



# Department of the History of Art and Architecture

Summer 2012

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## Department News

### Art History Association serves students and community

In the past few years the Art History Association (AHA) has emerged as a dynamic student group. This past year it offered educational and professional development opportunities to nearly sixty active undergraduate and graduate student members. Under the leadership of graduate student cochair Sarah Taylor and undergraduate student cochair Bridget Grand, the AHA maintained a full calendar of events in the 2011–12 academic year.

A career panel with professors and museum professionals exposed students to professional paths typical of art historians, while those students looking to continue their art or architectural history education in graduate school took advantage of AHA professional development events including a personal statement workshop with faculty member Nick Camerlenghi and a panel with assistant professors Camerlenghi, Albert Narath, and Akiko Walley, and graduate students June Koehler and Kelly Whitford. In the spring, AHA members made a field trip to the Portland Art Museum, where they spoke with Minor White Curator of Photography Julia Dolan and Associate Registrar Noelle McClure. In Portland they also visited the Graeter Art Gallery to meet with owner John Graeter and UO graduate and former AHA president Ashley Gibson. Informal Q and A's with faculty members at monthly AHA

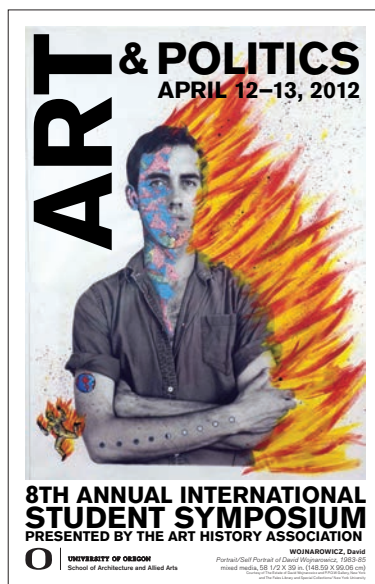


AHA 2011–12 officers (pictured from left): Jessi DiTillio (symposium cochair), Hannah Flier (blogger), Megan Ampe (treasurer), Bridget Grand (undergraduate cochair), Anne Taylor (professional development cochair), Shasha Globig (graduate student-faculty liaison), Sarah Taylor (graduate cochair), Megan O'Conner (communication officer), and Jacob Leveton (symposium cochair). Not pictured: Cathy Denning (professional development cochair) and Jordan Koel (assistant treasurer).

meetings have allowed students to learn about graduate school and professional experiences of the department's professors, an opportunity that, according to Grand, "has been enlightening and helpful for many students."

### Art and Politics is topic for eighth annual Art History Association Symposium

The Art History Association held its annual student symposium in April at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. Professor Jennifer Doyle from the Department of English at the University of California at Riverside presented a chapter of her forthcoming book, *Hold It Against Me: Difficulty and Emotion in Contemporary Art* (Duke University Press) as the keynote address. Doyle's talk, "History Keeps Me Awake Some Nights: David Wojnarowicz's Portraits of Peter Hujar," examined contemporary artist Wojnarowicz and his postmortem portrait of his close friend and fellow artist Hujar. The work is intensely private and reveals some of Wojnarowicz's personal struggle over the loss of his friend, at the same time it is aimed at the public as a cry against the social injustice of the AIDS



epidemic, which claimed Hujar's life. Doyle concluded with the thought that intensely emotional works like *Untitled (Hujar Dead)* have been ignored in the past, but that these difficult and complex works deserve more scholarly attention.

At the student symposium, panel participants addressed how politics relate to the subjects of war, the natural and the manmade, cyclical time, and the body. Cochair of the symposium Jacob Leveton said the event "benefits AHA and the UO community by exposing attendees to the diverse work that graduate students are engaging in while also allowing students to network with emerging scholars." Cochair Jessi DiTillio noted that "conferences and symposia are a major component of the professional academic sphere, and the AHA symposium provides a whole range of opportunities to learn about that world."

In addition to welcoming graduate student presenters from across America, the symposium hosted numerous students from the UO Department of the History of Art and Architecture. June Koehler presented a study of Spanish artist Josep Renau. Ellen Osterkamp discussed the evolution of the trophy from ancient Greece to Baroque France. Lisa Calevi spoke about the iconography of Jewish Sukkot celebrations. Faith Kresky discussed Japanese Edo-period woodblock printed games, and Cathy Denning delivered a talk on contemporary artist Sharon Hayes.



