

## This Just In!

### ARTiculate

As the very last step in the process of the publication, the articles and an exhibition review prepared for the second edition of *ARTiculate* (Spring 2017) have been reviewed by this edition's faculty advisor, Dr. Catherine Harding.

Some of these pieces are now published online and are accessible through the [ARTiculate](#) website.

The rest of the material will become available online as soon as it is prepared.

Art History & Visual Studies  
Graduate Association  
email: [ahvs@uvic.ca](mailto:ahvs@uvic.ca)

## Greetings

As I write this, snow is falling. But my camellias are blooming, so it must be spring, and it should be in full progress by the time you read this.

Another academic year is pulling to a close for our AHVS community. (Yes, it's almost done: take that on faith, if you are still sprinting to get to a finish line that appears to keep on receding into the distance!)

It has been an exciting year with many Departmental 50th Anniversary Celebrations, with faculty and students active in community events, curating in galleries on campus and downtown, giving talks and conference-presentations locally, nationally and internationally, making plans for summer research, and sending off applications for fellowships and Ph.D. programs (and the first acceptances and funding offers are trickling in). In these and other ways, we continue to weave the world together.

*Dr. Astri Wright, Professor  
Art History & Visual Studies*

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a thank you to our community of Graduate Students and Faculty for all conversation and cooperation over the nearly two years I have been Graduate Advisor. Serving you has been a pleasure. This position rotates in the Department, and so I would like to welcome Dr. Allan Antliff, who will be our next Graduate Advisor, starting in July.

Best of luck finishing up exams, proposals, term projects, and more- and safe travels, whether they be up-island, across Canada or across the globe!

Warmest wishes from  
Your Graduate Advisor





*Jennifer Kramer, the curator of the current exhibit “Layers of Influence: Unfolding Cloth Across Cultures,” speaks with a group of AHVS grad students*

## On Tour

On February 15, during Reading Week, a group of AHVS graduate students was fortunate to take a trip to the Museum of Anthropology at UBC in Vancouver. Dr. Jennifer Kramer (MOA curator, Pacific Northwest), the curator of the current exhibit *Layers of Influence: Unfolding Cloth Across Cultures*, provided the group with a one-hour talk and tour of this current exhibition that features textiles from MOA’s collection.

In addition, our very own Behrang Nabavinejad, Ph.D. Candidate, spent most of the day providing us with a tour of the museum collections and grounds. The AHVSGA would like to thank the department for making this trip possible!

For more information on the exhibit, visit [moa.ubc.ca](http://moa.ubc.ca)

# Art History & Visual Studies

## 50th Anniversary Exhibit

The Department of Art History & Visual Studies celebrates its 50th Anniversary with *Learning Through Looking*.

AHVS is one of the largest world art history departments in Canada. This exhibition underscores the intertwining of our history, our community, and our teaching. Our students, faculty, staff, sessional instructors, alumni and donors are central to our mission to foster intercultural understanding through the teaching of world art.

Affirming the importance of analyzing the many dimensions of art history at the University of Victoria, this exhibition showcases the rich array of teaching practices and curricula that characterizes our department. Each of our faculty members has chosen works from their respective fields of study, to ask: how does looking lead to learning about the world?

The exhibit is being held in the Legacy Maltwood Gallery on the lower level of McPherson Library until April 30, 2017.







## Dear Fellow Colleagues

We are nearing the end of another successful academic year, filled with new voices, perspectives, artworks, exhibitions, food and laughter. This is the Association's second year in the running. I am pleased to say that with the help of our fantastic and hard-working board members, we have been able to successfully move forward in our goals of building community and scholarship within the graduate student body.

The AHVSGA has been keeping very busy this year, from our annual Visual Impetus conference,

to social activities, including our convivial gatherings at Brian Pollick's home. In the spirit of promoting learning and collaboration, this year we have launched 'Theory Thursdays.' Generously hosted by Dr. Carolyn Butler-Palmer, students gather together once a month to discuss a book and its theoretical frameworks. Our museum visits this year have included a tour by Dr. Barry Till of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria's exhibition *Millenia*, organized by Dr. Melia Belli Bose. We have also been fortunate to take a trip to the Museum of Anthropology at UBC

in Vancouver, to tour the *Layers of Influence* exhibition by Dr. Jennifer Kramer and Ph.D. Candidate, Behrang Nabavinejad.

