

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

Staff News

John Blakinger is the 2018-2019 Terra Visiting Professor of American Art. Since he joined us in September 2018 he has presented invited lectures on current research at the University of St Andrews; University of Cambridge; Modern Art Oxford; the University of Texas, Dallas; Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin; and here at Oxford as part of the History of Art Research Seminar and at Balliol College. He will present a new project exploring the global spread of American art through Robert Rauschenberg's Overseas Culture Interchange, a program that brought Rauschenberg to countries behind the Iron Curtain at the end of the Cold War, at The Courtauld Institute of Art this spring. He will also give a plenary lecture for the conference *Arts Patronage in Modern America*, to be held at Oxford's Rothermere American Institute at the end of June; the talk will explore ongoing protests over arts funding in the United States. John has also been preparing the Terra Lectures, which he will deliver at Worcester College's Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre in May (please see <https://www.hoa.ox.ac.uk/events> for further details). The series of four talks will examine recent controversies in the arts, including charged debates over race, money, and power, through their historical echoes in American art history. In addition to lecturing widely, John has finalized the manuscript for his book *Gyorgy Kepes: Undreaming the Bauhaus*, which will be published by The MIT Press this June.



Hanneke Grootenboer (left) with her students

Hanneke Grootenboer has been on sabbatical leave for Hilary Term 2018 and Trinity Term 2019 during which she finalised her third book, entitled *The Pensive Image* which will come out next year with the University of Chicago Press. The book argues for a philosophical and transhistorical art history and demonstrates that art, past and present, is a form of thinking.

She has also been invited to lecture, among other venues, at Wolfson College, Cambridge and at the Freie Universität in Berlin. Her interest in miniaturisation will be further explored in a key note lecture at a conference on *Small Things in the Eighteenth Century* at York University in June. The lecture will be about a miniature shell collection in a 17th century dollhouse. She is working on articles on the 19th century Belgium painter Antoine Wiertz, and on affect in the work of Spinoza, and is writing a series of book reviews, the first of which will come out in *Art History* this Spring. Last September, she went to Amsterdam with her Special Subject class on the Dutch Golden Age to visit the Rijksmuseum, the Rembrandt Huis and the Hermitage Amsterdam—a fantastic trip and great fun!

Ros Holmes recently co-curated an exhibition at the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art (CFCCA) in Manchester. The exhibition, entitled *Chinternet Ugly* invites viewers to explore the complex and contradictory nature of China's hyper-regulated digital sphere from the perspective of some of its most dynamic and engaging

young artists. The exhibition runs from 8 February until May 12. More information can be found here <http://cfcca.org.uk/exhibition/chinternet-ugly/>



Geraldine Johnson is currently completing an article on Donatello's Crucifix in Santa Croce in Florence, which also forms part of a chapter in her book on Renaissance art and the senses to be published by Cambridge University Press. She is also finishing a volume on sculpture and photography for Reaktion Books, among other projects. In addition to overseeing the FHS students this year, Geraldine continues to serve as an elected member of the University's Council and is the Junior Censor at Christ Church. She recently gave a lecture at Rhodes House in Oxford entitled *Visualising Diversity: Why Images (and Art Historians) Matter*, which included a discussion of her involvement in a project to diversify the University's visual environment. This resulted in an exhibition last year at the Weston Library entitled *The Full Picture: Oxford in Portraits*, with many of the commissions now on permanent display in Exam Schools, including one by History of Art MSt graduate Nicola Brandt.

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Martin Kemp's *Living with Leonardo, Fifty Years of Sanity and Insanity in the Art World and Beyond* (Thames and Hudson) was published in paperback in April. His edition of *The Life of Leonardo da Vinci by Giorgio Vasari* is shortly to be published (Thames and Hudson). His CD of vocal music by I Faglini for the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death was released on 26 April. <http://leonardo.ifagiolini.com/> The London premiere was at the Barbican on 28 April (coming to Oxford in October). He also gave a talk with Robert Hollingworth of I Faglini at the Oxford Literary Festival on 5 April.

Gervase Rosser has been in Italy over the Easter break beginning research on a new, 20th century project together with Jane Garnett. He is also in the early stages of preparing an exhibition of medieval manuscripts to be held in due course at Waddesdon Manor.

Alastair Wright presented new research on Gauguin's Martinique work at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam in October. His paper, which examined Gauguin's relationship to the complex racial and political divisions of the French Caribbean, will be published in a special issue of the Museum's journal in 2020. He gave another public lecture in the autumn at the Ashmolean Museum, this one on the paintings of Georges Seurat and their address to diverse audiences. In the summer his essay on Gauguin's self-portraits will be published in the catalogue of an exhibition of the artist's portraits at the National Gallery in London and the Canadian National Gallery in Ottawa.



