



# History of Art Department Alumni Newsletter

## Issue 13. December 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](mailto:admin@hoa.ox.ac.uk)

### Department News:

**Craig Clunas'** involvement with an AHRC-funded research project on early Ming China came to an end with the publication of a volume of conference proceedings (Craig Clunas, Jessica Harrison-Hall and Luk Yu-ping, eds, *Ming China: Courts and Contacts 1400-1450*, British Museum Research Publications 205 (London, 2016)) for which he wrote the Introduction and an essay on 'Precious Stones and Ming Culture, 1400-1450'. Craig also published, 'Reading a Painter's Price List in Republican Shanghai', *Source: Notes in the History of Art* (Fall/Winter 2016), pp. 22-31. He gave the Jill and John Avery Lecture in Art History at the University of Pennsylvania and spoke also at Christie's (in celebration of the firm's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary), SOAS and at a conference on *Gold: The Universal Equivalent of Global Dreams, Desires, Arts, and Values in Early Modern History* at Villa I Tatti, Florence (his first visit to the city).

Craig was active in defence of the A-level in History of Art, on social media @CraigClunas and in responses to press enquiries; in his role as Chair of the British Academy section for History of Art and Music he had a letter published on the subject in *The Times*.

We are delighted to be able to share the news that Pearson has picked up the new A-level. Further details on the AAH website: <http://aah.org.uk/campaigns>

**Hanneke Grootenboer** is on leave for this year, spending her time at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Amsterdam. During her fellowship, she will complete her book on *The Pensive Image* and a series of articles.

**Geraldine Johnson** gave a keynote lecture in December on sculpture and photography at *Instant Presence: Representing Art in Photography*, a conference in Prague hosted by the Czech Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is also finalising the programme for the conference she is co-organising with alumna Deborah Schultz (DPhil 1998) in Oxford in April 2017: *Photo Archives: The Place of Photography*. The conference has received a number of grants, including from the Kress Foundation.

**Forgotten art**

Sir, As the UK's national body for the humanities and social sciences, the British Academy seeks to support and protect its disciplines, and therefore has serious concerns around AQA's decisions to discontinue A levels in archaeology and history of art.

As chairmen of the academy's history of art and archaeology sections, we believe this is a narrowing of opportunities for young people to engage with some of the most pressing issues of human culture, of what it means to be human, as well as providing important routes to careers in the burgeoning heritage sector.

The academy strongly supports the bodies seeking to ensure access to these qualifications is retained.

CRAIG CLUNAS, professor of the history of art, University of Oxford; GRAEME BARKER, Disney professor of archaeology emeritus, University of Cambridge

Current DPhil candidate Hannah Kinney is providing administrative assistance for the event and registration should be open early in the New Year. Geraldine is working on a number of other projects related to the photography of sculpture, as well as on her monograph on the materiality (and immateriality) of Renaissance art. She has also recently served as the academic consultant for a major television drama series on the Medici.

In September **Gervase Rosser** and Jane Garnett gave a number of lectures in Japan, at universities in Tokyo and Kyoto. Gervase spoke about medieval guilds, solidarity and the lessons of history; and, together with Jane, about miracle-working images in Italy between the Renaissance and the present day. In November he and Jane addressed an international conference on miraculous images at Rennes, speaking about the power of stories in the creation of image cults.



In October Gervase spoke at a multi-disciplinary symposium in Cambridge on the theme of *Grace*. His principal contribution was a paper on the Veronica of Christ and its presence in Dante's *Divine Comedy*. He recently delivered a lecture on 'Antonello da Messina, the Renaissance, and the History of Art', to the Oxford Italian Association. Gervase addressed a conference at Durham in June on *Urban Visual Cultures in the Middle Ages*, speaking about 'The Image of the Guild'. In a related field, this summer saw the publication of his *Towns in Medieval England: Selected Sources* (Manchester University Press). In July Gervase and Jane participated in a conference organised by Chinese colleagues, held in Tuscany, on the future of world cities. Gervase's continuing particular interests are the historiography of art history c.1900, and story-telling.

