

ART HISTORY NEWSLETTER

CAL POLY POMONA

2023

COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Table of Contents

1

Art History @ CPP

2

Faculty

3

Student News

5

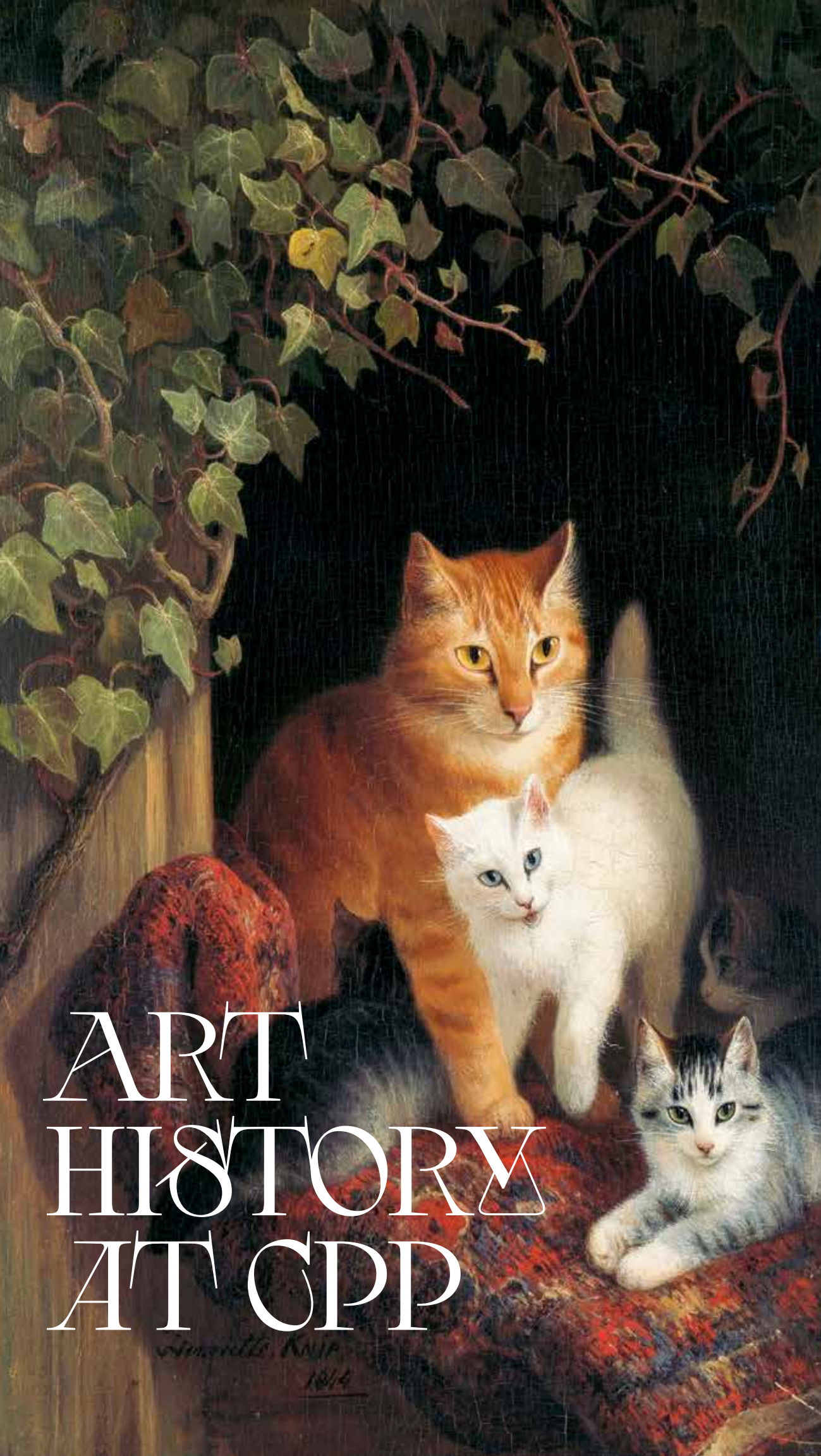
Senior Papers

6

Alumni News

10

Career Paths



For the B.A. in Art History, our majors study the production, reception, and experience of art, architecture, design, mass media, and other artifacts that manifest visually or tangibly. Art historians may study any period, region, or cultural tradition. Our courses span the globe and every age. We regularly offer courses in areas as diverse as “Contemporary Art,” “Medieval Art,” “Japanese Art,” and “Art and Architecture of India.” Through such courses, students become familiar with significant works and styles, differing ways of interpreting them, and an understanding of the social functions and impacts of visual and material culture.

Students pursuing the B.A. in Art History must practice verbal and written communication as well as skills of interpretation, critical thinking, and research. These are foundations for various careers in and beyond art history. (A summary of common career paths for those with a B.A. in Art History is included in this document.) To best prepare students for careers in the field, our curriculum requires students to take elective courses for additional expertise or a minor most compatible with their goals. The faculty is dedicated to advising our students in this highly personal, yet consequential, process.

Faculty



Dr. Alison Pearlman

*Ph.D., Art History,
University of Chicago, 1997*

Dr. Alison Pearlman has a love of writing and a penchant for interpreting trends in contemporary art, the marketing of culture, and food and restaurant design. What do trends say about the people who create them, those who buy into them, and the cultural conditions that foster the exchanges? Pearlman's books *Unpackaging Art of the 1980s*, *Smart Casual: The Transformation of Gourmet Restaurant Style in America*, and *May We Suggest: Restaurant Menus and the Art of Persuasion* span those interests.

Pearlman teaches courses in modern and contemporary art and design history as well as the senior seminar for art history majors.

