GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: REBECCA FENTON

Building on previous experience in Mali, I am conducting field research in Senegal and France in 2016-2017 for my dissertation on the significance of dress in Mande diasporas. Across West Africa, dress is both an important art form and a major economic force. Highly esteemed artisanal cloth and custom outfits from Mali and Senegal drive a network of commerce, travel, and skill within those countries and in their diasporas. I examine dress from the perspectives of artisans, traders, and fashionable people.

Mande ethnic groups have deep histories of long-distance trade as well as renowned cloth production; one of my goals is to contextualize ‘globalized’ contemporary dress within traditions of enduring aesthetics that are nevertheless technologically open and dynamic. Today, local reputations and histories of cloth remain vital parts of the web of meanings of self-presentation. For West Africans abroad, cosmopolitan cloth sustains material and intangible connections among communities and offers individuals a means to negotiate new identities.

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NEW FACULTY RESEARCH: JULIE VAN VOORHIS ON THE BUSTS OF LUCIUS SEPTIMUS AND JULIA DOMNA

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UV and X-ray fluorescence has revealed traces of ancient paint on both portraits, and marble samples taken from busts are currently undergoing testing to determine the quarry from which the stone originated. More traditional research focuses on the portraits within the context of the time period’s marble sculpture production and workshops, imperial ideology, and the display and public reception of busts like these in antiquity.
HEIDI GEALT

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FACULTY NEWS:

FAYE GLEISSER & CORDULA GREWE

Our newest faculty member, Assistant Professor Faye Gleisser, joined us this Fall as our contemporary art specialist after finishing her Ph.D. at Northwestern University. She will also serve as an affiliated professor in IU’s Cultur- al Studies graduate program. She is an authority on the intersection of performance art, biopolitics, and technologies of surveillance in the 1960s and 70s. This fall she taught a graduate seminar titled “Radical Resourcefulness: Artists and the City” and is currently teaching undergraduate courses on contemporary art and the history of depictions of race in photography. She has been a curatorial fellow at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and is the 2017 Georgia O’Keeffe Museum Post-doctoral Research Fellow.

ADAM PEASE

Adam Pease is a joint major in Art History, Spanish, and History. Following a very successful junior year of overseas study in Madrid last year, Adam is currently working with Professor Gleisser on his senior Honors project, a study of the disconocernting photographic series ‘Real Días’ by Martín Gutierrez and the social issues of gender, sexuality and race surrounding these images. Adam is also a teaching assistant in the Hutton Honors College for a course on empathy, an editorial assistant for the Indiana Magazine of History, and serves as the only under-graduate course entitled “The Arabesque from Kant to Comic Strips.”

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Alumni News

Dorothy Srites Alig (MA 1990) left the conservation lab of the Indianapolis Museum of Art in 2004 to concentrate on her studio work as printmaker and painter. In 2016 she showed in New York, Chicago, and Northern Michigan and was honored to have a series of sixteen paintings in a major show at Pilsner (MA 2015) is a Curatorial Fellow at the Museum of Art, Indiana University, since autumn 2015. In 2016 she presented talks on the museum’s Nazi-era provenance research project at the Getty Research Institute and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Her current exhibition, Abstract Painting in Early Twentieth-Century America, opened at the Eskenazi Museum on March 11, 2017. Jenny McComas (PhD 2014) has been the Curator of European and American Art at the Eskenazi Museum of Art, Indiana University, since autumn 2015. In 2016 she presented talks on the museum’s Nazi-era provenance research project at the Getty Research Institute and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Her current exhibition, Abstract Painting in Early Twentieth-Century America, opened at the Eskenazi Museum on March 11, 2017. Jenny’s recent publications include a chapter on American exhibitions of German Expressionism in the anthology Re-envisioning the Contemporary Art Canon, published by Routledge in December 2016 (Ruth Eskin, ed.). Barbara Mitchell (PhD 1975) taught at the college level in New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area for many years. Currently, she volunteers as a docent at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, and lectures on religious art at Bay Area parishes.

Undergrad Student Spotlight: Adam Pease

Barb Macomber (BA 1990) left the conservation lab of the Indianapolis Museum of Art in 2004 to concentrate on her studio work as printmaker and painter. In 2016 she showed in New York, Chicago, and Northern Michigan and was honored to have a series of sixteen paintings

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