We urge you to get involved, if you haven't already. We are also always looking for new ideas, events, ventures, projects – academic and social—so please do get in touch with us with your thoughts!

*Zahra Kazani*  
AHVSGA Co-Chair,  
Ph.D. Candidate

# Take Note

## Dr. Melia Belli Bose

By Alicia Hagy, MA Candidate

Dr. Melia Belli Bose joined the Department of Art History & Visual Studies as an Associate Professor of Asian Art in the fall of 2016. A trip to India in her undergraduate program introduced her to the rich and sumptuous traditions of South Asian art and architecture. This inspired her to pursue an MA in South Asian Art at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, and her Ph.D. in the same discipline from the UCLA. She teaches the arts of Asia, and has a particular interest in early modern to contemporary art and architecture from north India and Bangladesh, along with themes of death, memorialization, and the afterlife.

Dr. Belli Bose finds the atmosphere within the AHVS department to be warm and welcoming, with fabulous colleagues who are world experts in diverse and intriguing fields of art history. According to Dr. Belli Bose, the “campus deer have also been quite welcoming!”

When asked what she would like to see the department invest in for our next 50 years, she remarked that she would like to see opportunities for faculty-led fieldtrips around the world, along with opportunities for internships with international institutions for students.

*Dr. Melia Belli Bose at the Taj Mahal in Agra, 2015*





# Looking Back: Yang Liu

By Astara Light, Ph.D. Candidate



*Yang Liu, from “For a moment, silence.” 2016, acrylic on canvas.*

Yang Liu is a current Ph.D. candidate in the Art History & Visual Studies department and is working under the supervision of Dr. Astri Wright.

Yang began studying at the University of Victoria as an MFA student working with acrylic painting, multi-media, and photographic projects. After reading works by scholars about Chinese art and painting he also became interested in the art historical connection to his studio practice. Yang describes his studio work as a means of expressing something that cannot be expressed in words, while the process of writing is a way of clarifying his ideas. Yang’s research focuses on the conceptualization of post-1920’s Chinese landscape painting and

examines how earlier traditional paintings combine western ecological thinking with Daoist approaches to the land.

Yang describes his motivations for integrating visual art practice with an art historical study of Chinese landscape painting: “The more I know about my own culture and look back on history, the more I can dedicate it to my work.”

A recent exhibition of Yang’s work at the Visual Arts Building featured several 48x48”—sized black and gold acrylic landscape paintings. The works are in a scroll format to honour earlier Chinese scroll painting practices and bridge distance and generational gaps through their content. For this project Yang interviewed his parents about their work as engineering soldiers and visually re-traced their memories of living and working in Northern China by depicting the landscapes based on their description.

Yang is currently writing his thesis, studying Japanese, and researching theories on text as image.