For Pearlman, there is a moment in the senior seminar when the beauty of the art history program culminates and comes into focus: the students present their independent research in a conference-style talk with visual aids, and their peers offer them valuable feedback in a constructive and caring spirit. It is immensely gratifying to see the students reach a level of cultural and historical awareness, critical thought, and professional generosity that will sustain them in any career path.



Dr. Karlyn Griffith

*Ph.D., Art History, Florida State
University, 2014*

Dr. Karlyn Griffith investigates how layers of meaning are built within the visual world of the Middle Ages, especially in popular culture. This line of inquiry takes Griffith from illustrated manuscripts to the reuse of Roman materials in medieval and early modern objects and spaces. Her recent publications explore the art of the book and analyze illustrated manuscripts as art objects, rather than merely receptacles of information. Griffith's research combines interdisciplinary approaches, such as from literature and archaeology, with traditional art historical practices of stylistic analysis and iconographical interpretation. These methods allow art to be viewed from the perspective of the cultures that made and used particular objects and monuments. They also form the framework of her courses.

In class Griffith espouses the discipline of looking. This, combined with analyzing and articulating deductions, is the core of critical thinking. Students hone these skills in her Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque art and architecture courses. Griffith also coaches students in another important and transferable skill: cogent, persuasive writing. Critical thinking and writing provide the foundation for success not just in college courses, but especially in navigating the inevitable twists in their future career paths.

student news



Piper Bridgman Is a 2023 College of Environmental Design McPhee Scholar and Valedictorian

The annual Julian A. McPhee Scholar and Valedictorian award, named after the founding president of Cal Poly Pomona and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, honors a graduating senior in the College who exhibits academic excellence. This year Piper Bridgman and Sophie Johnson, of Landscape Architecture, share the award for the College of Environmental Design. It is notable that they were the only two students in the College of Environmental Design to achieve a 4.0 Grade Point Average. Piper distinguishes herself not just for her GPA and graduation Summa Cum Laude but also for her intellectual sophistication, self-motivation, and nimble problem-solving mind.

