

Occupying the Ivory Tower

27th Annual Art History Association Graduate Symposium
Indiana University, Bloomington
April 8th, 2017

A. A. Donohue, Bryn Mawr, Rhys Carpenter Professor of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology
Keynote Lecture: "Need We Study Classical Art?"



Indiana University's Art History Association seeks papers for its 27th annual graduate symposium. This year, we will strive to create a constructive space for emerging academics and museum professionals to discuss and critique the very spaces we are training to inhabit. By challenging the notion of the "Ivory Tower," we will examine the impact art and art history can have both inside and outside of the institutions that house them. Within this context this symposium aims to critique and disrupt traditional canons and to affect academic and social change.

We invite graduate students to join us in investigating the implications of our academic practice through reflexive thought and object-based inquiry. Papers addressing both practice and work that engages the social reality of art objects and their subsequent use in scholarship are welcome. Putting into practice a self-reflective art history that critically engages the discipline, the academy, or the museum is perhaps the most effective way to fully occupy the Ivory Tower. This theme may thus be read as open to papers that discuss the initial commission and use of an object as much as (or instead of) its subsequent fueling of academic and curatorial practice.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Art history and political activism
- Challenges to traditional canons and systems of knowledge
- Learning, teaching, presenting, and "doing" art history
- Museum display
- Curatorial projects
- Experimental art, art history, or art spaces
- Historiography
- The production of distinction and value
- Taste
- Recuperation (or exclusion) of marginalized art forms
- "Outsider" art/artists (broadly defined)
- Luxury objects, rare materials
- Sumptuary laws and social stratification

We encourage the submission of papers engaging objects from any time period. Interdisciplinary work, alternative art historical practices, and non-traditional presentation methods are particularly welcome. Panels will be offered in both a traditional (20-minute paper) and a round-table (10-minute paper) format. Please specify your preference in your submission of a 300 word abstract, title, and CV.

Please send submissions to ahasympo@gmail.com by **Sunday, January 1st, 2017**.