**Alastair Wright** spent the summer writing essays on Gauguin's dialogue with Mallarmé and on the intertwining of class and vision in Ford Madox Brown's work. In October he delivered a paper on Fauvism at an international Matisse symposium held at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia. Whilst there he was happy to catch up with Diana Maddison (MSt 2016) who was working as a curatorial intern at the Barnes.

**David Lubin** is with us from Wake Forest University, North Carolina this year as Terra Foundation Visiting Professor of American Art. He has published two books in 2016. *Grand Illusions: American Art and the First World War* (OUP)

shows how the divided nature of American society on the eve of US intervention in the Great War led painters, sculptors, photographers, and filmmakers, among other visual artists, to employ provocative, even incendiary, imagery either for or against joining the conflict. David also co-edited the exhibition catalogue *World War I and American Art* (Princeton University Press), which appeared in conjunction with a museum exhibition by the same name that he and his colleagues curated for the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. The exhibit opened in Philadelphia in November and will travel to New York in May. He published an essay on the 1920s in *Three Centuries of Prints from the National Gallery of Art* (National Gallery, Washington) and an essay on American modernism and the First World War in *1914: Guerre et avant-gardes* (Presses Universitaires de Paris Ouest).

**Matthew Walker**, Departmental Lecturer, has finished his book, *Architects and Intellectual Culture in Restoration England*, which will be published by Oxford University Press next year. His thoughts are now turning to his next project, which will explore English writing about ancient architecture in the seventeenth century, with a particular focus on antiquarian texts and travel writing. He spent the summer organising a big conference on the architecture of his home town, Plymouth, which took place in September. Across four days, members of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain toured important buildings in the city, with an emphasis on postwar theatres, churches and retail architecture, as well as eighteenth and nineteenth-century naval buildings.

**Jennifer Johnson**, Visiting Lecturer in History of Art, continues to teach for the Department. She has been awarded a Junior Research Fellowship at St John's College to work on a new research project tentatively titled 'Monstrosity and Anti-Heroism', which will reconsider the 'primitive' and the influence of theatre on avant-garde art in Paris (1880-1960) in relation to the work and legacy of Alfred Jarry.

### Visual Resources Centre

**Francesca Issatt** joined us in October as Visual Resources Assistant. She has previously worked on a number of projects to digitise historic photographic material, including at the University of Leeds. Francesca studied Photography for her BA degree and also has a Masters in Photographic History and Practice from De Montfort University.



Francesca is happy to hear from alumni who are interested in using the VRC collections. She can be contacted at [vcrc@hoa.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vcrc@hoa.ox.ac.uk).

The [Department blog](#) has had some great posts over the last few months including current BA student Ella Letort on her second year collections placement in the Ashmolean, Lucy Whelan (current DPhil candidate) and Anita Paz (Ruskin) on their *Thinking Colour* symposium, and Alice Purkiss (MSt 2012) on Oxford's new collaboration with the National Trust, *Trusted Source*. If you are interested in submitting a blog post, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Francesca at [vcrc@hoa.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vcrc@hoa.ox.ac.uk) to find out more.

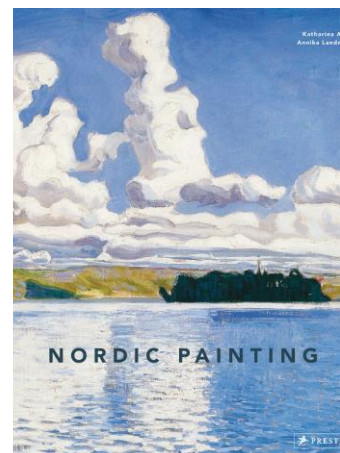
## Student News:

**Alessia Pannese (DPhil 2015- )** was awarded a Junior Fellowship from the European Institute for Advanced Studies (EURIAS) programme for the academic year 2016-17 at the Paris Institute for Advanced Studies, as well as a Senior Scholarship at Exeter College. In July she presented a poster at the conference 'Performing identities' (University of Bristol), and in September a paper on addiction and modernity at the conference *Disease of Modernity* (St Antony's College, Oxford). She published a shortened version of her MSt dissertation on Kant's transcendental idealism and Beckford's gothic novel *Vathek* in the journal *Janus Head* (Vol. 15, Issue 2, pp. 45-82).