Piper's senior paper, entitled "The Curious Decline of Damnatio Memoriae at the Dawn of Byzantine Rome," exemplifies these qualities. From the start of the Art History Senior Seminar, the program's capstone course, Piper immediately defined her own research agenda. Piper knew she wanted to examine the ancient Roman state practice of damnatio memoriae, destroying a condemned person's reputation by erasing an official record of them—in particular, by defacement of their image. She worked consistently and diligently on the project, and, as soon as she noticed that the topic she had in mind was not as fruitful as she originally planned, quickly pivoted to take a fresher angle on the subject. The result is an intricate and compelling work of scholarship that attempts to answer the question of why the practice ceased. The B.A. in Art History program is immensely proud of Piper.

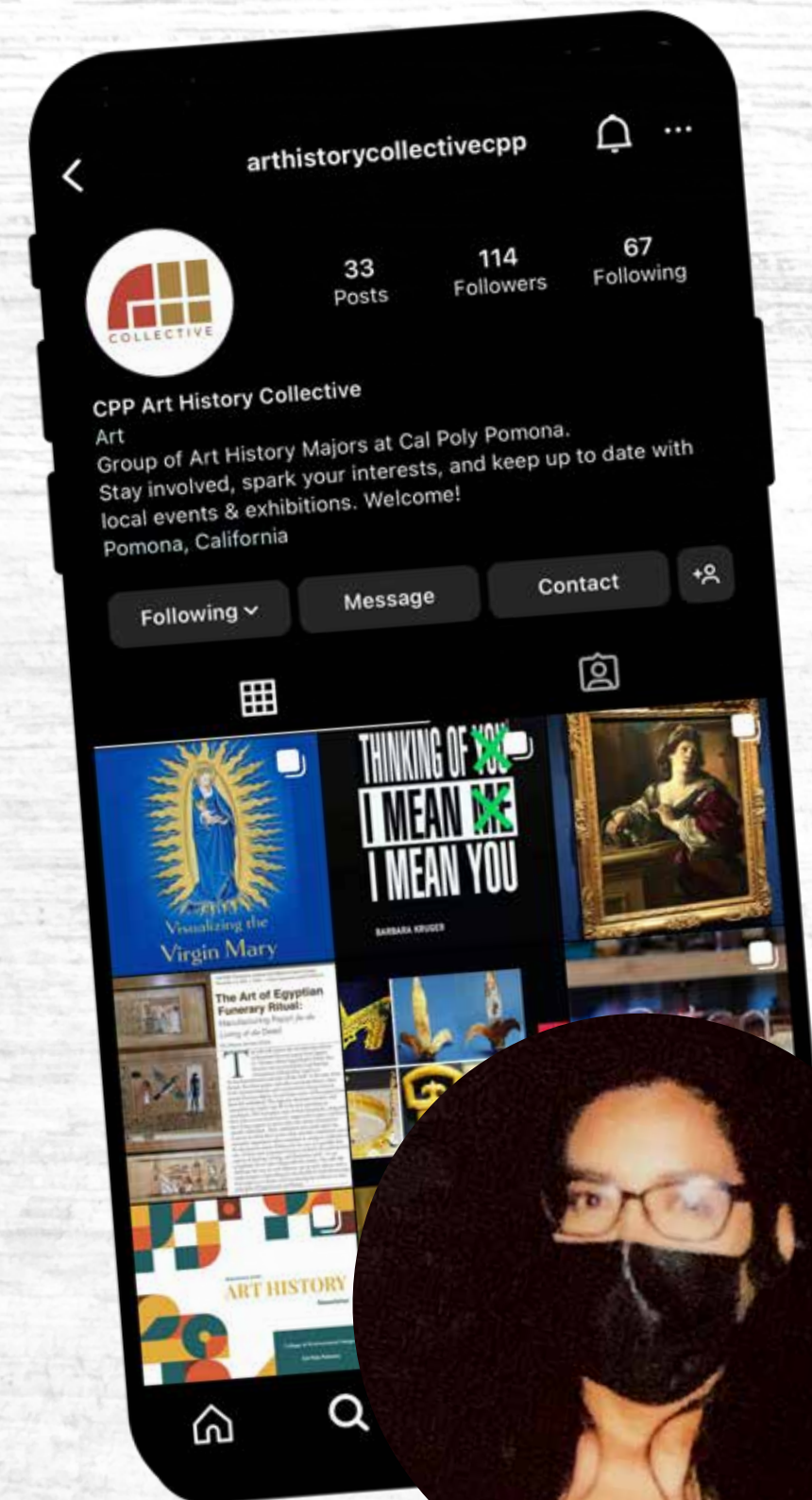


Sharon Esquivel

This spring, current Art History senior Sharon Esquivel took the reins of the B.A. in Art History's Instagram account. Here's what Sharon has to say about her plans:

"I want to incentivize the Art History and Visual Communication Design majors of the Art Department to learn more about topics related to art and its history. I plan on doing so by sharing resources such as podcasts and information regarding in-person and online exhibitions. I would also like to facilitate discussions and debates about various topics related to art history to foster engagement and deeper understanding of the subject matter. The Art History Collective page can be used to create a community that values learning and intellectual curiosity by encouraging members to share their own insights about art history."

So, don't wait. Follow **@arthistorycollectivecpp** and join the conversation!



Guadalupe Andrade

"Unexpected Patronage: The Catholic Church and Caravaggio"

Piper Bridgman

"The Curious Decline of Damnatio Memoriae at the Dawn of Byzantine Rome"

Karina Camerana

"Exposing the Male: Titian and Renaissance Expectations of Masculinity"

Georgette Collard

"From Humble Beginnings: The Influence of Marian Iconography and the Establishment of a Cult"

Kellie Kasahara

"Connecting the Dots: Ritual Practices at Buddhist sites in Madhya Pradesh, India, from the 1st through 4th Centuries"

Thomas Malone

"Printing La Causa: The Rise and Fall of the United Farm Workers through Graphic Arts"

Noah Scaringi

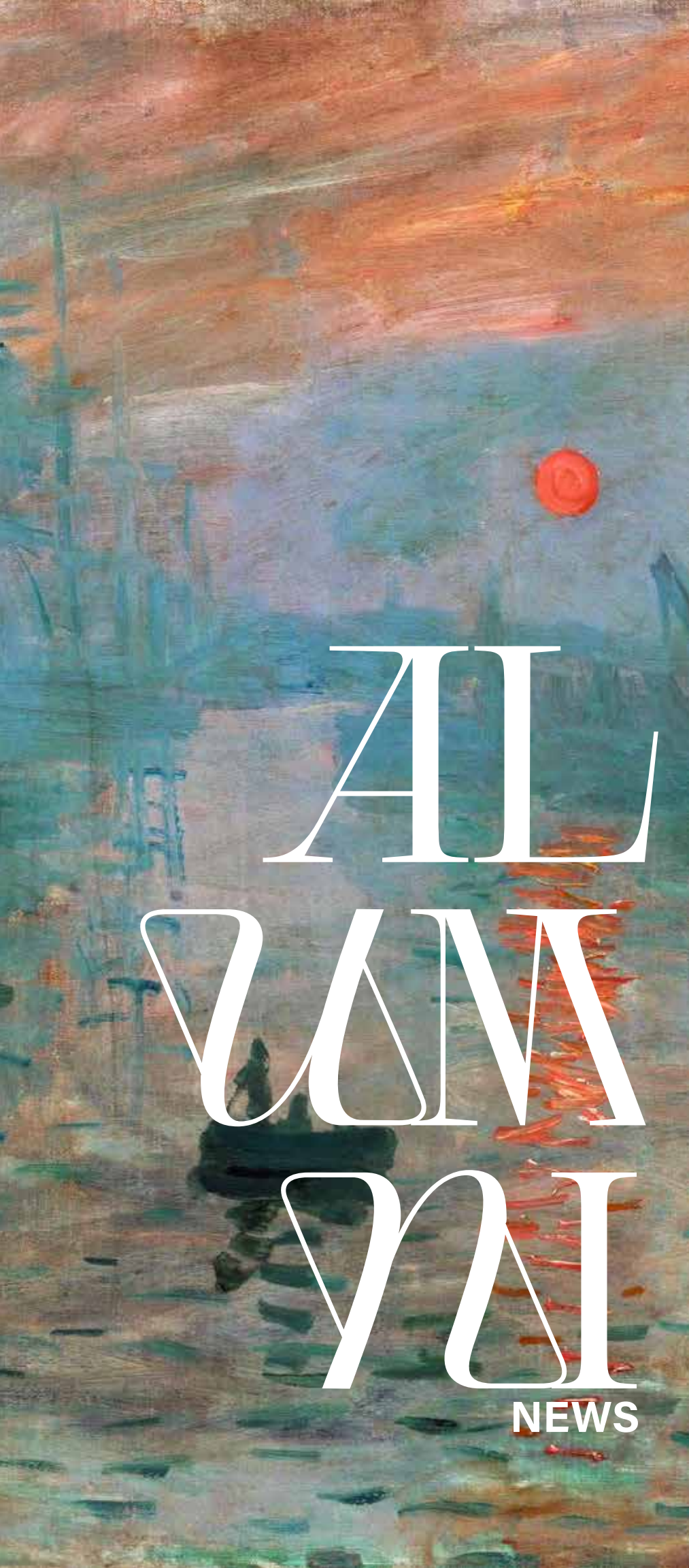
"Pergamon Altar: German Icon or Turkish Legacy?"

