkbeck. Andrew's topic will be The Change in Architectural Style looking particularly at the Collegiate Churches founded between 1330 and 1370.

Rachel Dedman (BA 2011) has been awarded the Von Clemm Fellowship for 2012/13 and so will be embarking on postgraduate study in the History of Art Department at Harvard next year, focussing upon Contemporary Middle-Eastern Art. She will be going as a Special Student, and an ambassador for the Von Clemm Foundation, which connects Oxford and Harvard. Rachel plans to construct a tailor-made course of study, and hope to take a range of courses in politics, literature and language, to complement her emphasis on visual culture.

Holly Harris (BA 2011) is now Head of Fundraising for a charity called QK House, and is charge of managing fundraising events, website design, marketing campaigns and celebrity endorsement. Here is the official line of the charity: 'QK House will aim to provide a safe, stable and focused environment for Sixth Form students who find themselves in a situation that forces them to become homeless. Every year we experience large numbers of sixth form students who face the prospect of homelessness, and many of whom do in fact become homeless. Of course you will know that until recently these young people have been placed in local hostels in central London – unfortunately this is no longer an option for many of these students and they are absolutely desperate for some real and much needed help. QK House aims to do just that.'



Holly's email address is hollyharris@gkschool.org.uk if anyone would like to contact her regarding the charity.

Ruth Mason (BA 2010) has been awarded the Gillian Naylor Essay Prize for a paper which she wrote in the first term of her MA in History of Design at the V&A. The paper was on a communion token on display at the V&A and will be published in the forthcoming edition of the Journal of the Antique Metalware Society. Ruth is also part of a group of students from the course who are participating in the organisation of an academic conference at the V&A (in association with the Royal Society of Art) to mark the 150th anniversary of the 1862 International Exhibition. There will be no charge for the conference and they are hoping to get a range of speakers including V&A and Natural History Museum curators, historians, art historians and design historians. More details to follow!

For details of forthcoming lectures and seminars, including Departmental Research, Art History Research (Ashmolean) and news, keep checking the [Department website](#).

Many thanks to all contributors.