

Curriculum Vitae

Bret Rothstein
Department of Art History
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Education

- Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1998
- M.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1991
- B.A., Reed College, 1989

Academic Posts

- Associate Professor of the History of Art, Indiana University, Bloomington, 2007-
- Affiliate Faculty, Germanic Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, 2012-
- Associate Professor of Art History, Rhode Island College, 2003-2007
- Assistant Professor of Art History, Rhode Island College, 1998-2003
- Participating Faculty, Film Studies Program, Rhode Island College, 1999-2007

Selected Awards

- Research Travel Grant, College Arts and Humanities Institute, Indiana University, Summer 2017
- Collaborative Research and Creative Activity Fellowship, Indiana University, 2016
- 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
- Summer Faculty Fellowship, Indiana University, 2008
- American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 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

Publications

Founding Editor, Ludic Cultures, 1100-1700 (Medieval Institute Publications)

Book-Length Work in Print

Single Author

- Sight and Spirituality in Early Netherlandish Painting (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Edited

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

Book-Length Work in Preparation

Single Author:

- The Shape of Difficulty: On the Character of Visual Challenges (under review)

Articles, Essays in Print

- “Better Living Through Misinterpretation,” in Debra Cashion, Henry Luttikhuisen, 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 Luttikhuisen, 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 *Stephen Fisher: Chimeras* (Seattle, WA: Frye Art Museum, 2000), 1-5
- “Vision and Devotion in Jan van Eyck’s *Virgin and Child with Canon Joris van der Paele*,” *Word & Image* 15:3 (1999), 262-276

Shorter Pieces and Book Reviews

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

Related Research

- Initiator and Principal Investigator, "The House of Tricky Things." Begun in 2011, this project will ultimately result in a digital ethnographic study of contemporary enigmatology. Building on interviews with leading puzzle designers, it will provide a multimedia counterpart to the objects and papers in the Jerry Slocum Puzzle Collection in the Lilly Library at Indiana University.

Selected Lectures and Sessions

- "Luca Pacioli's Acceptable, Delightful, and Necessary Materialist Heterodoxy," Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, March 2017
- "Toys for Grownups in the Early Modern Low Countries," Julius Fund Lecture in Renaissance Art, Case Western Reserve University, April 2016
- "L'anatomie parodique de Jan van Hemessen," invited presentation, part of the lecture series "L'image piège. Paradoxes et jeux visuels dans l'art néerlandais de Bosch à Bruegel," Musée du Louvre, February 2015
- "A Flemish Hedgehog Paints for Burgundian Foxes," presented at the colloquium "Unfolding Evidence," Kolleg-Forschergruppe "BildEvidenz. Geschichte und Ästhetik," Kunsthistorisches Institute, Freie Universität Berlin, July 2014.
- "Picturing Thought in the Early Modern Low Countries," Renaissance Society of America, New York, March 2014
- "Jan van Eyck's Difficult Terrain," invited presentation at the colloquium "The World from Above. New Studies and Approaches to the 'World Landscape'," Brussels and Lille, January 2013
- "Measures of Ease in Visual Piety of the Early Modern Low Countries," Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Cincinnati, OH, October 2012
- "The Joy of Looking, or Playing with Objects in Early Sixteenth-Century Antwerp," presented at the colloquium "Netherlandish Culture of the Sixteenth Century," University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, October 2012
- "Getting to Know the Burr before It Was a Puzzle, or, Watawatsitoncewas," invited presentation at the 32nd International Puzzle Party, Washington, DC, August 2012
- "On Empathy as a Type of Early Netherlandish Visual Wit," invited presentation at the Lovis Corinth Research Symposium, "Ab historia proprie figurativa: Visual Images as Exegetical Instruments, 1400-1600," Emory University, Atlanta, GA, February 2012

- “How to Make a Mess of Things in the Sixteenth-Century Low Countries,” invited presentation at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, 2010
- “On Naturalism as a Constraint in Early Netherlandish Painting,” presented in the workshop “Dutch Art and the 'Reality Effect': Where Are We Now?” Historians of Netherlandish Art Conference, Amsterdam, 2010
- “Fusion, Confusion, Vision, Cognition,” College Art Association Conference, Chicago, IL, 2010
- “Ouwehoeren: Distraction, Attention, and Visual Processing in the Early Modern Low Countries,” invited presentation at the colloquium “Vision and Visibilities in Early Modern Dutch Art” at the Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC, 2009
- “Gender and the Configuration of Early Netherlandish Devotional Skill,” College Art Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2005
- “The Contours of Burgundian Visual Wit ca. 1475,” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Toronto, Ontario, 2004
- “The Rule of Metaphor and the Play of the Viewer in Early Netherlandish Devotional Painting,” invited presentation at the Lovis Corinth Research Symposium, “Image and Imagination of the Religious Self in Medieval and Early Modern Europe,” Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2003
- “The Problem with Looking at Pieter Bruegel's Elck,” College Art Association, Conference, Chicago, 2001
- “On Physical Brutality as the Constitution of Society in Gerard David's Justice of Cambyses,” invited presentation at the colloquium “The Ideology of Burgundy: Fashioning National Identity in the Literary, Political, and Historical Vernacular,” Groningen, The Netherlands, 2000
- Session Co-chair (with Andrea Pearson), “New Directions in the Study of Devotional Art in Northern Europe, 1300-1600,” College Art Association Conference, New York, 2000
- “Navigating the Ebb and Flow of Visual Culture,” invited faculty presentation at annual division meeting, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Rhode Island College, 1999
- “Vision and Devotion in Jan van Eyck's Bruges Virgin and Child,” South-Central Renaissance Conference, Savannah, GA, 1999
- “The Image of Devotion in Early Flemish Painting,” College Art Association Conference, Toronto, Canada, 1998

- “Complexity and Contradiction as Aesthetic Criteria in Early Flemish Painting,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, 1997
- “Reading patrons, reading books in early Flemish painting,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, 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, Boston, MA, 1993