Hilary Velasquez

"Is It a Supreme Dream: The Whitewashing of *The Supreme Dream of Bolívar* Mural in Nicaragua"



SENIOR
PAPERS



AL VAN M NEWS



Elainna-Marie Nelson *(class of 2019)*

knew she wanted a career in museums. But, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, in 2020, there were limited volunteering opportunities. So, she applied for an online master's degree in Museum Studies with Southern University at New Orleans. At the same time, she still found a way to volunteer at the Edward-Dean Museum and Gardens in Cherry Valley, California. Elainna assisted with school tours, special projects and events, exhibition installations, and docent tours.

By the time Elainna graduated with her M.A. in Museum Studies, in the fall of 2022, she was already hired to work for a year at the same institution where she volunteered. Her experience and initiative paid off. As Museum Manager, Stacey Chester, says, "I quickly saw Elainna's enthusiasm and passion for the museum and began planting the seed to upper management to hire her on as an employee." Elainna plans to continue developing a career in museums.

Leila Al-Shibibi *(class of 2022)*

started her post-baccalaureate career with notable accomplishments in museum and academic fields. In the summer of 2022, Leila concluded a Getty Foundation AllPaper Seminar fellowship, for which she presented an exhibition proposal centered on the print collection of the Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College. The Benton Museum then asked Leila to continue working as the Getty Marrow Collections Intern. In the new position, she expedited the museum's preparations for the first year of its Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant. This required recording and revising object dimensions for over 500 works on paper. She also assisted in repatriation efforts during museum-tribal consultations. For that, she documented historical notes related to catalog entries for Native American art and artifacts held by Pomona College.

Leila's experience in museums helped her land the position of Curatorial and Administrative Assistant at the Orange County Museum of Art, which she has held since December 2022. In this role, she has conducted research related to the permanent collection and other artists of institutional interest. She has also helped to draft didactic materials. Leila reports that working at OCMA has strengthened her commitment to the pedagogical role of art and museums.

Meanwhile, Leila has also been active in scholarship and has kept her sights on a graduate degree for eventual work in academia. In her last semester at Cal Poly Pomona, Leila audited Dr. Griffith's Art of the Middle Ages course and undertook related research of her own initiative. Her resulting paper, entitled "Apocalyptic Monstrosities: Race and Prophecy in the Apocalypse of 1313," was accepted for presentation at the competitive session of the Cal Poly Pomona Student RSCA Conference and at the SUNY New Paltz Undergraduate Art History Symposium. Leila looks forward to beginning a new adventure in the fall of 2023. After applying to Ph.D. programs in Art History this fall, Leila received offers from Boston University, Bard Graduate Center, Florida State University, and Syracuse University.