**Sajda van der Leeuw (DPhil 2015- )** is a current Terra Foundation Predoctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington DC, where she is engaged in archival research in the Archives of American Art for her dissertation on Land Art and its use of photography, film and television. Thanks to a research grant from the Smithsonian, Sajda was also able to travel to Utah, to view Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty*, which has been dry since last year due to the diminishing Great Salt Lake's water level.

## Alumni News:

**Katharina Alsen (née Wolff) (MSt 2012)** recently published [Nordic Painting. The Rise of Modernity](#). The book deals with modernist art from the Nordic countries including a final chapter dedicated to contemporary Nordic art. With her co-author, the aim was to create a critical survey that questions established narratives of the avant-gardes, issues of post-colonialism, and art-geographical concepts such as Norden, Scandinavia, and the Arctic.



**Kathryn Barush (DPhil 2011)** has published her book: [Art and the Sacred Journey in Britain, 1790- 1850](#). Other recent publications include 'Swords to Shoes: Pedagogy and Pilgrimage along the Camino Ignaciano' (with Hung Pham, SJ) in *Practical Matters: A Journal of Religious Practices and Practical Theology* (July 2016) and 'The Root of the Route: Phil's Camino Project and the Catholic Tradition of Surrogate Pilgrimage' in [Practical Matters: A Journal of Religious Practices and Practical Theology](#) (June, 2016). She is the recipient of the George Greenia Fellowship in Pilgrimage Studies, which will bring her back to the UK to research the revival of medieval music and chant along ancient British pilgrimage routes! She also became an advisor for the British Pilgrimage Trust in June. Kathryn recently organised a series of lectures with a grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) on Science, Art, and Religion at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. Speakers included iconographer Aidan Hart, Emeritus Professor of Art History at the University of Oxford, Martin Kemp, and Dr Bronwyn Ormsby, Senior Conservation Scientist at Tate Britain.



## Alumni News Continued:

**Rosalind Blakesley (née Gray) (DPhil 1997)** is now Reader in Russian and European Art at the University of Cambridge, where she is also the Head of the Department of History of Art. Her latest book, [\*The Russian Canvas: Painting in Imperial Russia 1757-1881\*](#) was published by Yale in 2016.



Rosalind also curated and wrote the catalogue for the exhibition *Russia and the Arts: The Age of Tolstoy and Tchaikovsky* at the National Portrait Gallery, London, and advised on its partner exhibition at the State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, called *From Elizabeth to Victoria: British Portraits from the Collection of the National Portrait Gallery*.

**Rebecca Daniels (Diploma 1991; M.Litt 1993; DPhil 2003)** has finished work as Associate Editor and Art historical researcher of the 5-volume *Francis Bacon: Catalogue Raisonné* that was published in June 2016 after 10 years of preparation. She is currently researching a book on Francis Bacon's career as an interior designer. Rebecca is also a Trustee of the Sidney Nolan Trust, based in Herefordshire. She is curating an exhibition at Pallant House, 'Transferences: Sidney Nolan in Britain' (Feb to Jun 17) which explores Nolan's *oeuvre* in Britain after he moved to the UK permanently in 1953. This exhibition is part of a year-long series of events marking the centenary of the artist's birth.

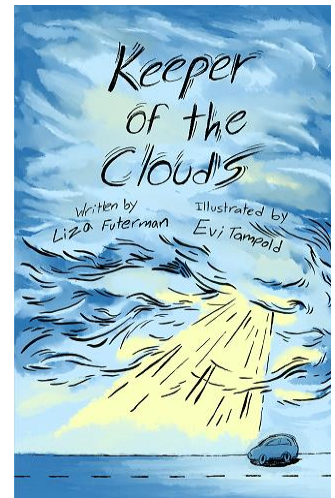
**Ashley (Miller) Dunn (MSt 2009)** started in July as an assistant curator in the Department of Drawings and Prints at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where she is responsible for nineteenth-century French works on paper. She hopes anyone associated with HoA at Oxford will let her know if they come to visit the Study Room at the Met!

