

Alumni News

Summer 2024

Elizabeth Aguilera (Ph.D. 2020), along with Emily Umberger, co-authored the chapter "Coyolxauhqui's Serpents: Political Metaphors in Mexica-Aztec Sculptures" in [Birds and Beasts of Ancient Mesoamerica: Animal Symbolism in the Postclassic Period](#), edited by Susan Milbrath and Elizabeth Baquedano (University Press of Colorado, 2023).

Noah Allison (B.A. 2008), is visiting assistant professor of Urban and Environmental Studies at Loyola Marymount University. His research and teaching examine everyday metropolitan inequities and opportunities and the processes that cause them.

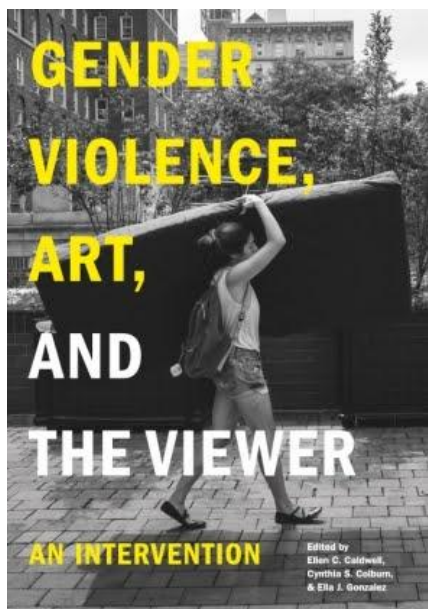
Ginny Reynolds Badgett (Ph.D. 2021) co-curated with Dr. Makeda Best the exhibition [Framing Freedom: The Harriet Hayden Albums](#) at the Boston Athenaeum through June 22, 2024. Ginny works for [The Curtis Group](#), a Virginia-based nonprofit fundraising consulting firm and serves on the Giving USA Editorial Review Board, which provides oversight to the editor and authors of the [Giving USA: The Annual Report on Philanthropy](#), the longest running most comprehensive report on philanthropy. Ginny and her husband James, welcomed their daughter, Mattox Elizabeth, a year ago in March 2023.

Sarah Bane (Ph.D. 2022) was recently hired as the assistant curator of Prints and Drawings at the Blanton Museum, University of Texas, Austin. She began in April 2024 after completing her position as the Hoehn Curatorial Fellow for Prints at the

University of San Diego.

Denise Amy Baxter (M.A. 1998, Ph.D. 2003) is professor of Art History and associate dean of the Toulouse Graduate School at the University of North Texas and has recently begun her term as president of the College Art Association.

Ellen C. Caldwell (M.A. 2006) co-edited and contributed to the forthcoming volume *Gender Violence, Art, and the Viewer: An Intervention*, coming out on September 17th with Pennsylvania State University Press. The volume explores gender violence in art, proposing ways of intervening on often-revered works of violence, and is particularly relevant for art history students, educators, and curators.



Seokwon Choi (Ph.D. 2016) has been serving as an assistant professor in the Department of Oriental Painting at the College of Fine Arts, Seoul National University, since February 2022.

Nancy Clare Caponi (M.A. 2002) is actively involved in the effort to save her master's thesis project, *Greenwood Pond: Double Site*, by land artist Mary Miss, from demolition by the Des Moines Art Center. Working with lead agency The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Caponi wrote letters to museum and city officials documenting the importance of this interactive sculptural installation that encircles a beautiful urban wetlands setting. Due to input from art historians and design professionals, a federal judge has issued a temporary restraining order to halt the deconstruction of *Greenwood Pond: Double Site*.



Photo credit: Farshid Assassi

Lauren Gallow (M.A. 2012) published an article in the *New York Times* special Design section (May 2024) entitled [“In Mexico, a House That Returns to the Well”](#) about a rammed earth home outside of Mexico City with an innovative rainwater harvesting system. She also published an essay in *Robb Report* (March 2024) titled [“How Maximalist Home Decor Offers a Healthy Break From the Flatness of Algorithm Life.”](#) She continues to write for several other design publications including her [“One Last Thing”](#) column in *Dwell* magazine, which recurs in every issue and tells the story of a special object in a designer's personal collection.

