

# THE DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

## DR. BÁRBARO MARTÍNEZ-RUIZ NAMED TANNER-OPPERMAN CHAIR OF AFRICAN ART

The Department is excited to announce that Dr. Bárbaro Martínez-Ruiz has joined IU as the inaugural holder of the Tanner-Opperman Chair of African Art History in Honor of Roy Sieber. He is an expert on African and Caribbean artistic, visual, and religious practices, and we are delighted to welcome him to campus. In addition to teaching lectures and seminars on African art, Dr. Martínez-Ruiz is continuing research for his book project “Unwrapping the Universe: Art and Cosmology Among the Bakongo.”

The title borrows from the African Bantu concept of the universe as a



packet or bundle. The aim of this project is to “unwrap” the conceptual layers in specific art objects to gain a better understanding of their cosmological complexities and interrelated meanings. Doing so creates the interpretive webs that describe the conceptual and functional associations of these objects within their cultural context. Describing

these interrelationships serves to reveal overarching connections, the significance of which will be approached cross-culturally and historically, as well as within present-day contexts.

In addition to his book project, Dr. Martínez-Ruiz conducted art historical field work in Angola, Haiti, and Cuba this summer. He also acts as art director for the designer clothing label Unknown Union based in Cape Town, South Africa. With African indigenous design as its main focus, the label explores visual literacy design language, graphic writing principles, and visual expression. He also runs the only digital radio station in South Africa called “The Eye Radio.”

The Department of Art History  
Indiana University  
1229 E. Seventh St. Room 316  
Bloomington, IN 47405

## FACULTY NEWS: FAYE GLEISSER

Professor Faye Gleisser was instrumental in bringing the contemporary art exhibition entitled *Out of Easy Reach* to the Grunwald Gallery of Art in 2018. The show traveled from three venues in Chicago, and was on view at the Grunwald from August 24th through November 14th, 2018. Professor Gleisser and Betsy Stirratt, director of the Grunwald, received a College Arts & Humanities Institute (CAHI) Collaborative Arts Grant to support the exhibition, and host a two-day symposium entitled, “Abstraction as a Strategy of Refusal.” The exhibition was comprised of mixed media works, spanning contemporary painting, video art, installation art, and sculpture produced by twenty-four women from the Black and Latinx Diasporas. Featured were established artists such

as Howardena Pindell, Barbara Chase-Riboud, and Maren Hassinger, as well as mid-career and emerging artists, such as Leslie Hewitt, Edra Soto, Martine Syms, Yvette Mayorga, Steffani Jemison, and Caroline Kent.

Within the critical framework devised by the exhibition’s curator, Allison Glenn (Associate Curator of Contemporary Art, Crystal Bridges) who traveled to IU to install the exhibition, the selected



art works troubled conventional accounts of abstraction in art history by revisiting and extending previously established ideas of representation, identity, and materiality. As testament to the show’s international critical acclaim, the September 2018 issue of *Artforum*, the top-ranked contemporary art publication world-wide, lauded the exhibition for its ambition and dynamism. In conjunction with the exhibition, Professor Gleisser offered two new classes in the Fall 2018 semester, an undergraduate 300-level course titled “Curating the Contemporary” and a graduate seminar, “Abstraction, Here and Now,” allowing students the unique opportunity to use the exhibition as a central object of analysis in both courses.

## STUDENT NEWS:

### SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Undergraduate **Lauren Ehrmann** was awarded the **Professional Development Award** from the **Friends of Art Fund for Art History** to support her summer internship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Ph.D. candidate **Elizabeth Tuggle** received the **Theodore R. Bowie Graduate Fellowship** alongside the **Pegram Harrison Memorial Fellowship** to support her ongoing dissertation research on Islamic art.

Graduating senior **Meryem Özel** was awarded the **Robert E. Burke Award** in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement in the field of Art History.

Ph.D. candidate **MaryClaire Pappas** won a **Fulbright grant** to study in Sweden for the 2019-2020 academic year. She also received the **Lewis Hawes Fellowship** to further support the Fulbright grant and her dissertation research.

Newly graduated doctoral student **Charlotte Forstall**

received funds from the **Professor Shehira Davezac Student Support Fund Fellowship** and the **Diether Thimme Memorial Scholarship**, allowing her to attend the Archaeological Institute of America conference earlier this spring. Dr. Forstall presented a paper entitled “Negotiating Roman Hegemony: The Arch of Augustus at Susa.”

This year’s **Grafton Trout Undergraduate Essay Prize** went to **Kaela Laughlin** for her paper entitled “Shaping Memory: How James Luna Remembers the Diabetic Body, Burial Rights, and Colonialism in the United States.”

The **Russell A. Havens Theater/Drama Scholarship** supported the research endeavors, trips, and conference attendance of multiple Ph.D. candidates, including **Erin Hennessey** (Northern Renaissance art), **Hoda Nedaeifar** (Islamic art), and **MaryClaire Pappas** (19th- and 20th-Century European art).



## REMEMBERING EMERITI FACULTY: EUGENE KLEINBAUER

Professor Gene Kleinbauer passed away June 3, 2019, at the age of 82. Professor Kleinbauer, a renowned expert on Early Christian and Byzantine art and architecture and the historiography of art history, taught at Indiana University from 1973 until his retirement as Full Professor in 2006. Known for his scintillating classes from the introductory through graduate seminar levels, Kleinbauer was also the author of several books, including *Saint Sophia at Constantinople: singulariter in mundo* (1999), *Hagia Sophia* (2004), and *Modern Perspectives in Western Art History: an anthology of 20th-century writings on the visual arts* (1971), which was republished by the Medieval Academy of America in 1989 and became a standard textbook for art historiography classes. He also served as editor of the journal *Gesta* from 1980 to 1983. Perhaps his greatest legacy was built through the many graduate students he supervised, who continue to push

the field forward through their scholarly pursuits at universities, research centers, and presses throughout North America. To honor Professor Kleinbauer, the Department is hosting a memorial service from 4:00-5:30p.m. on Saturday, September 7th, 2019 at the Woodburn House (519 North College Avenue, Bloomington, IN). If interested in attending, please RSVP either to [artist@indiana.edu](mailto:artist@indiana.edu) or (812) 855-9390.



