

HISTORY OF ART DEPARTMENT MEETING

Monday, March 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):

- Seminar room loan: to Jennifer Doyle, 2-5 PM on Fridays
 - Strike preparations for instructional continuity
 - Rally on the 12th, administration thinks it will happen on the 15th, finals week
- Last Spring meeting, June 1, will be on Zoom

New Business (Jeanette):

- Stephen Barber talk

Graduate Studies Report (Jason):

- Recruitment is steady
- 1 PhD acceptance, waiting on a response from 2nd candidate to decide
- 2 acceptances, 2 declines, 3 still in the running

Undergraduate Report (Yong):

- Highlander Day: Help is needed!
- April 11 (10 am-2 pm), Art History department is going to have a table at the Highlander Day. Unfortunately, I am going to be in the UK due to a conference that weekend. If there is any faculty who might be able to come out to campus to help table the table (even if just for a part of the day), I would be so grateful! I will prepare in advance some snacks, drinks, and other promotional materials to share with the prospective students.
- Some undergraduates have offered to help with anything at the department table. Here is the sign-up sheet for the student volunteers (for your reference, just you can see who has signed up):
- Undergrads travel to CAA
 - Six undergraduates traveled to Chicago to attend the CAA this year. The trip was a big success. Students attended sessions, made new contacts, acquired free books, and felt inspired. The group met with Seunghee Oh, assistant curator at the Art Institute of Chicago, and also with Nancy Um from the GRI. For the most part, our students were not shy and made a very positive impression across the conference venue.
 - On March 6, I had a recap meeting with the students to discuss what could be improved if we have future iterations of this trip. A lot of interesting (sometimes strange) suggestions were made, but I have compiled the notes in a separate file for anyone who wants to refer to them in the future. Overall, students found the trip and the conference itself to be transformative—but there seemed to have been a lot of anxiety about accounting, dealing with receipts, and traveling long distance (for one student, this was first time being inside an airplane!).
- We are working with Jeremy Gutierrez, CHASS Marketing's Student Writer, so that this trip can be featured.

VRC Report (Sonja):

- (Please see the attached file in the email.)

Graduate Student Report:

- Our conference officers are sending out fundraising emails for the conference to several departments on campus, including ours, so please consider.
- They've also sent Save the Date emails for May 16th at UCR Arts
- They are still waiting on the agreement form to rent the venue and are considering inviting a couple of faculty members to serve as moderators
- Also, thank you, Susan, for helping us with the UCR Arts booking
 - As for the speaker updates, they are awaiting her response to the official date, which should be sometime this week.
 - Katie Rask is an associate professor at Ohio State University. She is an archaeologist of religion with a research emphasis on ritual, personal experience, and materiality in Greece and Etruria. She is currently a Getty Scholar.
 - If she cannot accept the new date, then we will need a new keynote, preferably someone with a focus on material culture.

UCR ARTS Report:

- Transegoras taken down, landscape exhibition going up

Upcoming Events:

Note to Graduate Students: Please be attending the talks more, faculty are encouraging it and want us to go.

- Art History/Religious Studies major update is underway
- The CHASS Executive Committee have suggested that we revamp the course requirements and - the language that describes the curriculum of the Art History/Religious Studies major. Thanks to those who have provided feedback to the email that was circulated a couple weeks ago. I am working with the Religious Studies chair Matthew King to figure out a way to update this joint major.
- Unrelated to the undergraduate program, but please mark your calendars for an exciting series of Asian Art speakers this spring quarter (all in-person events on campus):
 - 1) Monday, 4:00 pm, April 13—Seungyeon Gabrielle Jung (Art History, UCI) will speak on the history of feminism and the mid-twentieth-century kitchen-design reforms in South Korea.
 - 2) Thursday, 3:30 pm, April 24—Lynna Dhanani (Religious Studies, UCD) will speak on the history of South Asian devotional wall hangings. There will be catered dinner to all the attendees following the talk from 5:00 pm.
 - 3) Monday, 4:00 pm, May 11—Patricia Yu (Art History, Scripps) will speak on the history of how an early modern Chinese imperial garden-palace was replicated into a theme park in post-Mao China.
- Please encourage your graduate and undergraduate students to attend these events! I will circulate the flyers when they are ready.
- Stephen Barber: 'Eadweard Muybridge's Photographic and Moving-Image Experiments: Itinerant Archives and Urban Obsessions' April 15, noon or 12:30 PM in Arts 333

- From the Ivory Tower to Museum Fundraising and Beyond: A SSEMWG Conversation on Careers Devoted to Early Modern Women, April 1, 8 am-9:30 am:
<https://events.ucr.edu/event/from-the-ivory-tower-to-museum-fundraising-and-beyond-a-ssemwg-conversation-on-careers-devoted-to-early-modern-women>