The 23rd Annual Graduate Student Symposium on the History of Art

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, APRIL 5–6, 2018
2025 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY  PHILADELPHIA, PA

Co-organized by University of Pennsylvania in collaboration with Bryn Mawr College and Temple University

Free tickets required for keynote lecture and symposium. Reserve online or call 215.278.7200.

All events held in Comcast Auditorium.

JILL AND JOHN AVERY LECTURE IN THE HISTORY OF ART AND KEYNOTE LECTURE FOR THE PHILADELPHIA GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 6:30–8 PM
Obdurate Objects and Methodological Challenges: Interpreting Scratches on Italian Panel Paintings as Indices of Period Reception
Megan Holmes, Professor of Art History, University of Michigan

The art historian’s “tool kit” has both frustrating limitations and unexpected potential when applied to unconventional representational materials—in this case, the markings on Italian panel paintings resulting from intentional scratching by their late medieval and early modern viewers/users. While these interventions are typically characterized as “vandalism” or “iconoclasm,” physical and textual evidence suggests a rich reception history that reveals complex cultural understandings about the activation, efficacy, and power of visual images in Italy, circa 1250–1550.

SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 10 AM–4:30 PM
This symposium brings together graduate students from nine mid-Atlantic colleges and universities to present current research in the field of art history. Each session includes presentations followed by a moderated discussion.

10–11:30 AM, SESSION 1
Surface Tensions in William Trost Richards’s Coastal Pictures
Kimia Shahi, Princeton University

“The Very Form and Mould”: Cast Relics of Abraham Lincoln’s Face and Hands
Ramey Mize, University of Pennsylvania

Robert Irwin’s “Desert of Pure Feeling”
Michael Vetter, University of Maryland

LUNCH BREAK

1–2:30 PM, SESSION 2
Topographies of Aristocratic Power in the Late Antique Mediterranean
Kaelin Jewell, Temple University

Reified Knowledge: Byzantine Enamel as Aestheticized Technology
Shannon Steiner, Bryn Mawr College

Heart, Head, and Mind: Grasping the Cross in Early Medieval England
Rachael Vause, University of Delaware

COFFEE BREAK

3–4:30 PM, SESSION 3
Cesare da Sesto and the Idea of Art
Elizabeth Bernick, Johns Hopkins University

Cigoli’s Lost Burial of St. Paul and Situating Altarpieces in Early Modern Rome
Jeffrey Fraiman, Rutgers University

A Dicey Promise: Japonisme and Middle-Class Parisiennes in Henry Somm’s Fantaisies japonaises (1879)
Hyoungee Kong, Pennsylvania State University