



# History of Art Department Alumni Newsletter

## Issue 9. September 2014



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

### Department News:

**Craig Clunas** gave the keynote address at the conference 'Chinese Opera in Visual and Material Culture' at the University of Chicago in April. His lecture on 'Metapainting and the Chinese Example' can now be watched online at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/emforum/events/metapietorial/>.

He's mostly been deep in preparation for the exhibition, 'Ming: 50 years that changed China', [http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats\\_on/exhibitions/ming.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/exhibitions/ming.aspx) which opens at the British Museum on 18 September; writing part of the catalogue, working on labels and multimedia guides, and even coming up at short notice with suggestions for Ming-themed cocktails (anyone for a Mingtini?). An interview about the exhibition was published in UK Business Post, the UK Chinese-language newspaper, and he spoke about the show to the Edgar Wind Society and to Chinese scholars and students in Oxford. Craig is on research leave until TT15.

**Hanneke Grootenboer's** book on *Treasuring the Gaze* won the Kenshur Prize for best interdisciplinary book in 18th century studies from Indiana University in Bloomington, US; she travels to Bloomington this month to receive the award.

Hanneke accompanied a group of BA students on a trip to Italy over the Easter break, visiting Florence, Siena and Volterra.



Hanneke also co-convened the inaugural symposium of The Institute for Visual Research, 'Art Out of Time: Challenging Periodization' at which art historians, artists and curators from museums, art schools and universities in Oxford and beyond jointly gave their view on bringing objects from different time periods and different geographical areas together. Speakers included Amy Powell from UC Irvine, Whitney Davis, from Berkeley and the University of York, Elizabeth Price

(Turner Prize winner 2012), and Alexander Sturgis, the incoming Director of the Ashmolean Museum. In a series of four workshops lead by (former) HoA graduates, more in-depth discussions alternated with general Q&A sessions. The reception was held in the newly installed show by Barbara Kruger in Modern Art Oxford.

Hanneke is on secondment as Head of the Ruskin School of Art, 2014-16.



**Geraldine Johnson** visited Paris at the beginning of the summer for the opening of the exhibition on the French sculptor Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux at the Musée d'Orsay. While there, she also visited several exhibitions and collections related to her research on sculpture and photography, as well as looking at Renaissance works in Parisian museums. She will be Head of Department in the coming academic year.

**Gervase Rosser** and Jane Garnett are the joint winners of the Art and Christianity Enterprise (ACE) International Book Prize 'for a book which makes an outstanding contribution to the dialogue between religious faith and the arts'. Their book about miraculous images, *Spectacular Miracles. Transforming Images in Italy from the Renaissance to the Present*, is published by Reaktion Books:

<http://www.reaktionbooks.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781780231051>

**Alastair Wright** will be a Leverhulme Research Fellow for the 2014-2015 academic year. During his research leave he will work on a book examining representations of death and belatedness in Neo-Impressionism. He has recently completed an essay on Gauguin's interest in the frailties of vision for an exhibition to take place at the Beyeler Foundation in 2015 and is preparing an article on the politics of embodied spectatorship in the work of Ford Madox Brown. He continues to serve on the editorial board of the Oxford Art Journal.

**Matthew Walker** has recently been appointed to a Lectureship in the Department and he is delighted that he will be staying on in Oxford for two more years. In May, he and Clare Hills-Nova (the Art and Architecture Librarian of the Bodleian) organised an Edgar Wind Society event at the Taylor Institute in Oxford. Matthew gave a short presentation on Robert Taylor and the audience then enjoyed a temporary exhibition of Taylor's drawings and architectural books. The evening was a great success; with Taylor's immaculately preserved collection of Piranesi etchings deemed to be the highlight. In June, Matthew also gave a paper on the collections of the English architect William Talman. In the talk, which took place in the Ashmolean, he presented research that he has undertaken in the Print Room of the Museum. He is now busy finishing his first book, provisionally titled *Architecture and Knowledge in Early Modern England*.

**Camille Mathieu** also joins the Department this coming academic year as a Departmental Lecturer for one year while Alastair is on research leave. Camille will teach the BA option on *The Experience of Modernity* and the MSt optional course on *French Painting, 1880-1912*.

Find out more about Camille here:

<http://www.hoa.ox.ac.uk/staff/core-academic/dr-camille-mathieu.html>

**Mirjam Brusius** has begun her two-year Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the History of Photography in association with the Bodleian Library. Whilst at Oxford, Mirjam will undertake research in the Oxford museum and photography collections, including Middle Eastern material and the Bodleian Library's recent acquisition of additional papers by William Henry Fox Talbot. Find out more about Mirjam here:

<http://www.hoa.ox.ac.uk/staff/research-associates/mbrusius.html>

We are delighted that former Slade Professor **Larry Schaaf** has returned to Oxford as a Visiting Professor for three years, also in association with the Bodleian and working on the Fox Talbot archive. Mirjam and Larry are both contributing to a panel on Talbot as part of the Photography Oxford festival next month, see

<http://www.photographyoxford.co.uk/events.html>.