# It's Medieval: India Cornell

By Shanice Wolters, MA Candidate

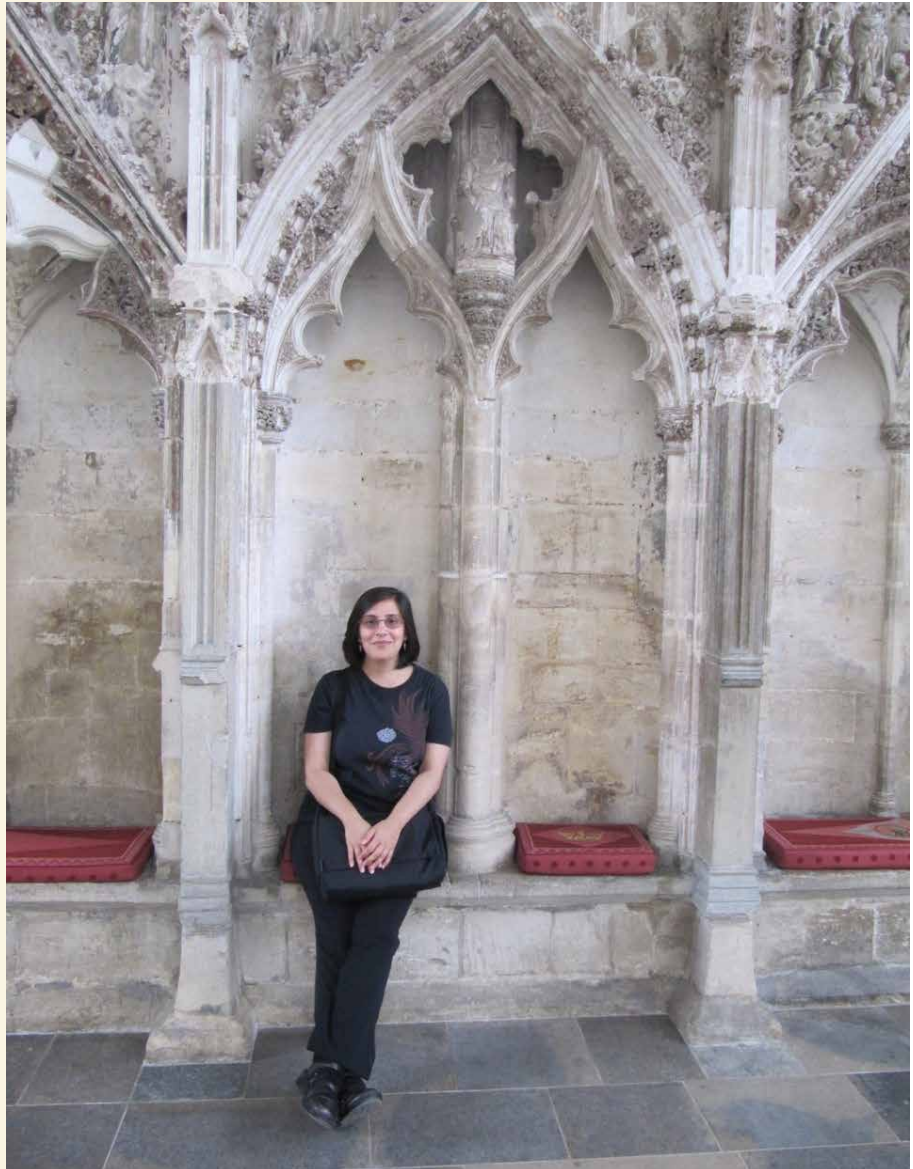
Master's candidate India Cornell is a developing expert on the grotesque in medieval art, be it in illuminated manuscripts or subtle sculptures.

"I absolutely love medieval history. Art history is medieval history, but with visuals," says India, whose current research is on the grotesques within Ely Cathedral's interior in East Anglia. During her time as an undergraduate at the University of Victoria, India had the opportunity to travel abroad in England. "I fell in love with Ely Cathedral," she says. "I found grotesques as sculptural form on the inside of the chapel. I wrote my undergraduate honours thesis on that, and then I took a year off. In that year, I could not stop thinking about it."

As India works to finish the final stretch of her Master's thesis research, she is interrogating unanswered questions about Ely Cathedral: Why have these grotesques been used in sculptural form in an ecclesiastical setting? What made this cathedral so unique? And why were these grotesques not destroyed when other elements of the cathedral were?

These questions will have answers by the time India defends her thesis, while simultaneously completing a certificate through UVic's Higher Education program. As for the future, India plans to begin her Ph.D. in—no surprise here—medieval art history.

*India Cornell at Ely Cathedral,  
Summer 2013*





# What's Next: Jennee Costanzo

By Abbey Hall, MA Candidate



*Jennee C. at the National Gallery of Ireland, 2017*

As a recent graduate of the UVic AHVS MA program, Jennee Costanzo is facing the same challenges all alumni face upon entering the “real world,” asking: What do I do now? Inspired by the ever-expanding online presence of both art and fashion writers, Jennee is creating her own “niche” in the arts and culture community of Victoria. In an email interview, she explains why she chose UVic after being accepted into several schools abroad, her passion for fashion, and the development of her new blog, [www.jenneec.com](http://www.jenneec.com).

JC: I wanted to do an MA after completing my undergraduate degree because I really felt I wasn't done with my learning. Being half Italian myself, the chance to research and write about Florentine artists and the sensorium of touch was an absolutely amazing experience. I chose to go to UVic because it is a small program and you're able to work in an intimate environment with your peers and supervisor; Dr. Catherine Harding was an incredible mentor.

