

**Jill Ahlberg Yohe, Ph.D.**

Assistant Curator of Native American Art  
Minneapolis Institute of Art  
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**Education**

- 2008 Ph.D.** University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, Anthropology.  
Dissertation- *The Social Life of Weaving in a Contemporary Navajo Community*.  
Defended with Distinction. Chair, Suzanne Oakdale
- 2001 M.A.** University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, Anthropology/Ethnology
- 1998 B.A.** University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Anthropology/American Studies,  
4.00 GPA
- 1988-1991** University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA., English

**Recent Academic and Professional Positions**

- 2014 –present** Assistant Curator of Native American Art, Minneapolis Institute of Art,  
Minneapolis
- 2016/Summer** Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, University of St.  
Thomas, St. Paul, Graduate Seminar *Native American Art*.
- 2013-2014** Assistant Curator of Native American Art, Saint Louis Art Museum, St.  
Louis
- 2014/Spring** Adjunct Professor, Washington University, Art and Archaeology. *Native  
American Art*
- 2011-2013** Mellon Fellow in Native American Art, Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis,  
MO.
- 2011** Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Franklin and  
Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. Course: 2 Sections of *Introduction to Social  
Anthropology*
- 2010** Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Franklin and  
Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. Course: *Women in Society*  
(Spring) Visiting Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Franklin and  
Marshall College.
- 2009** (Fall) Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Franklin  
and Marshall College. Course: *Women in Society*  
(Spring) Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Franklin  
and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. Courses: *Introduction to Sociocultural  
Anthropology, Anthropology of Personhood, Anthropology of Art*.

**Publications and Scholarly Achievements**

- 2017** “Blanketing the Plains: *Hanoolchaadi* in Indian Country” with Roshii  
Montano (Navajo). *First American Art Magazine* No. 13 Spring 2017.

Book Review of *Material Vernaculars: Objects, Images, and Their Social Worlds*. Jason  
Baird Jackson, ed. *Journal of Anthropological Research*

- 2016** *The Donald Danforth Jr. Collection: Art of the Great Plains*. Editor, Introductory Essay and Catalogue entries
- 2014** Historic Osage Objects at the *Founding of St. Louis* exhibition. Sheldon Galleries, St. Louis. Object labels and publication materials. With Caitlin Donald (Osage/Ponca)
- 2013** "The Circulation and Silence of Weaving Knowledge in Contemporary Navajo Life." *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, Spring 2013
- 2012** "Situated Flow: A Few Thoughts on Reweaving Meaning in the Navajo Spirit Pathway." Invited Contribution. *Museum Anthropology Review*, 6:1
- 2010** Book Review of *Patterns of Exchange: Navajo Weavers and Traders*, by Teresa Wilkins, *KIVA: The Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History*. 75:3
- 2008** What Weavings Bring: The Social Value of Weaving Objects in Contemporary Navajo Life. Published for the Julian D. Hayden Student Paper Competition Award. *KIVA: The Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History*. Vol 73:4. *The Social Life of Weaving in Contemporary Navajo Life*. University of New Mexico Ph.D. Dissertation.
- 2006** The Social Role of Weaving in Contemporary Navajo Life. Invited Contribution to *Glyphs*, the Newsletter of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, Tucson, Arizona.

#### **Presentations- Paper and Lectures**

- 2017** "Women's Work-Native American and First Nations Women Artists in Exhibitions and Scholarship," Native American Indigenous Studies Association, Vancouver, BC, June 24, 2017. Co-chair and panelist.  
  
"Hearts of our People: A Discussion on Collaboration, Theory, Practice, and Insights for an upcoming Native American Women Artists,' Council of Museum Anthropology, Montreal, QB, May 27, 2019. Chair and panelist.
- 2016** "Unanonymouse Native Women Artists," American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 17, 2016. Panelist and co-chair
- 2015** "Landscapes and Horizons: Why Place is Central to the Study of Native American Art," American Anthropological Association, Denver CO, November 15, 2015. Panelist and co-chair  
  
"Finding Stories about *Hanoolchaadi*, or Chief Blankets in Native Country" with Roshii Montano (Navajo) Amy Biehl High School, Native American Art Studies Association, Santa Fe, October 2, 2015. Panelist and Chair.  
  
"Navajo Chief Blankets from the Museum of Northern Arizona" with Roshii Montano (Navajo) Amy Biehl High School, Navajo Studies Conference, Flagstaff, AZ, May 30, 2015.  
  
