Call for Papers:

2027 Art History Symposium

A Day of Romance

University of Arizona Art History Graduate Student Association (AHGSA)

March 26, 2027

What has captured the imagination of people over countless centuries? This year, the technological and ecological present has us thinking about feelings. People create out of love and for those they cherish. What we love, we choose again and again. We tend to *romanticize the past,* which changes dynamically between time and place, but common themes pop up again and again over time. What are the ideals we romanticize? Beauty, nature, health, utopia, abundance? The 2027 AHGSA symposium seeks to explore the role of the romantic in the distortion of the past within memory, the tendency to sanitize icons in building national identities, and the potential of romanticism broadly construed as a critical position that invites reflection on humanistic values. Romanticism has a dual nature of transcendence to the sublime and suffocating mythmaking within nationalism and historical revisionism.

The 2027 Symposium will take place in person Friday, March 26th at the University of Arizona School of Art in Tucson, Arizona. We invite graduate students (M.A., PhD, etc.) enrolled in a range of disciplines and fields of study, such as Art History, Art, Anthropology, Archaeology, History, Museum Studies, Humanities, and related fields, to attend and participate. We welcome the submission of research paper abstracts for "A Day of Romance" that engage critically with these concepts.

Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Fresh approaches to Romanticism, Baroque, and Expressionisms
- Affect, reception, and relational aesthetics
- Craft and vernacular culture
- Environmental and ecocritical approaches
- Nationalism, mythmaking, historical revisionism

Please submit a 250 - 300 word abstract for a 20-minute presentation, along with your CV and Institutional Affiliation, to Aurora Levy, AHGSA President, no later than 11:59 PM PST on Sunday, December 20, 2026. Those accepted will be notified by mid January 2027.

For submissions and questions, please email aolevy@arizona.edu