This Fall, **Ben Jameson-Ellsmore** (Ph.D. 2023) will join the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, as a postdoctoral research associate and lecturer in the College of Arts and Sciences Engagements Program.

Matthew Limb (Ph.D. 2022) has been appointed assistant professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History at the School of Art and Design, Alfred University, State University of New York (SUNY). Previously, he held the inaugural Art History Fellow position, a post-doctoral fellowship from 2023-2024 at University of Arkansas.

Sophia Quach McCabe (Ph.D. 2019) guest-curated *Albrecht Dürer: Wanderlust* at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. On view June 1–September 23, 2024, the exhibition examines how the German Renaissance artist's travels to Italy and the Low Countries, and cultural exchanges with his networks, transformed European art.

Mohammadreza Mirzaei (Ph.D. 2024) has been appointed as a visiting assistant professor of Art History at the School of Art and Design at Alfred University, State University of New York (SUNY), for the 2024-25 academic year.

Mary Okin (Ph.D. 2022) is assistant director of The Living New Deal (LND) and leads its Advocating for New Deal Art initiative. She balances her LND work with independent research, such as co-chairing "Confronting the Legacy of New Deal Art in the Twenty-first Century" and presenting "Subsidizing American Art? The Studio Building Association of the City of New York (1865)" at the 2024 CAA Annual Conference. In May, she published "Beachcombing Lessons" in *Wayne Thiebaud: Summer Days* (Acquavella Galleries/Rizzoli).

Sarah Watson Parsons (Ph.D. 2000) has two collaborative projects launching this month: the print edition of her co-authored book, *Photography in Canada, 1839 – 1989: An Illustrated History* and an exhibition, *Hypervisibility: Early Photography and Privacy in North America, 1839–1900*. Both the exhibition and a recent article in *History of Photography*, “Victorian Facebooks: Privacy Concerns at William Notman’s Studio,” were undertaken in collaboration with doctoral students as part of an ongoing research project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Amara Solari (Ph.D. 2007) is recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2024.

Michelle Sullivan (B.A. 2005), associate conservator of drawings at the J. Paul Getty Museum, co-edited the interdisciplinary volume *Drawing on Blue: European Drawings on Blue Paper, 1400s-1700s*. She also co-curated a related exhibition by the same title, which was on view at the Getty Center from January 30 – May 28, 2024.

Hans J. Van Miegroet (Ph.D. 1988) passed away on February 9, 2024. Van Miegroet was professor of Art and Art History at Duke University.

Mira Rai Waits (Ph.D. 2014) was awarded a Fulbright Scholar award to Ireland for the 2024-2025 academic year. She also published the following: “The History of Anthropometry and Fingerprinting in Colonial South Asia” in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History* (2024); “Ships of Scraps: Moath al-Alwi’s Model Ships in Islamic Art and Prison Histories” in *The Guantánamo Artwork and Testimony of Moath Al-Alwi: Deaf Walls Speak*, eds. Alexandra S. Moore & Elizabeth Swanson (2024); and “The Prison as Tourist Site,” *PLATFORM* (April 15, 2024).

Diva Zumaya (Ph.D. 2018) has been appointed as the associate curator of European art at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. She comes to The Huntington from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), where she started in 2018 first as a Wallis Annenberg Curatorial Fellow, then moved on to assistant and then associate curator of European painting and sculpture.

Mt. San Antonio College has developed the [Abelina Galustian Memorial Scholarship](#) to honor Abelina's life and legacy (Ph.D. 2021). The HAA community can learn more about Dr. Galustian's life, legacy, scholarship, and art on the memorial page above, where you can also view Stanislaus State's Art Space's 2020 exhibit "Abelina Galustian: Womansword and Beyond," which includes an essay by Staci Gem Scheiwiller (Ph.D. 2009).