From the Department Head

## The End of Art History

As of July 1, the Department of Art History officially came to an end, replaced by the newly named Department of the History of Art and Architecture. In a certain sense, this is merely a cosmetic change, of course, though it was prompted by a desire to more fully recognize the important role that the history of architecture has played within the department since its formal founding by Marion Dean Ross in 1963.

Ross was one of the preeminent architectural historians of the twentieth century, and his legacy continues to be felt in many different ways to this day in Lawrence Hall. The generous endowment he provided the department allowed us to build a world-class architectural history collection for the A&AA Library and, also prompted the creation of the Marion Dean Ross Distinguished Chair in Architectural History, a position held for many years by Leland Roth, himself a highly distinguished figure in the field. In the wake of Roth's recent retirement from full-time teaching, the department is set to embark on a national search for a senior scholar to occupy the Ross professorship.

Nomenclature aside, the department has also recently changed in much more fundamental respects. In just the past few years, and in addition to Lee Roth, such stalwarts of the faculty as Esther Jacobson-Tepfer, Kate Nicholson, Sherwin Simmons, and Richard Sundt all have retired, leaving the ever-youthful Jeff Hurwit as the longest standing member of the faculty. Additionally, five of the current faculty members, nearly half of the department, have been here three years or less, and this influx of new, and newish, scholars has already begun to transform our curriculum in exciting ways.

Literally and figuratively, the Department of Art History that I first joined nearly twenty years ago has truly come to an end: long life to the Department of the History of Art and Architecture!

**Charles Lachman**

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### Department News

#### Fong retires from JSMA

Dozens of art history students have benefited over the years from research guidance by Larry Fong, who retired July 1 from the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art as curator of American and regional art. Whether pairing a student studying Goya with the special collection of Ken Kesey ("a nice counterpoint"), or introducing a student to a graphic novelist whose cartoons are about ethnic confrontations in Bosnia, Fong has helped students expand into research areas they might not have considered. Fong exposed students "to a tangible, to objects," he says. "It's one thing to look at publications and textural interpretations and another thing to look at marginalia and the patina of use or wear, how things are annotated, what materials lend to an artist's expression." Fong praised art history faculty members for being "not only very, very supportive but for trusting in my ability to engage and inspire and offer something worthwhile" to students.

### Alumni Spotlight

#### Alumnus finds success at *Sports Illustrated*

Born and raised in New York, John Jaxheimer says he chose to attend the UO for the school's broad range of strong programs. Shortly after graduating in 1998 in art history, Jaxheimer landed a sales assistant and art handler position at the Robert Miller Gallery in New York. There, he worked with works by artists such as Arbus, Eggleston, O'Keeffe, Brassai, and Mapplethorp. "It was as if my class books had come to life in the palms of my hands," he says.



Currently, Jaxheimer is a creative director for brand marketing at *Sports Illustrated*. His role at *SI* involves conceptualizing and overseeing all creative promotion and marketing of *Sports Illustrated* properties and brand extensions. "Art history was a great foundation for my career path, although I didn't realize it at the time," he says. "Understanding composition,

symbolism, and visual communication as it relates to a variety of mediums has proven invaluable."

Jaxheimer is a member of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts Board of Visitors.

### Faculty News

#### Department welcomes new contemporary Asian art faculty member

The department welcomes Assistant Professor **Jenny Lin** to a joint position with the Department of Art beginning fall 2012. In this unique position she will offer courses in twentieth- and twenty-first-century art history and visual studies, especially within Asian cultural contexts, and in contemporary art criticism and theory. "I'm particularly excited about the multidisciplinary nature of my joint position in A&AA, and I'm eager to collaborate across fields, including art history, art, design, and architecture, as well as museum studies, cinema studies, and Asian studies," Lin says. She received her MA and PhD in art history from the University of California at Los Angeles. She is committed to interdisciplinary and transnational research with general interests in contemporary art and design praxes and broader social phenomena, such as colonialism, urbanization, and globalization. Her current research focuses on modern and contemporary art, architecture, and film, and addresses issues of Chinese modernity and cultural hybridity.



