Curriculum Vitae

Bret Rothstein
Art History Department
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Academic Posts

- Ruth N. Halls Professor of Art History, 2019-
  - Affiliate Faculty: Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Medieval Studies, Renaissance Studies
  - Adjunct Faculty: Germanic Studies
- Associate Professor of Art History, Indiana University, Bloomington, 2007-2019
- Assistant, Associate Professor of Art History, Rhode Island College, 1998-2007
  - Affiliate Faculty: Film Studies Program

Publications (** = peer-reviewed)

<u>Book-Length Work in Print</u>
  Single Author:
- ** <u>The Shape of Difficulty: A Fan Letter to Unruly Objects</u> (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2019)

- ** <u>Sight and Spirituality in Early Netherlandish Painting</u> (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

  Edited:
- ** With Walter S. Melion and Michel Weemans, <u>The Anthropomorphic Lens: Anthropomorphism, Microcosmism and Analogy during the Early Modern Period</u> (Brill, 2014)

<u>Articles, Essays in Print</u>
- "Secrecy and the Understanding of Small Things in Early Modern Italy," in Walter S. Melion, Agnès Guiderdoni, and Ralph Dekoninck, eds. *Quid est secretum?*: On the Visual Representation of Mystery and Secrecy in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700 (Leiden: Brill, 2020), 708-727

- ** "Early Modern Play: Three Perspectives," <u>Renaissance Quarterly</u> 71:3 (autumn 2018), 1036-1046

- ** "Better Living Through Misinterpretation," in Debra Cashion, Henry Luttikhuizen, and Ashley West, eds. The Primacy of the Image: Essays in Honor of Larry Silver (Brill, 2017), 90-102

- ** With Karen Inouye (American Studies, Indiana University – Bloomington), "Visual Games and the Unseeing of Race in the Late Nineteenth Century," American Quarterly 68:2 (June 2016), 287-313

- ** "Visual Difficulty as a Cultural System," RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics 65/66 (2014/2015), 332-347

- "Jan van Hemessen's Anatomy of Parody," in Walter S. Melion, Bret Rothstein, and Michel Weemans, eds. The Anthropomorphic Lens. Anthropomorphism, Microcosmism and Analogy during the Early Modern Period (Brill, 2014), 457-479

- ** "On Empathy as a Type of Early Netherlandish Visual Wit," in Walter S. Melion, James Clifton, and Michel Weemans, eds. Imago Exegetica: Visual Images as Exegetical Instruments, 1400-1600 (Brill, 2014), 189-209

- ** "Making Trouble: Strange Wooden Objects and the Pursuit of Difficulty ca. 1596," The Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies 13:1 (2013), 96-129

- ** "Beer and Loafing in Antwerp," Art History 35:5 (2012), 886-907

- "Pieter Bruegel Makes a Mess of Things," in Henry Luttikhuizen, ed. The Humor and Wit of Pieter Bruegel the Elder (Grand Rapids: Calvin College, 2010), 29-43

- ** "Looking the Part: Ruminative Viewing and the Imagination of Community in the Early Modern Low Countries," Art History 31:1 (2008), 1-32

- ** "Gender and the Configuration of Early Netherlandish Devotional Skill," in Andrea G. Pearson, ed. The Face of Gender: Portraiture and Constructions of Female Identity in Early Modern Europe (Ashgate, 2008), 15-34

- ** "Movable Feasts of Reason: Description, Intelligence, and the Excitation of Sight," in Christine Göttler, ed. Spirits Unseen: The Representation of Subtle Bodies in Early Modern European Culture (Brill, 2008), 47-70

- "The Rule of Metaphor and the Play of the Viewer in the Hours of Mary of Burgundy," in Reindert L. Falkenburg and Walter S. Melion, eds. Image and Imagination of the Religious Self in Medieval and Early Modern Europe (Brepols, 2007), 237-275

- ** "The Problem with Looking at Pieter Bruegel's Elck," Art History 26:2 (2003), 143-173

- ** "Vision, Cognition, and Self-Reflection in Rogier van der Weyden's Bladelin Triptych," Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte 64:1 (2001), 37-55

- ** "On Devotion as Social Ornament in Jan van Eyck's Rolin Virgin and Child," Dutch Crossing 24:1 (2000), 96-132

- "Seeing Things," in <u>Stephen Fisher: Chimeras</u> (Seattle, WA: Frye Art Museum, 2000), 1-5

- ** "Vision and Devotion in Jan van Eyck's <u>Virgin and Child with Canon Joris van der Paele</u>," <u>Word & Image</u> 15:3 (1999), 262-276

<u>Essay in Press</u>
- "Representations of Leisure," solicited essay to appear in Alessandro Arcangeli, Peter Borsay, and Jan Hein Furnée, eds. <u>Cultural History of Leisure</u>, volume 3: The Renaissance (London: Bloomsbury)
- "How to Talk about Burgundian Books You Could Not Read," solicited essay to appear in Walter S. Melion, Christopher Fletcher, and Alexandra Zigomalos, eds. <u>Customized Books in Early Modern Europe</u> (Leiden: Brill)