To supplement my creative sensibilities, I began working at NICHE magazine as an intern in the summer before starting my MA. It is definitely a creative outlet for me and I have been writing for them as a fashion columnist for over two years now.

It is great to get back to my fashion roots; I have a diploma in Fashion Design and went to Ryerson for a year of their fashion program.

In keeping with the enmeshment of art and fashion, I started my blog JC in November last year. After I finished my MA I honestly felt a little bit lost. As many of my peers know, it's not easy getting a job right out of school and so I decided it was time to take things into my own hands. It's been really rewarding so far! I was never very fluent in the computer world so teaching myself how to develop a website has been hard. However, I am at heart a creative person, whether through art, fashion, food or travel, and so I find my blog really satisfies me (for now!).



# In the Field: David Christopher

In the fall, it was announced that Ph.D. Candidate David Christopher received the Canadian Association of University Teachers' J.H. Stewart Reid Memorial Fellowship for 2016-17. Here he writes about what this fellowship means for his work.

The J.H. Stewart Reid Memorial Fellowship is an annual national competition open to Canadian doctoral students. The Fellowship Trust website offers a succinct review of its purpose:

The J. H. Stewart Reid Memorial Fellowship Trust was founded to honour the memory of the first Executive Secretary of the CAUT. A minimum scholarship of \$5,000 is awarded annually to a student registered in a doctoral program at a Canadian university.

Previous year's winners have included grad students conducting work in such diverse fields as educational studies, humanitarian access in global conflict zones, and eating behaviour patterns. My contribution this year was summarized on their website. They focused on my contention that "Canadian cinema requires analytical tools that contribute to an understanding of both its socio-political underpinnings and the significance of its material conditions of production" as part

of my investigation into "the role media and cinema play in reproducing, subverting, or challenging contemporary political power dynamics."

This award is of immeasurable value to my work. Not only does it provide much needed financial support, but it also raises the integrity of my academic profile. Such an eventuality promises to afford me increased opportunities to present my work at annual conferences and in publication. Moreover, it is the type of accolade that will work to improve my opportunities for employment in the professoriate following the completion of my doctoral work.

I am certainly thankful to the foundation for offering me this award, and the opportunity to share my thoughts on it in this newsletter.

By David Christopher,  
Ph.D. Candidate (ABD)

## GSS Update

By Astara Light

**Grad House Renovation:** A new estimate was requested to remove non-essential components. This lowered the construction cost to within the budgeted amount. The renovation will be discussed at the next GSS meeting.

**BC Transit:** There is a proposal to add a seat on the Victoria Regional Transit commission to include a graduate student from UVic or Royal Roads University. Graduate students are a unique body that is not currently represented. Some issues include: students living off-campus, airport access, and students with families.

**Other News:** The GSS Chair has been involved in the revision of UVic's Policy on Sexualized Violence. The committee is developing a system with coordinators who give presentations and handle cases.

Other recent projects include improving the email bulletin, website, and student handbook, as well as creating a BC graduate student scholarship at UVic and re-activating the thesis completion group.



## **Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Public Lecture Series (CSRS)**

“Little Cities of God”

Examining the Shrine Complexes of Sufi Shaykhs in Medieval Iran

By Atri Hatef, Ph.D. Candidate

Conversion to Islam among the Mongol rulers of Iran seems to be a gradual process, which extended over several generations. This change of religion in the thirteenth century was followed by the evolution of their state from a nomadic Central Asian regime into a sedentary Islamic polity. Sufi shaykhs played a crucial role in the Islamization of the Mongol court. This presentation examines

the shrine complexes that were founded around the graves of Sufi shaykhs under the patronage of Muslim Mongol rulers –the “Little Cities of God”– in order to uncover one significant aspect of the relationships between the charismatic Sufi shaykhs and the Mongol ruling elite.

The talk, as part of the CSRS Lecture Series, was given on February 2, 2017. The fellowship is available from September to August, during which time you will be provided with research space at the Centre to work on research.