In June, **James Harper**, associate professor, spoke at a kickoff event in New York for a traveling exhibition of monumental seventeenth-century tapestry panels. Gathered in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, an audience of scholars, curators, and friends of the UO and the cathedral got a sneak preview of the Barberini exhibition envisioned for 2014.

In May, **Jeffrey Hurwit**, Philip H. Knight Professor of Architecture and Allied Arts, gave a lecture on "Elements of Nature in Early Greek Art: The Sea" at the National Institute for the History of Art (INHA) in Paris.

**Charles Lachman**, associate professor and department head, contributed the chapter "Buddhism: Image as Icon, Image as Art" to the *Oxford Handbook of Religion and the Arts*. His previously published catalog essay, "A Way With Words," on the calligrapher Jung Do-jun was reprinted, along with a Korean translation, in a new catalogue raisonné of the artist's work.

The School of Architecture and Allied Arts awarded **Albert Narath**, assistant professor, the 2012 Dean's Award, meant to acknowledge faculty members engaged in innovative and timely research. The award will support his course, *Modernism in Mud: Taos Pueblo and the Modern Architectural Imagination*.

## Department News

### Richard Shiff discusses Barnett Newman

Richard Shiff, professor of art history at the University of Texas at Austin, visited campus in February, delivering a lecture on Barnett Newman and "Terror." Shiff examined Newman's writings and the use of abstraction in his imagery as expressions of aesthetics and politics. Deeply affected by the events of World War II and the destructive potential of the atomic bomb, Newman contemplated and struggled with the emotion of "terror" in his writings and art.

### Alex Potts lectures on public sculptures of Henry Moore and Claes Oldenburg

Alexander Potts, the Max Loehr Collegiate Professor in the Department of the History of Art at the University of Michigan, delivered "The Public Value of Incongruity" in April as holder of the 2012 Sponenburgh Lectureship on the History and Aesthetics of Sculpture.

Potts is completing a book on the significance of experimental forms of realism in postwar Europe and America. In his lecture, Potts examined Henry Moore and Claes Oldenburg, two figures who played an important role in the public sculpture boom in America in the 1960s and 1970s. Although traditionally considered to represent two divergent approaches to public sculpture—with Moore producing more conventional plaza sculpture and Oldenburg producing pop alternatives that made ironic references to traditional sculpture—Potts examined the cultivation of incongruity, a productive strategy used by both artists during this period.



Above: Claes Oldenburg, *Bat Column*, 1977. Harold Washington Social Security Center, Chicago, Illinois. Photo by Alexander Potts.

Below: Henry Moore, *Reclining Figure*, 1970. Lincoln Center, New York, New York. Photo by Alexander Potts.



### 'Eco-sexual' artist Annie Sprinkle visits UO

Led by the efforts of art history graduate student Cathy Denning, along with the sponsorship of numerous UO student groups and academic departments, artist Annie Sprinkle came to the UO in April for a series of events including an artist talk, an "eco-sexy" walking tour, and a free sidewalk sex clinic.

"I wanted to bring Annie Sprinkle to campus to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and to acknowledge and question the ways in which issues surrounding sexuality, gender, and the body still matter," Denning said. "Although various departments and student groups across campus have supported queer and feminist-related events, an emphasis upon art-making and art activism has been largely absent."

## Student News

### Student travel augments thesis research and education

Numerous art history graduate and undergraduate students have taken part in opportunities to research and study abroad this past spring and summer. In many instances, these efforts have been supported by funding and awards from the Department of the History of Art and Architecture.

Graduate students Faith Kresky and May Schlotzhauer (pictured at right) received summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships. With these awards, both students spent July and August in an intensive Japanese language program at Senshu University in Tokyo. The Senshu Summer Program focuses on Japanese reading, writing, and speaking proficiency, skills necessary for completing research in Japan. Kresky is researching Japanese Edo-period printed games, while Schlotzhauer is writing her thesis on traditional painted Japanese kites, particularly Baramon kites from Goto Island in Nagasaki. Schlotzhauer said that while in Japan she "particularly enjoyed the Tokyo Kite Museum and the traditional crafts museum."



Three spring term travel awards from the department supported additional graduate student thesis research. With the assistance of the Amy and Ross Kari Travel Grant, Megan O'Connor traveled to London and Paris to conduct research on the architectural collective Archigram (1961–1974). O'Connor found it especially helpful to visit the Archigram archives at the University of Westminster. "The trip was absolutely invaluable to my research because it allowed for all of the information I have been gathering about these works for the past year to become a tangible presence. Seeing actual objects and speaking with Archigram experts moved my project in an extremely productive direction."