"Everlasting: Navajo Weavings, Navajo Life," Native American Indigenous Studies Association, Washington, DC, June 6, 2015.
- 2014** "Horse Medicine: Native American Art at the Saint Louis Art Museum," Midwest Art Historical Society, Saint Louis Art Museum, April 3, 2014. Panelist and Chair

“Children of the Middle Water: Osage Art, Then, Now, Always. Gallery talk with Caitlin Donald (Osage/Ponca), Sheldon Art Gallery, St. Louis, MO, April 3, 2014

Chair. “Great Osage Artists: Norman Akers, Anita Fields, CR Redcorn” panel at Midwest Art History Society, Saint Louis Art Museum, April 2, 2014

Chair “Native American Art: Art and Iconography in Ancient American Art” Midwest Art Historical Society, Saint Louis Art Museum, April 2, 2014

“Tangible Survivance: Weaving Knowledge, Circulation, and Silence in a Contemporary Navajo Community ” Invited Paper, College Art Association, Chicago, February, 2014

**2013** “Aesthetic Knowledge in Motion: The Circulation and Silence of Weaving Teachings and Taboos in a Contemporary Navajo Community” Native American Art Studies Association, Panel Chair and Paper. October, 2013

**2012** “The Practice of Curation and Ethnography in Navajo Weaving Studies.” Invited Presentation at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, October 2012

“Navajo Weaving, Past and Present.” Invited Presentation at Minneapolis Institute of Art, June 2012

“Daily Reminders: The Impact of Mari Lyn Salvador in the Anthropology of Art.” Paper in honor Dr. Mari Lyn Salvador, Director of Hearst Museum, Annual Anthropological Association meetings, San Francisco, CA, November 2012

2010 “Situated Flow: Reweaving Meaning in a Navajo Context” Paper presented at the Annual Anthropological Association meetings, New Orleans, LA, November 2010

2009 “The ‘Traditional’ Transformed: The Role of Weaving in Contemporary Miss Navajo Pageants” Paper presented at the Annual Anthropological Association meetings, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009

2009 “Ethnography of Navajo Daily Life and the Legacy of Gladys Reichard” Paper Presented at the Ethnohistory meetings, New Orleans, LA, October 2009

2007 “This is Our Universe: Weaving and Culture in Navajo Classrooms;” Paper presented at the Annual American Anthropological Association meetings, Washington, DC, November 2007

2005 “The Social Dimensions of Weaving in Contemporary Navajo Life;” Invited Paper presentation at the Navajo Weaving Now! symposium, Tucson, Arizona

2004 “Weaving is Important: The Role of Weaving in Contemporary Navajo Life;”

Paper presented for the New Mexico Folklore Award, University of New Mexico

2002 “Navajo Ethnobotany.” Paper presented at the Anthropology Graduate Spring Symposium, University of New Mexico

### **Academic and Professional Events**

2014-present Development of Traveling Exhibition *Native American Women Artists* Exhibition opening 2019.

2017 – Organizer, “Anishinaabe Couture Fashion Show,” with Delina White, Leech Lake Anishinaabe, Minneapolis Institute of Art, May 5, 2017

2016 – Organizer, multi-gallery exhibition, performance, and film at Minneapolis Institute of Art. *Let: an act of reverse incorporation*. Artist: Andrea Carlson, with community members. Fall, 2016. Funding by Carolyn Foundation.

2015 *Arriving at Fresh Water: Contemporary Native Artists of Our Great Lakes*. Minneapolis Institute of Art, May 2015- February 2016. Curator., Travel venue, Great Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND, Fall 2016.

2015 Organizer and Presenter for “The Papers Speak: Drawings of Cheyenne and Kiowa Artists from Fort Marion at the Minneapolis Institute of Art” with Michael Jordan, Ph.D. Texas Tech University and George Curtis Levi, Southern Cheyenne, Minneapolis, February 5, 2015.

2012- Present Co-Organizer for Navajo weaving symposium entitled *Navajo Weaving: Art, Culture, Life* with Jennifer McLerran, Associate Professor, Northern Arizona University, and DY Begay, weaver, writer, curator. TBD, Ft. Lewis College, Colorado.

2012-2014 Organizer for Donald Danforth Lecture, September *Plains Art: A Renewed Appreciation*. Arthur Amiotte, Invited Speaker. Janet Berlo – May 2014

2012 Organizer for Opening of Donald Danforth Gallery. Two formal events September 26 and October 16<sup>th</sup>, Saint Louis Art Museum.