<u>Shorter Pieces and Book Reviews</u>
<u>caa.reviews</u>, <u>Cubism for Fun</u> (Nederlandse Kubus Club), <u>Dutch Crossing</u>, <u>Kunstform</u>/<u>Sehepunkte</u>, <u>Ons geestelijk erf</u>, <u>Oxford Bibliographies Online</u>, <u>Renaissance Quarterly</u>, <u>Seventeenth Century News</u>, and <u>Sixteenth Century Journal</u>

Founding Editor, <u>Cultures of Play, 1300-1700</u> (Amsterdam University Press)
    Pending Production:
- ** Julie D. Campbell, <u>Women, Entertainment, and Precursors of the Salon: Taste-Makers at the French Court, 1570-1615</u> (reviewed; manuscript under revision)

    Pending Review:
- Jessen Kelly, <u>Renaissance Futures: Material Culture & Games of Chance in the Early Modern Netherlands</u> (proposal accepted; awaiting manuscript for external review)

- Kelli Wood, <u>The Art of Play in Early Modern Italy: Visual, Material, and Performative Cultures of Games</u>

    In Print (including earlier iterations of the series):
- ** Tom Bishop, Gina Bloom, and Erika T. Lin, eds. <u>Games and Theatre in Early Modern England</u> (2021)

- ** Holly F. Nelson & James W. Daems, eds. <u>Games and War in Early Modern English Literature</u> (2019)

- ** Robin O'Bryan, ed. <u>Games and Game Playing in Early Modern Art and Literature</u> (2018)

- ** Allison Levy, ed. <u>Playthings in Early Modernity: Party Games, Word Games, Mind Games</u> (Medieval Institute Publishing, 2017)

- ** Anthony Parr, <u>Renaissance Mad Voyages: Experiments in Early Modern English Travel</u> (Ashgate, 2015).

Related Research

- Initiator and Principal Investigator, "The House of Tricky Things." Begun in 2011, this project is a digital ethnographic archive of contemporary enigmatology, or the subculture of puzzles, with a particular emphasis on mechanical objects. Building on interviews with leading puzzle designers and key collectors, it is meant to provide a multimedia counterpart to the objects and papers in the Jerry Slocum Puzzle Collection in the Lilly Library at Indiana University.

Selected Awards

- Research Travel Grant, College Arts and Humanities Institute, Indiana University, 2017
- Collaborative Research and Creative Activity Fellowship, Indiana University, 2016-2017
- Research Award, Institute for Advanced Study, Indiana University, 2014
- Research Travel Grant, College Arts and Humanities Institute, Indiana University, Summer 2013
- Fellowship in Residence, College Arts and Humanities Institute, Indiana University, Spring 2013
- New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Grant, Indiana University, 2011-2012
- Member, Indiana University Remak Faculty Seminar, 2010-2011
- New Frontiers Exploration Travel Fellowship, Indiana University, 2010
- Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2006-2007
- Rhode Island College Faculty Research Grant, 1999-2000, 2001-2002, 2003-2004
- Rhode Island College Faculty Development Grant, 2001-2002
- University of California, Santa Barbara Dissertation Fellowship, 1997
- University of California, Santa Barbara GHRAP Dissertation Fellowship, 1996-1997
- Samuel H. Kress Foundation Travel Fellowship, 1996
- J. William Fulbright Fellowship, 1995-1996
- University of California, Santa Barbara Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Predoctoral Fellowship, 1995

Scholarly Presentations

- Visiting Researcher (by invitation), Centre d'Analyse Culturelle de la Première Modernité/Group for Early Modern Cultural Analysis, Université Catholique de Louvain, October 2022

- "What's in a Book? Customization, Transformation, Categorization, and the Value of a Burgundian Manuscript ca. 1400," Lovis Corinth Research Colloquium "Customized Books in Early Modern Europe 1400-1700," Emory University, 2021

- Discussant, "Customizing Books Around Images in Early Modern Europe, 1400-1700," annual meeting of the College Art Association, 2020

- "The Feeling of the Way Things Are," part of the colloquium "The Philosophical Image: Art, Wisdom, and the Care of the Self in the Premodern World, 1200-1700," Johns Hopkins University, 2019

- "The Cheat, the Spoilsport, and the Virtuoso," University of California, Santa Barbara, 2019

- "Secret Hardware Handshakes," keynote address delivered at "Puzzles, Bots, and Poems: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Poetics, Sculpture, Design, and Constraint," University of Virginia, 2018

- "La Cosa Tanto Sia Bella Quanto Sia Occulta: Luca Pacioli and the Ethics of Difficulty," part of the Lovis Corinth Research Colloquium "Quid Est Secretum?: On the Visual Representation of Mystery and Secrecy in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700," Emory University, 2018