**Leon Wainwright**, Departmental Academic Visitor – see <http://www.hoa.ox.ac.uk/staff/academic-visitors/lwainwright.html> – has recently co-edited *Triennial City: Localising Asian Art*. Details at:

<http://www.cornerhouse.org/bookstore/product/triennial-city-localising-asian-art-asia-triennial-manchester-2011>

Leon returns to the Department in Michaelmas Term 2015 to continue his work on a monograph of art of Hispanic, Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean countries and the next Art in Theory volume, with a particular emphasis on globally interconnected histories of art, addressing a wide historical span (from the year 1400 to the present).

### **Visual Resources Centre**

This summer in the Visual Resources Centre two of this year's MSt students, **Dina Akhmadeeva** and **Dan Udy** have been working on the initial phase of digitising selected materials from both the 35mm and lantern slide (3¼" plate slide) collections.

These will be made available for teaching and research and some of the historic materials will also feed into the HEIR Project <http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/HEIR.html> in which we are project partners and contributors.

Vicky is also co-organising with the HEIR Project directors, Dr Sally Crawford and Dr Katharina Ulmschneider, a workshop taking place at TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities) on 15 November around the theme 'The History of Photography and the Photography of History', as part of the *Being Human Festival* <http://beinghumanfestival.org/>. Following on from the success of the Departmental [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#) feed, Clare and Vicky are currently working on a new blog for the Department and Visual Resources Centre which it is hoped will be launched very soon – watch this space!

### **AAH Careers Day – share your career insights!**

Our Careers Adviser, Lucy Hawkins, has asked whether any students/alumni are planning to attend the Association of Art Historian's annual careers event in October at the University of Birmingham? If anyone is planning to attend and wouldn't mind writing up an account of the event, that would be much appreciated! Details at <http://www.aah.org.uk/events/careers-in-art-history>. If you can help, please email

[lucy.hawkins@careers.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.hawkins@careers.ox.ac.uk)

Lucy is also looking for alumni who might be willing to return to Oxford to share their career tips and advice in person, particularly for the Arts Media and Marketing Career Fair on 6 November 2014 (2.30-6 pm, Oxford Town Hall). For more information, please email [artsandmedia@careers.ox.ac.uk](mailto:artsandmedia@careers.ox.ac.uk).

### **Student News:**

5 MSt students, **Anita Paz**, **Bethany Pleydell**, **Rahul Kulka**, **Dina Akhmadeeva** and **Lauren Kaufman**, contributed to the current display in the Ashmolean Museum of the famous Gibbons Frame, traditionally adorning a portrait of Elias Ashmole and now for the first time exhibited in its own right.



**Anna Winestein (DPhil 2005-)** contributed an essay, 'Russia's Icons of Dance' to the catalogue of the Dance and Fashion exhibition at Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology (forthcoming, Fall 2014, Yale University Press). She will also speak about Russian/Soviet ballet stars and style in a symposium at FIT in October 2014. Anna was quoted in the June 2014 issue of the Art Newspaper in an article about a retrospective of the work of Mikhail Roginsky that opened at the University Ca' Foscari in Venice in connection with the Architectural Biennale. She also contributed an essay to the exhibition catalogue.

## Alumni News:

### *BA Tenth Anniversary Party*

A party to celebrate ten years of the BA Degree in the History of Art (2004-2014) was held on 10 June at St Catherine's College.



Attended by almost two-thirds of alumni and by most current undergraduates, together with teaching and administrative staff, this was a festive reunion and a milestone in the creation of a continuing community of past and present members of the Department. Short presentations by alumni were appreciated especially by current students as heartening testimony to the varied possibilities (as well as challenges) of life beyond the Degree. The tables were turned on teaching staff, who attempted to emulate the 'object essay' talks of the first-year undergraduates. The main event was conversation, whether over lunch in hall or coffee in the sun. Between the reunion of old friends and the creation of new contacts, the occasion was felt to be a great success. It is hoped that future events may continue to bring the extended network of the Department together.