2012 Organizer for Roundtable Discussion, Navajo Studies Conference March 15, 2012. Panel of Navajo weavers, Navajo textile scholars, and community members, *Weaving in the Cloud: Imagining New Virtual Marketplaces for Navajo Weaving*.

2011/2012 Co-Organizer for Symposium of Indigenous Issues, *Carlisle PA: Site of Indigenous Histories, Memories, and Reclamations*. October, 2012, Dickinson College. Funded in part by the Central Pennsylvania Consortium. Invited speakers and Call for Papers/Sessions, Spring 2012.

2010/2011 Co-Organizer for the *Commemoration of Navajo Students at Carlisle Indian School*. Facilitator for Native academics and high school students from St. Michaels, AZ to research and visit Carlisle Boarding School, Carlisle, PA. June 2011.

2011 March. Organizer for Guest Speaker: Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. Organized event and secured funding for guest speaker, Dr. Laura Tohe, scholar, poet, librettist (Navajo)

2007 November. Celebration for Native American Heritage Month, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. Organized event and secured funding for two Native guest speakers, Dr. Ofelia Zepeda (Tohono O'odham) and Dr. Jennifer Denetdale (Navajo).

2002 Co-organizer of Annual Anthropology Graduate Spring Symposium, University of New Mexico

### **Grants for Curatorial, Post-Doctoral, Dissertation and Pre-Dissertation Research**

2016 Carolyn Foundation Grant, for project with Andrea Carlson, *Let: an act of reverse incorporation*

National Endowment of the Humanities Planning Grant, for upcoming exhibition, *Native Women Artists*.

Luce Foundation Grant, for upcoming exhibition, *Native Women Artists*

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community sponsorship, for upcoming exhibition, *Native Women Artists*

2009 Faculty Research Grant, Franklin and Marshall College

2008 Research Project Travel Grant, Student Research Allocation Committee Grant, Specialized Travel Grant, University of New Mexico

2007 Graduate Research and Development Fund Grant, University of New Mexico

2006 Graduate Research and Development Fund Grant, Research Project Travel Grant, Student Research Allocation Committee Grant, University of New Mexico

2005 Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society Grant, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona

Graduate Research and Development Fund Grant, Research Project Travel Grant, Student Research Allocation Committee Grant, University of New Mexico

2004 Jacobs Research Funding, Whatcom Museum

Joe Ben Wheat Research Scholarship, University of Colorado Museum Graduate Research and Development Fund Grant and Research Project Travel Grant, University of New Mexico

2001, 2002 Student Research Allocation Committee Grant, University of New Mexico

### **Research**

2015 – Archival and ethnographic research, Navajo Nation, on Navajo Chief Blankets and Navajo weaving

2011-2014– Archival and catalog research, Donald Danforth Collection, Saint Louis Art Museum

June 2011,2012, 2013- continuing ethnographic and archival research conducted in St. Michaels and Ganado, Navajo Nation  
June 2009- Ethnographic fieldwork and archival research on Pendleton blankets within the Navajo Nation.  
August 2003- 2008. Preliminary and dissertation fieldwork on Navajo weaving within the Navajo Nation.  
August 2003- 2005. Volunteer, St. Michaels Senior Center, St. Michaels, Arizona  
Summer 2001, 2002 Preliminary fieldwork, Navajo weaving workshop in Oak Springs, Arizona. Navajo language and Culture classes at Dine College

### **Language**

Navajo Language – Intermediate level. Written and spoken  
Summer 2001, 2002 Navajo language and Culture classes at Dine College  
Navajo language classes- Summer 2001, Dine College  
Four semesters of Beginner- Intermediate Navajo classes, 2000-2003, University of New Mexico

### **Professional Experience, Service, and Membership**

2016 Judge, Textiles, Heard Indian Market, March 3, 2016  
2015-2016 Native Arts and Culture Foundation Juror  
2010/2011 Archival and Museum Curator Volunteer, Cumberland County Historical Society. Ongoing documentation, curatorial research and collections management of Native American material (archival and material objects) in CCHS collections and associated with Carlisle Indian School.  
2010-ongoing Manuscript Reviewer, Canadian Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences  
Manuscript Reviewer, American Indian Culture and Research Journal  
2001-2002 Vice-President, Anthropology Graduate Student Union, University of New Mexico

### **Member:**

College Art Association  
Council for Museum Anthropology  
Native American Arts Studies Association  
American Anthropological Association  
American Ethnological Association  
Society for Ethnohistory  
Native American Indigenous Studies Association