An award from the Marian Donnelly Student Travel Fund allowed Charlotte Mueller to spend two weeks in Tokyo, where she visited the National Diet Library and Waseda University Library to gain access to Japanese scholarship on *gokan*, a genre of popular woodblock-printed illustrated literature from the Edo period. She also spent time at Senshu University, examining Edo printed material and meeting with *gokan* scholar Itasaka Noriko. Cathy Denning, supported by the Alice Wingwall Travel Fund, went to New York City to conduct archival research on ACT UP at the New York Public Library and the New Museum. Additionally, she viewed the temporary exhibition, "Sharon Hayes: There's so much I want to say to you," at the Whitney Museum of Art. Denning's thesis situates Hayes' performances in the specific historical and geographical context of AIDS activism in New York from the 1980s to 1990s. "As my research establishes AIDS activists as both a frame and an imagined audience, it was imperative that I visit the ACT UP archive in order to have the material with which to trace the historical resonance of the NYC sites in which Hayes has performed," says Denning.

Undergraduate student Samantha Hull (right) spent her spring term studying in Florence, Italy. Hull explains that having the opportunity to interact with the works she had studied in her art history course, Art Criticism from Dante to Vasari, was a highlight of her experience. "It was a privilege to see in person a majority of the works we had studied," she says.



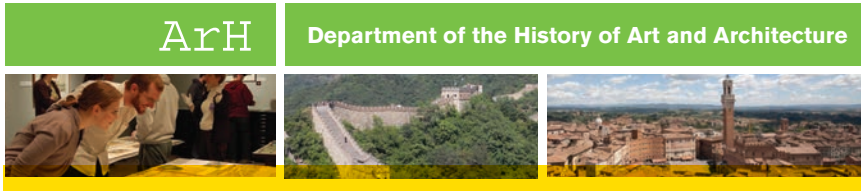


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**Congratulations Graduates!**

At the June 18, 2012, commencement ceremony, the Department of the History of Art and Architecture awarded degrees to thirty-eight undergraduate students and ten graduate students. The department congratulates its most recent graduates:

**Bachelor of Arts** Maria Chianello (*cum laude*), Colin Cook, Kendra Coursey, Alanna Crosetti, Mariel Delacy (*cum laude*), Caitlin Easter, Kelli Foresman, Cortney Fuerch, Antonio Giulietti, Megan Glazier-Anderson, Jessica Gonzales, Bridget Grand, Megan Hammon (*magna cum laude*), Chloe Hellberg, Carlye Hodel, Megan Hooley, Rachel Janecek, Lauren Jones, Aimee Ketsdever, Theresa Knopp (*summa cum laude*), Jessica Kollenberg (*magna cum laude*), Kimberly Ann Leyerly, Chloe Lynn, Maria McGoldrick (*cum laude*), Lucia Momoh, Emilie Murcia, Emily New, Kathryn Newman, Michelle Olsen, Talia Pauwels-Lloyd, Kelsey Petznick, Amy Robinson, Sarah Shea, Kayla Spencer, Olivia Storm, Tabitha Huah-Yuu Teo, Hayley Van Hiel, and Tiffany Watters.

**Master of Arts** Megan Ampe, Jeffrey Carlson, Claire Cole, Hannah Flier, June Koehler, Jacob Leveton, Ellen Osterkamp, Sarah Taylor, Valerie Wingfield, and Han Zhu.

The department continues to grow and looks forward to welcoming new majors and minors as well as eleven new graduate students this fall.



Happy art history students (left to right) Kelsey Petznick, Kayla Spencer, Lauren Jones, and Sarah Shea celebrate their graduation with Andrew Schulz, associate professor of art history.

**Student News**  
**Undergraduate students' theses recognized**

Megan Hammon completed an honors thesis entitled "Defining Delacroix: Reconsidering the Quintessential French Romantic." Maria Chianello graduated from the Robert Donald Clark Honors College after completing her thesis, "From Oppression to Redemption: A Reexamination of Illuminated Sephardic Haggadot in Thirteenth- and Fourteenth-Century Spain."