Francesca Issatt (Visual Resources Assistant) represented the Department at the *Victorian Oxford through the Stereoscope* event held at the Weston Library. She spoke with visitors about the VRC lantern slides and showed items from the collection. Colleagues from the Institute of Archaeology were also present showing lantern slides from across Oxford University and College collections. The Department has collaborated with the Institute of Archaeology to digitise many of its architectural slides as part of the ongoing HEIR (Historic Environment Image Resource) project. heir.arch.ox.ac.uk/pages/home.php

Current Students

Altair Brandon-Salmon (BA 2018, currently studying MSt) has recently had a long article published in America magazine on the art collection at Campion Hall. <https://www.americamagazine.org/arts-culture/2019/01/11/martin-darcy-and-art-english-catholicism>

DPHil Students **Helena Guzik** and **Sylvia Alvares-Correa** are organising an interdisciplinary conference, *Pilgrimage and the Senses* (University of Oxford, 7 June 2019). The event is generously sponsored by the History of Art Department, the Oxford Centre for Early Modern Studies, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), and the Confraternity of St. James in London. The event falls under the auspices of The Oxford Pilgrimage Studies Network, recently founded and sponsored by TORCH, which Helena also runs. www.pilgrimagesenses2019.com

Alumni

Kathryn Barush (DPhil 2011) chaired a panel at the College Art Association 2019 Annual Conference entitled *Religious Objects and Modern/Contemporary Audiences*.

Lucy Byford (BA 2016) is in the first year of an AHRC-funded PhD at the University of Edinburgh, supervised by Dr Christian Weikop, having completed an MA in German Modernism at the Courtauld in 2017. Lucy's thesis looks at the relationship between the print culture and performance of Berlin Dada's members and their earlier satirical precedents in Germany, in particular political cabaret and Witzblätter (humour magazines). She would like to thank Professor Gervase Rosser for his ongoing support during the application and beyond.



Lucy Byford (second from left) with Gervase Rosser and fellow

Isobel Cockburn (BA 2017) works as a Communications Officer at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, Sir John Soane's country home in Ealing which is reopening on 16 March with an exhibition by Anish Kapoor.

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Anna Cruse (MSt 2014) has recently transferred her doctoral study from the University of Nottingham to the University of Warwick, where she is now working under the supervision of Professor Lorenzo Pericolo. She continues to work within the arena of 16th century Italy, and is currently examining the industry of art in Florence under Duke Cosimo I de Medici. She has also contributed to a monograph called '*Our Lincolnshire: Exploring Public Engagement with Heritage*', which is to be published by Archaeopress Access Archaeology later this year.

Ben Hoare (MSt 2013) has spent the last six years in contemporary art galleries - Kavi Gupta in Chicago and then Waddington Custot (formerly Waddington Galleries) in London. He has recently joined White Cube, London, working across both the primary and secondary market. Ben would love to engage with alumni who are either looking to build their collection, or those interested in learning more about the programme and history of White Cube.

Ani Kodjabasheva (MSt 2013) is currently based in Sofia while working towards her dissertation at Columbia University on architecture in late 19th century Bulgaria. On May 3, Ani will present a draft chapter at the *International Forum for Doctoral Candidates in Eastern European Art History* in Berlin.

David F. Lewis (DPhil 2014) has been appointed Assistant Professor of Architectural History at the University of Notre Dame (Indiana, USA).

Colin Ross (MSt 2017) works at Richard Gray Gallery, New York as Associate. In addition to working on exhibitions, publications, and other gallery affairs, Colin continues to pursue and share independent research. In late January, he presented a paper he wrote while at Oxford about Bruce Conner at an interdisciplinary art and science symposium held by the Stavanger Museum and University of Stavanger, Norway. In February, at the University of California, Berkeley's *HIGH/LOW: Taste, Quality, and Resolution in Film and Media* conference, he presented a thematic research project titled *The Image Against Itself: Pixels and Politics in the Age of High Resolution* which focuses on artist and activist practices at the edge of digital iconoclasm. Colin is looking forward to speaking about Jon Rafman's virtual reality video works within longer histories of immersive art at the Courtauld Institute's *Imagining the Apocalypse* conference this coming autumn.

Katherine Sedovic (MSt 2014) graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a PhD in medieval art history in June 2018 and on March 23 2019, will marry Richard Rush, a fellow Trinity alum and medievalist.



Katherine Sedovic



Cassiope Sydoriak (left)

Cassiope Sydoriak (MSt 2012) is currently at the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business on a Forte Fellowship that supports women in business and has just accepted a summer offer at McKinsey NYC in Marketing & Sales practice.

In October 2018 **David Zagoury (MSt 2014)** successfully defended his PhD thesis *The Autonomous Maker Within: 'Fantasia' in Sixteenth-Century Italian Art Theory* at the University of Cambridge. It examines the role played by the notion of 'fantasia' in the emergence of artistic dissidence in the early 16th century. A portion of this thesis is appearing under the title 'Vasari's Castle in the Air' in the *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, vol. LXXXI, 2018, pp. 249-267. David is based in Rome, where he is a Research Fellow at the Bibliotheca Hertziana - Max Planck Institute for Art History, working on a new project devoted to interactive media in the Renaissance. Since September 2018, he has been conceiving and teaching [a seminar on art and theory in 16th- and 17th-century Italy](#) at the University of Zurich.

David is currently writing about reversible and rotating images, interactive kitchenware (e.g. puzzle jugs), Robert Klein and Renaissance shields. He would be happy to hear from any Alumni interested in these topics (zagoury@biblhertz.it).

** Keep us posted! **

Please remember to update us on your activities. If you no longer wish to receive Alumni communications, please let us know via admin@hoa.ox.ac.uk.

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