



Department of Art History

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Alumni Spotlight

Art history alumnus Clifford Ackley honored with school's top honor



Clifford Ackley views work at Peabody Museum

The 2011 Ellis F. Lawrence Medal was presented in June to Clifford S. Ackley, curator and chair of the Department of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. He oversees one of the world's great collections of art on paper. Originally from Tillamook, Oregon, Ackley studied art history and printmaking at the UO from 1955 to 1959. He gave a number of talks during his visit and was the guest speaker at the annual art history graduation and awards reception on June 12.

After graduating with his BA in art history, Ackley studied in the Netherlands on a Fulbright scholarship, then attended graduate school in art history at Harvard, where he had been admitted with guidance from his UO advisor, Marion Dean Ross. After graduate school he returned to Europe, this time studying seventeenth-century Dutch printmaking at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the British Museum in London.

In 1980–81 he developed the ambitious exhibition and catalog *Printmaking in the Age of Rembrandt*, still the only comprehensive study of Dutch printmaking from the late sixteenth century to 1700. In 2003 Ackley narrowed his focus and curated the blockbuster exhibition *Rembrandt's Journey: Painter, Draftsman, Etcher*.

Research in ancient architecture fuels lifelong work of professor

Alumnus Robert Ousterhout received his BA in art history in 1973 from the UO and today he serves as professor in the history of art and director of the Center for Ancient Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He divides his time between teaching during the school year and summers at his second home in Istanbul, Turkey. His field



Love of fieldwork steers alumnus Robert Ousterhout's research in Byzantine architecture, history

research deals with the documentation, interpretation, and restoration of the vanishing architectural heritage of the eastern Mediterranean.

His interest in the eastern Mediterranean decided his future. He has surveyed and excavated sites in Greece, Turkey, and Israel, but Istanbul continues to draw him back. "The history, the city surrounded by water, the food, and big-city hustle and bustle all appealed to me," Ousterhout commented. "I knew I couldn't just work in a library. I needed fieldwork, and I began working directly with the documentation of monuments. I've since also discovered the wonders of working in rural Cappadocia."

Visiting lecturer shares work from Kinsey Institute collection

Catherine Johnson-Roehr received her MA in art history in 1989 and her bachelor's degree in sociology in 1980 from the UO, and is now a curator of art, artifacts, and photographs at the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, located at Indiana University. Johnson-Roehr visited the UO campus in late April to discuss the intersection of art and sex, offering a visual presentation of "images of desire" that recur through human history.



Woman in boots and gloves, 1944, photograph by anonymous artist

As curator at Kinsey, Johnson-Roehr preserves, maintains, and provides access to a unique collection of fine art, photographs, sexual health materials, and commercial and amateur erotica. The collection includes more than 9,000 sex-related items spanning 2,000 years, plus 70,000 photographs. Biologist and professor Alfred Kinsey collected many of the materials himself from a number of sources. Johnson-Roehr explains, "We want people to be aware we're a place to go to get really reliable information about sex and reproduction." During her UO visit, Johnson-Roehr met with undergraduate students about legal and cultural issues related to obscenity in American literature, and with graduate students in museum studies, art history, and arts and administration.



From the Department Head

Connections

I'm delighted to share with you this inaugural issue of our departmental newsletter—or at least the first issue in recent memory! With it, we hope to bring you up to speed on recent happenings in the Department of Art History. Even if you graduated just a year or two ago, or have been in touch with us lately, you will find there are many new and exciting developments in the department: new faculty

members, ambitious students, and active alumni, some of whom have been on campus to share their professional experiences and expertise.

I'm always amazed to note that since fall 2005 the department has hired six new faculty members (myself included). On this page, you will find brief biographies of our two most recent hires, architectural historians Nicola (Nick) Camerlenghi and Albert Narath. While new teachers inject energy and fresh ideas into the department, you will be pleased to know that the generation of faculty members that many of you remember are still actively teaching and conducting research, either full time or as part of the university's tenure-reduction program.