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/csrs/fellowships-awards/apply/graduate/index.php>



# Graduate Student Conferences

## Visual Impetus

By Kristen Matulewicz, MA Candidate

On the 20th and 21st of January, the AHVSGA hosted its annual *Visual Impetus* (VI) graduate student conference. This year's conference was especially exciting as it celebrated its 20th anniversary. In celebration of VI's success over two decades, the theme *Visual Culture: Materiality and Memory* was developed to encapsulate the significance of materiality and memory within the world of art history.

This year's VI welcomed students, alumni, and faculty from the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia. The conference covered diverse topics including: urban planning and architecture of British Columbia, Islamic Art, British Art, American Art, Asian Art, cross-cultural death imagery, and medieval manuscripts.

To learn more about VI, visit: <https://finearts.uvic.ca/historyinart/graduateassociation/visual-impetus/>

## Qualicum History Conference

By Alicia Hagy, MA Candidate

On January 27, 2017 Kristen Matulewicz and I attended the 42nd Annual Qualicum History Conference in Paskville, BC. This conference ran for the entirety of the weekend, and included such diverse and interesting topics as Victorian melodramas, tattooed ladies, mobile libraries, Arab women in cinema, and Korean notions of masculinity and gender. It was lovely to spend a weekend getting to know the history students from UVic, and those from UBC and SFU.

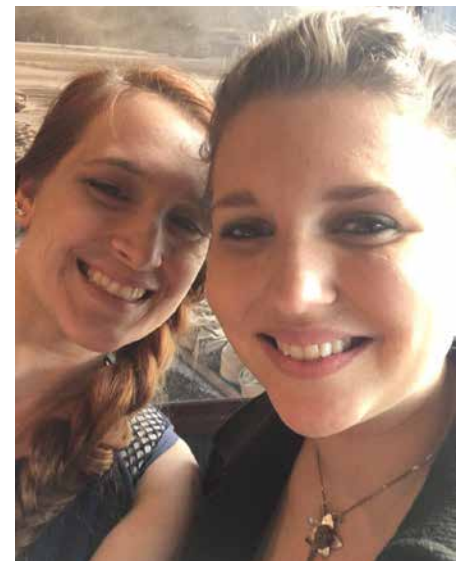
Karaoke night was particularly fun, as the divisions between undergrads, grads, and professors dissolved in the face of a well-timed Jon Bon Jovi tune.

What I found to be the most useful aspect of the conference was the new perspective that I gained while explaining my research in terms that historians could best understand. This meant giving a formal analysis of an object without completely losing my audience. I need not have worried: everyone attending the conference was both interested in and engaged with every topic, and the

thoughtful questions given after each presentation allowed for much fruitful discussion. I highly recommend that everyone apply for this conference!

For more information on this conference, along with submission guidelines for the 2018 conference, visit:

<http://www.uvic.ca/humanities/history/current-students/qualicum-conference/index.php>



# And the award goes to ...

Many congratulations to the following AHVS graduate students for their successful award and scholarship applications during the 2016-2017 academic year at the University of Victoria:

Margaret Russell Internship in Curatorial Studies at the Legacy Gallery:  
Astara Light

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Graduate Fellowship:  
Hamed Yeganehfarzand and Elsie Mountford

Robert S. & Muriel A. Raguin Graduate Scholarship:  
Emma Richan

David F. Strong Research Scholarship award:  
Zahra Kazani

The Flora Hamilton Burns Graduate Fellowship:  
Nellie Lamb

Robert W. Ford Graduate Scholarship:  
Bailey Arnholz

Ian H. Stewart Graduate Fellowship and Henriette Ann Schmidt Graduate Scholarship:  
Atri Hatef Naiemi

Stephen & Eunice Lowe Scholarship for the Study of the History of Chinese Art:  
Yang Liu

Vandekerkhove Family Trust Graduate Student Fellowship:  
Brian Pollick

**For more information about the awards and scholarships UVic has to offer, visit: <https://finearts.uvic.ca/historyinart/graduateassociation/resources/grants/>**

*Want to become involved in the AHVS Graduate Association?  
Visit our website for the latest news and happenings:*

[finearts.uvic.ca/historyinart/graduateassociation](https://finearts.uvic.ca/historyinart/graduateassociation)