**\*\* Keep us posted! \*\***

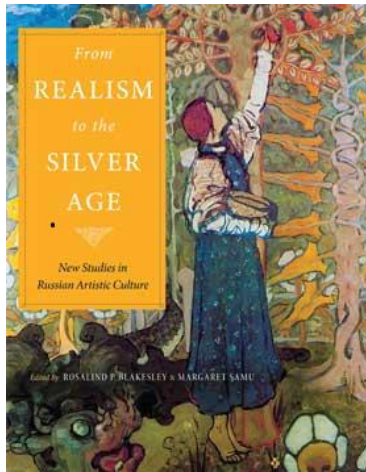
**Do update us on your activities since leaving the Department, and your contact details if they have changed since you submitted your alumni form: [admin@hoa.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admin@hoa.ox.ac.uk)**

## More Alumni News:

**Selee Ahn (MSt 2013)** got married last November in Hawaii, and then returned to Korea to attend the Arts Management PhD at Seoul National University as the youngest student ever to be accepted on the department's PhD program!

**Kathryn Barush (DPhil 2011)** has accepted a post as Assistant Professor of Art History and Religion at the Graduate Theological Union. This faculty position is supported by the Thomas E. Bertelsen, Jr., Endowment in Art History and Religion for the benefit of both the GTU and the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, where she will hold a courtesy appointment.

**Rosalind Blakesley (DPhil 1997)** (nee Gray) is now Reader in Russian and European Art at the University of Cambridge, and co-director of the Cambridge Courtauld Russian Art Centre.



Her latest co-edited volume, *From Realism to the Silver Age: New Studies in Russian Artistic Culture*, was published by Northern Illinois University Press in 2014:

<http://www.niupress.niu.edu/niupress/scripts/book/bookResults.asp?ID=696>

**Sria Chatterjee (BA 2012)** has been a fellow at the Kunsthistorisches Institut Florenz - Max Planck Institut for the academic year 2013–14. At the KHI, in June 2014, she organized with Eva Maria Troelenberg, the symposium 'After the Global: Constructions of Historiography in Visual and Material Spaces'. A publication of the proceedings is in the works.

**Harriet Costelloe (MSt 2013)** is now back in Oxford as a Digital Archivist at the Bodleian Library. She is processing a range of archival material on both traditional and digital formats, and the Bodleian is sponsoring her to become a qualified archivist.

**Rachel Dedman (BA 2011)** completed a Fellowship at Harvard last year and has since been living and working in Beirut, Lebanon. Here she has been a participant in Ashkal Alwan's Home Workspace Program, for which she is co-editing a publication, *History as Commodity*, in association with e-flux. Rachel is also writing and curating projects for the Palestinian Museum (Ramallah), Visualizing Palestine (Beirut), The Mosaic Rooms (London) and for 98weeks (Beirut) as curator-in-residence. She was recently announced as the first-place winner of the apexart (New York) Franchise Program 2014-15, with the exhibition 'Space Between Our Fingers', opening in Beirut next May. Rachel was awarded a full scholarship by Independent Curators International to attend their Curatorial Intensive in Moscow in August,

where discussion explored contemporary curatorial practice in regions with emerging art infrastructures, cultures and institutions. She would love to connect with other alumni working on or in the Middle-East!

**Laura-Jane Foley (MSt 2005)** is now a writer and academic. After Oxford, she worked as a journalist and edited *Politick!*; a national political magazine for young people and also wrote and edited *The Butterfly Book*; a charity art book which included work by Grayson Perry, Peter Blake, Kate Winslet and many others. Returning to academia, Laura-Jane passed her PhD in 2013. The title was 'Lucian Freud Portraits: Curatorial Ekphrasis in Contemporary British Poetic Practice'. Laura-Jane now combines lecturing and writing. She is a lecturer in History of Art in the Institute of Continuing Education at Cambridge University. Her play 'An Evening with Lucian Freud' is being performed in the West End in 2015. She is keen to connect with fellow Art Historians. Her twitter username is @laurajanefoley.

**Liza Futerman (MSt 2013)** is currently working as an in-house editor at Deutsche Telekom at Ben-Gurion University, Israel. She won the Connaught award for a PhD at the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto starting this month. She will be looking at representations of memory and memory loss through photographs, life writings and documentaries. Moreover, a paper Liza wrote for Craig's seminar will be published in Cambridge Scholars Press (CSP) in the next few months. The paper is entitled: 'Cloning and the Visual Formation of Identity in Doctor Who and Mary Shelley's Frankenstein'.

**Arthur Laidlaw (BA 2013)** is having an exhibition in Chattanooga, Tennessee, starting on 25<sup>th</sup> September and running for about a month. He will be giving a lecture about the work on the evening of the private view.  
<http://www.gallery1401.com/>



The King's Arms (2013) © Arthur Laidlaw

**Chelsea Souza (MSt 2013)** is working at the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. in the Department of Protocol and Special Events. In December of last year, she gave a tour titled 'The National Gallery of Art and the Monuments Men' to Professor Henry Woudhuysen, Rector of Lincoln College and the Lincoln College Alumni Group in Washington, D.C.

**David Zagoury (MSt 2014)** has been awarded a Cambridge Trust Scholarship for a PhD at Queens' College, Cambridge.

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