**Ana Finel-Honigman (MSt 2003; DPhil 2015)** is going back to study for a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health at Johns Hopkins University, where she will train to support and guide people struggling with addiction and managing life in recovery. When she completes, she plans to return to her home in Berlin to start a private practice working in English with artists, other creative freelancers and the LGBTQ communities. She sees a clear path between her scholarly work at Oxford and her future work as a mental health professional; artists' creative attempts to express their mental health issues through their artwork. Her own experience is also the foundation for her dedication to helping others achieve sobriety. If anyone wants advice about resources in Oxford, you can reach her at: [afinelh1@jhu.edu](mailto:afinelh1@jhu.edu).

**Hilary Floe (BA 2009; MSt 2011)** completed her DPhil this spring: *The Museum of Modern Art Oxford, 1965-1982: Exhibitions, Spectatorship and Social Change*, and has moved to Yorkshire to take up a new position as Assistant Curator at the Hepworth Wakefield.

**Liza Futerman (MSt 2013)** is currently in the third year of her PhD at the University of Toronto where she researches the social determinants of dementia and the use of creativity and arts in dementia care.

In October, Liza published her first graphic memoir about her mother's dementia (illustrated by Evi Tampold). As part of her advocacy and research in the field of culture change in dementia care and education, she has recently founded and is now co-leading a creative and interdisciplinary research group entitled 'De-pathologizing Dementia'. She is also collaborating on her emerging social enterprise start up [ArtsForDementia.com](http://ArtsForDementia.com) which is currently in the stages of development and fundraising.



The web platform and App aim to provide practical tools for family and institutional carers to engage in fun and meaningful ways with individuals living with dementia and Alzheimer's through creativity.

**Fiona Gatty (MSt 2007; DPhil 2015)** is still working full-time as a Project Advisor for the Templeton World Charity Foundation, and is now responsible for the Character Virtue Development Portfolio of grants. Though she is still based in Oxford (in Material Science), this position takes her all over the world, providing the opportunity to see museums and galleries off the beaten track. She organised and chaired the 2016 Michaelmas Term RESCO Seminars, '*Researching the Eighteenth-Century*', and continues to prepare for the 2018 '*Winckelmann and Taste*' Workshop which she is organising with Lucy Russell (DPhil candidate, Modern Languages). She has written a series of short articles for Somerville College; for the annual Somerville magazine on 'Art and Science in the work of Mary Somerville,' and recently a written accompaniment to the *Many Hands; Portrait of a College* exhibition by the Somerville Artist-in-Residence Patrice Moor. She currently has an article on the Somerville Chapel (where she was Chapel Director during her DPhil) under expert review for the Journal of Material Religion, which she hopes will be published in the New Year. On occasion she also does some teaching for the Middlebury Exchange programme and Wycliffe Hall in Art History and Aesthetics.

**Allison Goudie (DPhil 2014)** has co-curated the exhibition *Australia's Impressionists*, which opened this month at the National Gallery and is running until 26 March. A fellow alumnus of the Department, Alex Taylor, has also contributed to the catalogue.

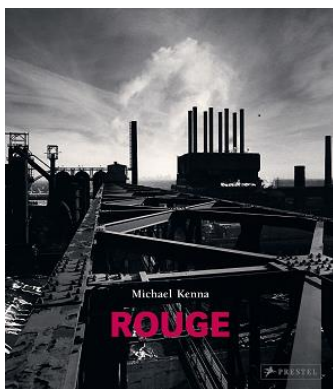
## More Alumni News:

**Amanda Hilliam (MSt 2013)** won this year's Denis Mahon Essay Prize for a chapter of her Masters dissertation. The title of her essay was 'The Primacy of Disegno: Filippo Baldinucci and the drawings of Ludovico Cigoli', which formed part of her dissertation supervised by Craig Clunas, and there was a cash prize of £1000. She delivered the paper as a lecture in Italian in Cento, near Bologna, and it will be published in a catalogue by the Sir Denis Mahon Charitable Trust. Currently she is a doctoral researcher at the National Gallery, London and Oxford Brookes University, working on three-dimensionality and the interaction between art forms in the work of Carlo Crivelli.