Each year, our students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels seem more impressive. We have featured the accomplishments of three of them: Laura Barton '11; Ashley Gibson, MA '11; and Kelly Whitford, MA candidate. You also will find stories on the seventh annual symposium coordinated by our student organization, the Art History Association, and on the Guiseppe Vasi exhibition, for which several students contributed to the catalog.

Spring 2011 was animated by campus visits by two prominent alumni: Catherine Johnson-Roehr, curator at the Indiana University Kinsey Institute, and Clifford Ackley, curator and chair of the Department of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Ackley was awarded the Ellis F. Lawrence Medal. As part of his visit, Ackley spoke at the art history graduation and awards reception, and we hope to invite a distinguished alumnus or alumna to do so each year.

Our newsletter is one part of our effort to better connect with alumni and friends, and to better share our accomplishments. I also invite you to take a look at our recently redesigned website, which you will find at arthistory.uoregon.edu. Credit for the website goes to Assistant Professor Nick Camerlenghi, who was assisted by Brooke Masek, MA '11 and Megan O'Connor, MA candidate. Among its many features, you will find a "Where Are They Now" section in which we have listed alumni by profession. If you are not included, please let us know what you are up to. And, for those of you so inclined, you can connect with us on Facebook at "University of Oregon Department of Art History," where you will find departmental news and photographs of recent events.

All the best,

Andy Schulz

Associate Professor and Department Head

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Department News

Esther Jacobson-Tepfer retires after forty-five years at the UO; honored with national book prize

Professor Emerita Esther Jacobson-Tepfer, former Maude I. Kerns Professor of Oriental Art, has been an integral part of the UO art history department for the past forty-five years. In her early publications, she explored the interconnections between Chinese artistic traditions of the Zhou-Han period and those of the early nomads inhabiting the steppe region to the north of China's borders. Extended study periods in the former Soviet Union allowed her to investigate those nomadic traditions and to refocus her research interests in North Asia. More recently, her research has been directed particularly to rock art of North Asia in the pre-Bronze, Bronze, and early Iron ages.

For the past fifteen years, Jacobson-Tepfer has been busy on an intense collaborative project that resulted in an exhaustive atlas of a far northwestern landscape in Mongolia and culminated in a national book award. Jacobson-Tepfer, James E. Meacham, UO geography senior research associate, and Gary Tepfer, photographer, coauthored *Archaeology and Landscape in the Mongolian Altai: An Atlas*, which was named the 2010 Globe Book Award for Public Understanding of Geography by the Association of American Geographers.

Photo by Gary Tepfer.



Esther Jacobson-Tepfer, project director and professor emerita, at right, with James E. Meacham, director of the UO's Infographics Lab, pictured in the Mongolian Altai mountain region.

Faculty Spotlight

The art history department welcomes new faculty members

Albert Narath is scheduled to receive his PhD from Columbia University in 2011. He teaches courses in the history and theory of modern and contemporary architecture, reflecting his interests in nineteenth- and twentieth-century architecture in Germany and Austria. He also teaches on the history of sustainability in architecture. Narath is currently working together with students to create an online exhibition devoted to uncovering and interpreting the history of the University of Oregon's own far-reaching contributions to ecological thinking in architecture.

Nick Camerlenghi received his PhD from Princeton University in 2007, a master of science in architectural studies from MIT, and a BA from Yale. His interest in Rome during the Middle Ages stems from growing up there and spending time in Rome working on his dissertation. Camerlenghi teaches a broad range of courses set in the Middle Ages as well as a survey course, History of Western Architecture I.

Department News

Seventh annual AHA student symposium examines memory and representation

The UO's student-led Art History Association (AHA) hosted the 2011 spring symposium, titled "Memory and Representation," April 21–22 in Eugene. The seventh annual graduate student symposium included a keynote lecture by UO professor Sherwin Simmons, an artist talk by Faye Mullen of the University of Toronto on her video installation *To Never Forever*, and presentations of international graduate student research centered on the visual culture of commemoration, documentation, and memorialization. The symposium, which was held at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, drew an audience of students, faculty and community members and was organized by graduate students June Koehler and Claire Cole.

