

HISTORY OF ART DEPARTMENT MEETING

Monday, April 6, 2026 | 3:30 P.M. | Arts 333

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

Chair's Announcements (Susan):

- Highlander Day, April 11, 10-2 PM
- UCR ARTS same day, 10-6 PM (opening for MFA exhibition, encouraged to go!)

New Business (So this was covered at the end of the meeting, and I was kicked out for this portion, so this is all I have to offer sry):

- Review of Associate-In qualifications for summer session.

Graduate Studies Report (Jason):

- 1. Graduate admissions: recruitment is going very well: we have filled both PhD spots and have 4 committed MAs. There is a chance we may add another MA or two, but I see that as a less than 50% likelihood. It a great sized class (meets our targets) and the quality of students is very high.
 - Here is a breakdown of acceptances, with probable advisor by research area noted. Final deadline is April 15.
- Ph.D. Admits
 - Accept —Johnson (has MA); tentative advisor Neville
 - Accept—Choi (no MA); Cho
- M.A. Admits
 - Accept --Seth Needelman; Cho
 - Accept --Nikki Ghaemi; Esquivel
 - Accept --Lorenzo Williams; Kohl/Weems
 - Accept --Hadley Garren; Esquivel
 - Offered/Undecided --Michelle Ma; Cho/Laxton
 - In Limbo --Carly Marshall; Leblanc/Esquivel (Carly applied to the Ph.D. program and was an alternate; we've offered her a place in the M.A. program but she has not acted on it at this point.)
- 2. External fellowships and awards: our students have done well this application cycle. There are three awards that I know about detailed below. Please update me/Iselda with any other external awards.
 - Rachel Shermock has been awarded a paid summer internship at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.
 - Homer (Charlie) Arnold has been awarded the George Gurney Fellowship at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. He will be in residence from September

2026-March 2027. Homer's dissertation is entitled: "At Your Service: Carp and the Art World's Service Economy."

- Sarah Salisbury has been awarded the Betsy James Wyeth Fellowship in Native American Art from the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. This is a 12-month residential fellowship. Sarah's project is entitled: "Monumental Meetings: Locating Indigenous Monumentality at the Four Corners."
- 3. The application window for our departmental travel grants (Brink, Carrott, Forster-Hahn, and Mead) is open, with a deadline of April 30. Please encourage your students to apply. The Gluck application is also open with a deadline of May 15. The students have been informed of both. (\$1800, encouraging us to apply)
- Travel Award Talk/Presentation: Thursday April 30, 5:30 PM

Undergraduate Report (Yong):

- April 11 (10 am-2 pm), Art History department is going to have a table at the Highlander Day. As noted in the previous meeting's undergraduate advisor report, I was supposed to travel to the UK this week, but I had to cancel the trip due to health reasons. I will be at the event, and Susan will be there as well. 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 list of the students who have signed up:

3	ART HISTORY DEPARTMENT Highlander Day Tabling Sign Ups (please write your Name and UCR e		
4	Times	Student 1 (name and UCR e-mail)	Student 2 (name and UCR e-mail)
5	10-11am	Katarina Brown kbrow020@ucr.edu	
6	11am-12pm	Isabella Vallin ivallo11@ucr.edu	Sovian Quesada sques001@ucr.edu
7	12-1pm	Anahita Moayedifar amoay004@ucr.edu	
8	1-1:30pm (clean	Emily McCartney emcca017@ucr.edu	

VRC Report (Sonja):

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

Graduate Student Report:

- Sonja got back to us with an updated poster, thank you Sonja.
- April 15 is the deadline to submit for the conference, which will still be hosted on May 16. We are likely looking at a fully online conference since funding and securing a venue have been unsuccessful, even with the help of Iselda through on-campus options
- Circulating the poster among ourselves to send out to personal contacts at other universities, in hopes that we can have some success with recruiting participants
- Keynote canceled on us, BUT we managed to secure a new speaker out of sheer luck and reaching out:

- Professor and Chair Jennifer Sorkin at the Department of History of Art & Architecture at UCSB
- She specializes in Contemporary art; material culture, craft, and design; gender and artistic labor; art criticism; feminist historiographies and theory; alternative spaces; art school pedagogies; global exhibition practice and history; queer culture and theory.
- Even if we did online or in person, she said she would be able to do either. As of now, Xinqian, Rachel, and I plan to meet her over Zoom to see what kind of paper she could present.
- About: <https://www.arthistory.ucsb.edu/people/jenni-sorkin>
- Next week we are coordinating a AHGSA/AHUA Meet and Greet in the Graduate Research Center, 10-11 AM on April 13th
 - AHUA Members will be able to engage and ask graduate students about student life, crafting applications, finding the right program, preparing for a career in art history, etc.
 - There will also be light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres

UCR ARTS Report:

- Contract signed for Solari collection at ASU, comes with its own curator, Liz Allen, Dean signed off on it
 - Liz Allen will be a point person between CMP and faculty. She'd love to teach at the department, but there is a conflict; however, she may audit courses

Upcoming Events:

Same as last report:

- 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
- Travel Award Grants Talk/Presentation: Thursday April 30, 5:30 PM in Arts 333