- "Puzzles, Pedagogy, and the Limits of Description in Luca Pacioli's De Viribus Quantitatis," annual meeting of the College Art Association, 2018

- "Luca Pacioli's Acceptable, Delightful, and Necessary Materialist Heterodoxy," annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, 2017

- "The Best Way to Misinterpret Pieter Bruegel the Elder," Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies, Seminar in European Art, 2016

- "Toys for Grownups in the Early Modern Low Countries," part of the Julius Fund Lectures in Renaissance Art, Case Western Reserve University, 2016

- "L'anatomie parodique de Jan van Hemessen," part of the lecture series "L'image piège. Paradoxes et jeux visuels dans l'art néerlandais de Bosch à Bruegel," Musée du Louvre, 2015

- "A Flemish Hedgehog Paints for Burgundian Foxes," part of the colloquium "Unfolding Evidence," Kolleg-Forschergruppe "BildEvidenz. Geschichte und Ästhetik," Kunsthistorisches Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, 2014.

- "Picturing Thought in the Early Modern Low Countries," annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, 2014

- "Jan van Eyck's Difficult Terrain," part of the colloquium "The World from Above. New Studies and Approaches to the 'World Landscape'," Brussels and Lille, 2013

- "Measures of Ease in Visual Piety of the Early Modern Low Countries," annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society, 2012

- "The Joy of Looking, or Playing with Objects in Early Sixteenth-Century Antwerp," part of the colloquium "Netherlandish Culture of the Sixteenth Century," University of Toronto, 2012

- "Getting to Know the Burr before It Was a Puzzle, or, Wotawotsitoncewas," 32nd annual International Puzzle Party, 2012

- "On Empathy as a Type of Early Netherlandish Visual Wit," part of the Lovis Corinth Research Colloquium, "Ab historia proprie figurativa: Visual Images as Exegetical Instruments, 1400-1600," Emory University, 2012

- "How to Make a Mess of Things in the Sixteenth-Century Low Countries," Calvin College, 2010

- "On Naturalism as a Constraint in Early Netherlandish Painting," part of the workshop "Dutch Art and the 'Reality Effect': Where Are We Now?," semi-annual meeting of the Historians of Netherlandish Art, 2010

- "Fusion, Confusion, Vision, Cognition," annual meeting of the College Art Association, 2010

- "Ouwehoeren: Distraction, Attention, and Visual Processing in the Early Modern Low Countries," part of the colloquium "Vision and Visibilities in Early Modern Dutch Art" at the Vancouver Art Gallery (BC), 2009

- "Gender and the Configuration of Early Netherlandish Devotional Skill," annual meeting of the College Art Association, 2005

- "The Contours of Burgundian Visual Wit ca. 1475," annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society, 2004

- "The Rule of Metaphor and the Play of the Viewer in Early Netherlandish Devotional Painting," part of the Lovis Corinth Research Colloquium, "Image and Imagination of the Religious Self in Medieval and Early Modern Europe," Emory University, 2003

- "The Problem with Looking at Pieter Bruegel's Elck," annual meeting of the College Art Association, 2001

- "On Physical Brutality as the Constitution of Society in Gerard David's Justice of Cambyses," part of the colloquium "The Ideology of Burgundy: Fashioning National Identity in the Literary, Political, and Historical Vernacular," Groningen, 2000

- Session Co-chair (with Andrea Pearson), "New Directions in the Study of Devotional Art in Northern Europe, 1300-1600," annual meeting of the College Art Association, 2000

- "Vision and Devotion in Jan van Eyck's Bruges Virgin and Child," annual meeting of the South-Central Renaissance Conference, 1999

- "The Image of Devotion in Early Flemish Painting," annual meeting of the College Art Association, 1998

- "Complexity and Contradiction as Aesthetic Criteria in Early Flemish Painting," annual meeting of the International Congress on Medieval Studies, 1997

- "Reading patrons, reading books in early Flemish painting," annual meeting of the International Congress on Medieval Studies, 1994

- "Mnemotechnics and the Search for a Fifteenth-Century Painting Theory," presented in the workshop "Re-Creating a Fifteenth-Century Painting Theory for Northern Europe: Who Needs It?," Historians of Netherlandish Art, 1993

Teaching

Undergraduate
- A102: Introduction to Art History
- A336: From Van Eyck to Vermeer
- A333: The Age of Rembrandt and Rubens
- A435: Playing with Pictures in the Early Modern Low Countries
- A476: Print and the Origins of the Modern Medium
- A483: Visual and Material Cultures of Play
- A490: Art History Goes to the Movies

Graduate
- A510: Contemporary Theories and Methods
- Seminars:
  - The Early Modern Thing
  - Materialist Spiritualities
  - Objects in Motion, Objects at Rest
  - Renaissance Prints and the Origins of Information
  - Varieties and Consequences of Early Modern Material Wit