Melissa Nini Reyes *(Class of 2021)*

After earning her B.A. in Art History from Cal Poly Pomona, Melissa Nini Reyes was accepted into the master's program at the University of California, Riverside. There today, Melissa works under the wing of her faculty mentor, Dr. Kristoffer Neville, and specializes in Pre-Modern and Early Modern Art with an emphasis on French Gothic architecture and Baroque painting and sculpture. Lecture courses and seminars at UCR have exposed Melissa to a broad range of art historical methods, and she looks forward to tackling an M.A. thesis, beginning September 2023, that integrates what she has learned about art history, theory, and methodologies into a substantial independent research project.

Recent travel abroad also informs her work. In the summer of 2022, Melissa visited Germany, France, and Spain. This invaluable experience brought her into direct contact with many artworks and examples of architecture in her field of study. In the summer of 2023, she will return to Europe for essential firsthand observation of even more.

In the meantime, Melissa has been awarded a 2022-2023 UCR Gluck Classroom Fellowship. For this program, she created an art history lesson plan for presentation at various events and schools designed to benefit people of all ages. At UCR, she has also held the position of Reader and Teacher's Assistant for courses in American Art and Renaissance Architecture. Both roles have helped her gain experience grading and teaching undergraduate students. After graduate school, Melissa plans to pursue a career in art history education and museums.



Natalie Varbedian *(Class of 2016)*

has been active in the field of contemporary art. In 2020, she prepared the way by earning her M.A. in Art History from the University of California at Davis. More recently, she co-curated *Discovering Takouhi: Portraits of Joan Agajanian Quinn* for the Armenian Museum of America in Watertown, Massachusetts (January 2022—March 2023). She was also the assistant curator for *On the Edge: Los Angeles Art, 1970s—1990s, from the Joan and Jack Quinn Family Collection* at the Bakersfield Museum of Art (February 2021—April 2022).

Since the 1960s, the Quinns, based in Los Angeles, have been stalwart collectors and supporters of contemporary artists. Joan Agajanian Quinn is equally well known for her contributions as west-coast editor and writer for various cultural magazines such as *Interview*, *House & Garden*, and the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*. In Los Angeles as well as New York City art worlds, Joan has been such a vital presence—as a writer, editor, friend to artists, interviewer, art promoter, socialite, and standout personality—that America's most prominent artists have portrayed her in over 300 paintings and sculptures—enough to fill exhibitions like the ones Natalie helped bring into being.

In addition to her own curatorial work, since July 2021 Natalie has contributed interviews with artists, curators, and others involved in art production and curation on *curator.guide*, a Los Angeles-based online platform that covers art throughout the world.



CAREER PATHS



Curatorship

REQUIRED CREDENTIALS

Typically, a master's degree is required for museum curating. M.A. degrees in Art History, Museum Studies, or Curatorial Studies are relevant.

RECOMMENDED WHILE AN UNDERGRADUATE AT CPP

Pursue a museum or gallery internship while a senior. The art history faculty regularly announces and encourages internship opportunities at local museums. The Curator of the university's Kellogg Art Gallery and Huntley Art Gallery regularly offers work opportunities for students. We offer academic credit for only one, the Gallery Assistant Internship supervised by the Curator of the university's Kellogg Art Gallery and Huntley Art Gallery. For the Gallery Assistant Internship at the Kellogg and Huntley galleries, students assist in the research of artists and artworks, art-collection inventory, production of exhibition checklists, art labeling and captioning, cataloging, archiving and documenting collections, and maintenance of data.