Student News

New perspectives on Edward Weston

Robert D. Clark Honors College student Laura Barton recently completed an impressive thesis titled "Interdependent Parts of the Whole: Edward Weston Nudes and Still Lifes, 1925–1933." The art history undergraduate student delved into a critique of Weston's work that focused on form in place of content, the interrelation of natural forms and the "quintessence" of the subjects in Weston's photographs. The resulting paper passed with distinction, the highest level a paper from the Clark's Honors College can receive.

Barton's advisor, Associate Professor Kate Mondloch, noted, "This analysis stands to overturn decades of writing about the artist and offers a new approach to thinking about the status of the human body in inter-war photography. The thesis is of publishable quality."

Barton, however, remains modest about her work and insists that her research sprang naturally from her interest in Weston's photography. "It was definitely an intense research experience," says Barton. "I became interested in his work in high school when I saw his prints in the Oakland Art Museum, and later at the UO I did a paper on him for an art history class. This thesis expands on that previous study and I enjoyed writing it."

A&AA Dean's Graduate Fellowship awarded to an art history student

Art history student Kelly Whitford was among six students awarded a 2010–11 Dean's Graduate Fellowship. The \$5,000 award recognizes outstanding research and scholarship for graduate students who are in the final phase of project or thesis completion. Whitford's project is titled "A Re-Performance: Viewing Stefano Maderno's *St. Cecilia* during the Jubilee of 1600." In addition, Whitford was also selected to present her research at the forty-sixth International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in May 2011.

This summer, Whitford will travel to the church of St. Cecilia in Rome to continue her research with Medieval and Renaissance monuments. In fall, she plans to apply for a doctorate degree in art history. "I definitely want to stay in the field," says Whitford. "My ultimate goal is to be a professor of art history, but for now I'm really enjoying this process of researching my interests."

Graduate students conduct research-inspired travel

Jeff Carlson's working thesis project relates to Goya's religious paintings and seeks to recover this understudied but invaluable part of his artistic output. Carlson traveled to Spain in summer 2011 and visited the Museo Nacional del Prado, the Biblioteca Nacional de España, the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, and several small churches in the area where Goya's works are held. He will also travel to Goya's hometown, Zaragoza, to see his earliest religious frescoes.

Caitlin Gleason's focus is contemporary architectural history and this past fall she was awarded the Marion C. Donnelly Travel Grant to further her thesis investigation of artist Andrea Zittel's use of technology as part of the artist's all-encompassing art practice. Gleason traveled to the Mojave Desert in March 2011 to visit Zittel. While at the artist's desert compound, A–Z West, Gleason had the opportunity to interview Zittel about her work that combines textiles, furniture, design, implements, and architecture.

Sasha Globig is currently conducting research for her master's thesis, which will investigate the Austrian artist Gustav Klimt and the *malmosaik* (painted mosaic). In summer 2011, Globig traveled to Vienna, Austria, to further investigate the work of Klimt and other Secession artists.

Ellen Osterkamp's thesis in progress is titled "Constructing Victory and Power: An Examination of the Concept and Development of the Trophy." Osterkamp spent summer 2011 in Rome on her second research trip to track down, research, and document trophies and related monuments. The first was possible through a Marion C. Donnelly Travel Grant and the more recent trip was combined with a UO study-abroad program.

Student Spotlight

Graduate student curates exhibition on contemporary Cuban art

Art museums rely on experts to curate exhibits, but the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) recently reached out to art history graduate student Ashley Gibson for a unique exhibition on contemporary Cuban artists. *Diaspora, Identity, and Race: Cuba Today*, on display March 22 to June 15, 2011, featured contemporary Cuban artists who reflect the multicultural heritage of African, European, and Asian influences in the Caribbean as well as the prolonged racism in Cuban society. The bilingual exhibition, which was a result of a collaboration with the Center for Latino and Latina and Latin American Studies, revealed themes of race, gender, and sexuality in the larger investigation of contemporary Cuban identity.