## RECENT GRADUATES

**Summer Jiang (M.A.)**

“Giving Gold: The Material and Medium of Gerard Loyet’s Votive Image of Charles the Bold”

**Colin Kraft (M.A.)**

“The ‘Biography’ of the Leiden Maccabees: A Look at Problems of Patronage and Spiritual Ambiguity”

**Tyne Lowe (M.A.)**

“Tracing the Unlearned Line: Style and Surface in Contemporary Alternative Comics”

**Hannah Osborn (M.A.)**

“‘Tronin’ at the Met: Hip Hop and Black Visibility in the Art World”

**Charlotte Forstall (Ph.D.)**

“The Roman Monumental Arch in Topographic Context (200 BCE-114 CE)”

**Haohao Lu (Ph.D.)**

“Erotic Imagery in the Early Modern Low Countries: Risk, Secrecy, Paradox”

## UNDERGRAD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LAUREN EHRMANN

Lauren Ehrmann is a senior honors student in the Art History program with a double major in Near Eastern Languages & Cultures with a focus in Arabic, as well as a minor in Spanish. She is involved in IU’s Arabic Flagship program, and is also the chair of HHart which organizes an annual exhibition of the work of over 50 artists, performers, poets, and authors from the Honor’s College. This summer, she worked as an intern for the curatorial department of Islamic Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, an experience which complimented her own research interests regarding museums as points of intercultural exchange and the shifting focus of Islamic curatorial departments in light of social and political events. Lauren will be writing an Art History Honors thesis with Professor Margaret Graves in the coming year.



## GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: HODA NEDAEIFAR

Ph.D. student Hoda Nedaeifar is currently writing a dissertation on Islamic art with Dr. Margaret Graves. Hoda worked as a curatorial intern at Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art this past summer. Formerly a house belonging to Doris Duke (1912-1993), the museum is located on the ocean shores of Honolulu, Hawaii, housing a world-renowned collection of around 4000 Islamic art objects.

Under the supervision of museum curator Dr. Leslee Michelsen, Hoda worked on installations in the Qajar gallery, a permanent space displaying objects from late 18th- and 19th-century Iran. She provided input for digital initiatives and the museum’s database, researched objects and wrote display descriptions, and assisted with exhibition installation by organizing the display cases. The latter task was her favorite, as she observed how the act of curating can potentially produce and/or revise



art historical narratives and modes of interpretation.

Working with objects from Qajar culture provided an opportunity to explore ideas of materiality and imagery in the early years of Iranian modernity, as well the reception and perception of photography in the 19th century. Part of Hoda’s dissertation research focuses on the question of self-representation in Iranian photography in the context of the Qajar era. During this period, the camera was introduced in Iran and

quickly became a cultural phenomenon, being fully embraced even by king Naser al-Din Shah (1848-1896). Photography also changed the way images were made in other artistic mediums, even in traditional mediums such as lacquer and papier-mâché. These experiences uncovered new material for future research projects and publications.

Hoda is pictured in the Shangri La Museum’s Central Courtyard in front of tile panels from seventeenth-century Iran (Isfahan).

## ALUMNI NEWS

After working as an arts administrator at Discovery Programs in New York City, **Tori Champion** (B.A. ‘17) moved to Washington State to pursue a graduate degree in Art History at the University of Washington. She now works at Arundel Books as a bookseller, editorial assistant, and curator for the bookstore’s gallery space.

**Kate Clarke Lemay** (M.A. ‘12) curated an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery entitled “Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence” as part of the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative, “Because of Her Story.” Viewers can see authentic objects, including original banners from the National Women’s Party, a late-19th century ballot box,

and original writings by influential suffragists. The exhibition will be on view through January 5, 2020.

**Stephanie Walters Kim** (B.A. ‘08) is the Director of Brand Content and Partnerships for *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. Recently highlighted as one of the College’s *20 Under 40*, her most notable project was building a partnership with Cheerios, which secured the opportunity for Ellen DeGeneres to surprise her in-studio audience with \$1 million, the show’s biggest giveaway ever.

Alumnus **Phillip Heagy** (M.A. ‘78) published a poem in the poetry magazine, *Boned*.

**Melissa Young** (B.A. ‘15) works as a Project Manager at Enservio cataloguing and mitigating damage to artworks.

**Sam Angelotta** (B.A. ‘08) runs a non-

profit lacrosse program that provides low-income youth with academic and social intervention.

Vice-President of American Duchess Inc. and Royal Vintage Shoes **Abigail Cox** (B.A. ‘08) co-authored her second book, *The American Duchess Guide to 18th Century Beauty*, which is currently the #1 Best Seller on Amazon in the Fashion Category.

**Hope Lloyd Brown** (Margaret Hope Lloyd, B.A. ‘04) is art advisor and curator for Triad Art Group and recently published a catalog raisonné of 200 colored drypoint etchings by Salvador Dalí.

Alumna **Harriet Warkel** (M.A. ‘89) retired from her position as Curator of American Art at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.