

HISTORY OF ART DEPARTMENT MEETING

Monday, February 9, 2026 | 2:30 P.M. | Arts 333

Attendance: Jason Weems, Savannah Esquivel, Susan Laxton, Johannes Endres, Jeanette Kohl, Kristoffer Neville, Yong Cho, Sonja Sekely-Rowland, John Medina, Breana Lepe

Chair's Announcements (Susan):

- Request for changes to The Call
 - Call for new courses, Winter 2027
 - UAW contract extension until February 28
- New service assignment 2026-27: DGS

New Business (Susan):

- Department Policy on Online Teaching (they will return to this)

Graduate Studies Report (Jason):

- McNeil Center Dissertation Award Nomination (Cambra)
- Getty Symposium took place on Friday, Lily Allen's presentation was very well received
 - High caliber competitive affair
- Graduate admission applications and decisions were made, 2 PhD and 7 initial MA offers (TBA)

Undergraduate Report (Yong):

- **Many requests for premodern "substitutions" from our majors**
 - These past few weeks, I have been receiving numerous requests from our majors and Veronica for substitution approvals because of our lack of premodern upper-division course offerings. For example, I was told that my AHS 141 is the only course this year that meets this requirement. Veronica says this is affecting many majors, and I have been approving courses that seem to be only nominally includes art historical contents in other departments (religion, history, and anthropology) so that students can graduate on time. Veronica says that the situation was similar last year.
- **Student Success Fund—Undergrad trip-planning to CAA underway**
 - 6 majors are attending the CAA next week. 6 students (Katarina Brown, Maya Serna, Kira Iokibe, Sandra Martus, Alexis Ramirez, and Emily McCartney) are funded through the Student Success Fund. In addition to attending the conference panels, students will meet with Seung Hee Oh, the assistant curator of Chinese art at the Art Institute of Chicago on 2/19. Seung Hee has generously agreed to speak with students about museum career and show us around the museum.
 - Students are planning to make a Vlog about "day in the life of a UCR student attending CAA." They hope to tag UCR CHASS accounts on social media posts with these videos, so we can get the public coverage of this exciting trip. More on this later!
- **AHUA interest in doing a "preview event" of the future course offerings**
 - I am in conversation with Kira Iokibe and other AHUA board members about potentially organizing an event for the undergraduates that would highlight our course offerings in the upcoming quarters. Most likely we would start with advertising the fall 2026 courses. When the time comes, I will reach out to the

faculty teaching undergraduates in the fall if they could provide a slide, a short text (maybe from the syllabus?), and a few images.

- **AHUA Professor Q&A and Conversation**
 - For the winter quarter, our VAP Nina Wexelblatt has agreed to meet with our majors for an hour of discussion about art history, research, and academic pathways.
- **AHS 100 number/name change**
 - The CoC had requested a revision to the “AHS 100 Pro-Seminar in Art History: Foundations of a Discipline” course proposal. Following the committee’s comment that the title “Pro-Seminar” is misleading, the course title has been changed to “Art History: Methods and Meaning.” The course number has also changed to AHS 099.

VRC Report (Sonja):

- (Please see the attached file in the email.)
- Title II changes through the department and VRC websites

Graduate Student Report:

- The revision for the final Call For Papers draft is complete and we just need to confirm the date for the conference
- Xinqian is reviewing venue options, she spoke to the manager of the arts museum and gave us two options for free venue dates: April 11 & May 16
- The keynote speaker agreed to April 25, the selected date for conference and she cleared her schedule to be available for that date
- If UCR ARTS cannot accommodate a free option on this day we either 1) pay the \$200 an hour for their venue or 2) hold it on campus here and we will get in touch with Iselda about campus options to find out what she knows 3) ask the keynote speaker to accommodate, it is an uncomfortable option but sounds plausible
 - Asking for advice from faculty
- Option 3 was recommended

UCR ARTS Report:

- Jason Farago, author from the New York Times, says the California Museum of Photography is one of his favorite places to go
- CMP has new academic learning sites
- CMP fellowship is being offered only to PhD students with advanced candidacy across CHASS (no longer exclusively AHS)

Upcoming Events:

- New dual exhibition opening *Chicano Camera Culture* at the Cheech + RAM just opened over the weekend, through July