Ashley Gibson at JSMA Cuba exhibition (photo by Jonathan B. Smith)

Jill Hartz, JSMA executive director, noted, "It is rare (to have students curate a show) but we give our students important opportunities that will further their studies and careers. This is what a teaching museum can do well. Ashley's field is contemporary (art) and when we agreed that she'd work with me for practicum credit, (it included) helping me with the Cuba show. She was incredible—thorough research and a love of the art."

Gibson worked as a curatorial intern at the JSMA from 2009–2010, and when Hartz offered her the opportunity to student-curate, Gibson jumped at the chance. "My ultimate goal is to have a curatorial job at a contemporary arts center," explains Gibson. "This was just an incredible opportunity." Gibson received her MA in art history from the UO this June and is currently searching for museum positions.

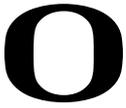
Faculty Notes

Joyce Cheng, assistant professor, joined UO in fall 2009 after finishing her PhD at the University of Chicago. Cheng specializes in modern art. She is currently researching the influence of non-Western art forms on modern art of the twentieth century, and the link between art and anthropology.

Kate Mondloch, associate professor, was one of just twenty-five of 1,160 applicants to win a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. Mondloch plans to use the fellowship to devote full-time writing to her second book, tentatively titled *Eye Desire: New Media Art after Feminism*, which will explore new ways of understanding screen-based digital technologies through the lens of feminist theory. Mondloch's first book, *Screens: Viewing Media Installation Art*, drew on similar models of assessing contemporary culture.

Andy Schulz, associate professor and department head, coauthored *The Spanish Manner: Drawings from Ribera to Goya*, the catalog for the exhibition on view at the Frick Collection in New York City from October 2010 to February 2011.

Akiko Walley, Maude I. Kerns Assistant Professor of Oriental Art, received her PhD from Harvard in 2009 and MA degrees from Harvard and Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. She specializes in Japanese Buddhist art and archaeology from the seventh and eighth centuries and is interested in the function of art and visual culture in the development and spread of ideas within a community. Walley's passions lie in Japanese Buddhist art and more broadly in art and popular culture of Japan, including early modern painting, woodblock prints, and contemporary *manga*.



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Department News

VENI. VIDI. VASI.

When architecture professor James Tice and art history associate professor James Harper cocurated the exhibition *Giuseppe Vasi's Rome: Lasting Impressions from the Age of the Grand Tour*, they not only produced an extremely well-received show, they proved that cross-disciplinary collaboration can produce stunning results. The show ran at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) from September 2010 to January 2011 before moving to the Princeton Museum of Art from March to June 2011.



Left to right, James Harper, art history, and James Tice, architecture, cocurated the impressive exhibition on Vasi at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art this year.

"Each of us brought a very distinct set of talents and experience to the table," says Harper. "The exhibition is very different than an exhibition that I would have done alone or Jim would have done alone." Tice used his skills as an architect to design the exhibition space at the JSMA, with help from the museum staff. Harper secured works of Vasi's contemporaries through his contacts at major national museums. "We needed to not only have some bright, beautiful objects in the room, we also needed to show Vasi in the context of his time. It was important to have paintings," says Harper. Tice and the UO InfoGraphics Lab added a digital component—four iPads were placed near the artwork so museum-goers could zoom in on pieces of art, and two interactive kiosks allowed visitors to take a tour of Rome comparing Vasi's views with contemporary photographs.

The exhibition resulted in an international symposium held at the UO on Vasi's work in November 2010. Many of the speakers also contributed essays to a 200-page catalog that featured more than 100 pieces of art from the exhibition. Cassandra Tinsley, MA candidate, Read McFaddin, MA '09, Olivia Miller, MA '09, Katie Moss, MA '10, Jenna Roelle, MA '09, and Tobias zur Loye, MA '10, contributed to the catalog as well.