The position is ideal for students interested in learning art collections management and other related museum and gallery skills. Required duties also include gallery attendance (greeting patrons, attendance-taking, distributing visitor surveys, providing security for artworks), general gallery maintenance (painting, cleaning, etc.), assisting with installation and de-installation of artworks (help with moving walls, art handling, hanging and presenting artwork, unpacking and packing of artworks, lighting of artworks), assisting with receptions and events, promotion through social media, and some administrative and clerical duties. Majors in art history may be given specialized projects to build further professional skills and expertise.

Collections Management

REQUIRED CREDENTIALS

Collections managers typically work in museums, but may also work in any institution that requires managing a collection of objects. Librarianship is vast. There are librarians in corporate, public, academic, museum, and government institutions. For collections management, it is common to have an M.A. in Collections Management or a master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS). Those wishing to pursue Art Librarianship should additionally pursue an M.A. in Art History. Some graduate programs, such as the Pratt Institute in New York City, ready students for both degrees.

RECOMMENDED WHILE AN UNDERGRADUATE AT CPP

Students who want to pursue collections management for museums or other art-exhibiting institutions should consider a museum internship while a senior. Those who think they might want to work in libraries should consider interning in a library. They may need to take a college-level course in statistics that includes descriptive and inferential statistics and pass it with at least a C. Admission to the MLIS at UCLA, for example, requires such a course.





Museum Education

REQUIRED CREDENTIALS

An M.A. in Museum Education or Museum Studies is typical.

RECOMMENDED WHILE AN UNDERGRADUATE AT CPP

Consider pursuing a museum internship while a senior.

Scholarship

REQUIRED CREDENTIALS

A Ph.D. in Art History or Visual Studies is required. Depending on the field of specialization, a Ph.D. in Classical Studies or Archaeology may be an appropriate alternative.

RECOMMENDED WHILE AN UNDERGRADUATE AT CPP

Students may pursue minors offered at CPP that are compatible with their interests in graduate education. The History Minor, for example, is always complementary to art history. Alternatively, since a Ph.D. in Art History or Visual Studies will require an examination in graduate school in two foreign languages, French or German is recommended, additional coursework or a minor in French may be desirable. Students with an interest in the burgeoning field of digital humanities—which includes digital art history, a growing specialization within art history scholarship—may wish instead to pursue the minor in Digital Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts (Digital Media).

Art Administration

REQUIRED CREDENTIALS

An M.A. in Arts Administration or Arts Management or Art Business (depending on area of interest) is desirable. The Sotheby's Institute of Art at Claremont Graduate University, for example, offers an M.A. in Art Business and an M.A. in Arts Management.

RECOMMENDED WHILE AN UNDERGRADUATE AT CPP

Consider a minor in Finance, Marketing Management, Business Law, or General Management.

Art Conservation

REQUIRED CREDENTIALS

An M.A. in Art Conservation or Technical Art History is required.

RECOMMENDED WHILE AN UNDERGRADUATE AT CPP

Graduate programs in this area may require a record of specific courses taken and/or work experience. For an example, see the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology's UCLA/Getty M.A. in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage <http://conservation.ucla.edu/>. The site lists the requirements for admission into the program. Typically, applicants must have a B.A. in a relevant area (such as art history); a variety of additional coursework in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences; and documented practical experience in conservation.





Art Editing & Publishing

REQUIRED CREDENTIALS

With a B.A. in Art History, a student will have a good foundation in the subject area, but will need further development of skills in writing and editing, journalism and publishing. This can be accomplished in many ways, including work experience and education credentials. An M.A. in English, Journalism, or Arts Journalism is a fine option for the latter.

RECOMMENDED WHILE AN UNDERGRADUATE AT CPP

Consider pursuing an English minor, a Journalism minor, or a double major in English or in Communications.

Art Law

REQUIRED CREDENTIALS

Acquire a J.D. (Juris Doctor degree) specializing in intellectual-property law or, as offered by Case Western Reserve University, a dual degree of J.D./M.A. (Art History and Museum Studies).

RECOMMENDED WHILE AN UNDERGRADUATE AT CPP

Choose a Political Science Minor, and, from the elective courses, select those pertaining to law. Take the LSAT exam (required for application to law schools).