**Ani Kodzhabasheva (MSt 2013)** is in her third year as a PhD student at Columbia University. This is also her second year as a teaching assistant in courses on architectural history. She enjoys leading discussion-based classes for undergraduate students. As a fellow of Columbia's Teaching and Learning Center this year, she is opening her classroom to outside observers and collaborating with PhD students from other disciplines to improve teaching strategies. She continues to present her research at conferences: she recently spoke about the Berlin TV Tower at *I Love Pop*, a comp lit conference at the CUNY Graduate Center. She also still serves as co-organiser of the Collins/Kaufmann Forum for Modern Architectural History. Sometimes she writes for an outsider art blog. She lives in New York City. Her email address is [k.ani@columbia.edu](mailto:k.ani@columbia.edu)

**Adam Levine (DPhil 2012)** has been promoted to Associate Director at the Toledo Museum of Art. He remains the Associate Curator of Ancient Art as well.

**Ruth Millington (MSt 2011)** started working for the University of Birmingham's College of Arts and Law in September, managing the internships programme for students. If you are interested in taking on an intern or have a graduate vacancy, please email [R.Millington@bham.ac.uk](mailto:R.Millington@bham.ac.uk). Ruth has also launched a business offering copywriting for creatives, and specialist careers advice: <http://ruthmillington.azurewebsites.net>.



**James Steward (DPhil 1997)** is now in his 8th year as Director of the Princeton University Art Museum, and his directorship has now been endowed as the following: Nancy A. Nasher-David J. Haemisegger, Class of 1976, Director. Also, [Michael Kenna Rouge](#), for which he wrote the lead essay, was published in October by Prestel.

### \*\* 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](mailto:admin@hoa.ox.ac.uk)

**Cheri (Pitchapa) Supavatanakul (MSt 2012)** worked after graduation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Thailand on the Green Diplomacy Project - a project aimed to promote Thailand's environmental and sustainable development efforts through documentary screenings, exhibitions, and lectures. A year later, he entered the private sector to work on another development project in Myanmar, and then joined an Asset Management firm to launch Thailand's first ESG-based (Environmental, Social, and Governance) mutual fund - the first of its kind to invest only in sustainably responsible companies, and donate its income towards developmental projects in rural Thailand. While working full-time, he continues to volunteer at the Thai Art Archives as a Global Research Associate. His latest contributions can be found in the recently launched Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism: <https://www.rem.routledge.com/>.

**Alex Taylor (MSt 2010; DPhil 2014)** was appointed Assistant Professor and Academic Curator, History of Art and Architecture, University of Pittsburgh. Refiguring American Art, the Terra Foundation research initiative he led at Tate, will culminate with an international conference and collection display at Tate Liverpool in mid-2017.

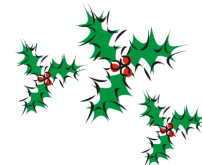
**Honor Wilkinson (MSt 2015)** is the Curatorial Assistant and Manager of Student Programs at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in Brunswick, Maine, USA: <http://www.bowdoin.edu/art-museum/>. In addition to contributing to curatorial research and exhibition development, Honor acts as the Museum liaison to the Bowdoin students and coordinates the educational programming for school groups. She is currently curating an exhibition titled *Modern Medieval: Materiality and Spirituality in German Expressionism* (16 Feb – 4 Jun 17), which will explore the influence of medieval visual culture on German avant-garde artists in the early-twentieth century. Earlier this year she was a co-curator for two Bowdoin College Museum of Art exhibitions, *To Count Art an Intimate Friend: Highlights from Bowdoin Collections, 1794 to Today* and *Barbara Cooney: Drawing Biography*, and she contributed content to the exhibition catalogue *Why Draw? 500 Years of Drawings and Watercolors from Bowdoin College*, which will be published in May 2017.

### CAA Reunion, Feb 2017

If you are attending the College Art Association Annual Conference in New York in February and would like to join an informal Oxford reunion with other alumni and Dept staff, please email [jennifer.johnson@hoa.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.johnson@hoa.ox.ac.uk).

Any finally, many congratulations to **Monica Merlin (DPhil 2013)** who had a daughter, Aila, in September, and **Ros Holmes (DPhil 2015)** who had a son, Finn, in November.

*Season's Greetings to everyone  
from all at HoA!*



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