

Megan Baker

Department of Art History, University of Delaware
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Education

since 2019

Ph.D., Art History

University of Delaware

Advisor: Jennifer Van Horn

Dissertation: "Crayon Rebellion: The Material Politics of North American Pastels, 1758-1814"

Major Field: North American Art and Material Culture, 1700-1900

Minor Field: Works on Paper, 1750-1900

June 2018

M.A., History of Art

Williams College

Qualifying Paper: "François Boucher and the Limits of Vulgarly"

May 2016

B.A., Art History

Columbia University in the City of New York

Teaching Experience

University of Delaware

Summer 2024

Instructor of Record: American Art to 1900

Winter 2023

Instructor of Record: Art & Enlightenment

Spring 2022

Head Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Art History: Renaissance to Modern

Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Art History: Pyramids to Cathedrals

Fall 2020

Teaching Assistant: Art of the Northern Renaissance

Williams College

Spring 2019

Instructor of Record: Art and Architecture from the Age of Enlightenment to Present

January 2019

Teaching Assistant: English 137

January 2018

Teaching Assistant: English 137

Relevant Professional Experience

2024

Graduate Student Intern, McGuigan Collection (Summer 2024)

2018-2019

Curatorial Assistant, Williams College Museum of Art (September 2018-June 2019)

Curatorial Research Assistant to Senior Curator Esther Bell, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (August 2018-June 2019)

2018

Curatorial Collections Intern, Williams College Museum of Art (Summer 2018)

2016-2018

Curatorial Intern: Painting, Sculpture and Decorative Arts, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (September 2016-May 2018)

2015-2016

Bibliographic Assistant, Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art (September 2015-May 2016)

2015

Mellon Funded Researcher for "A Virtual Enlightenment," Barnard College (Summer 2015)

2015

Books and Manuscripts Intern, Christie's New York (January-May 2015)

2014

Cataloguer for the photographer Seze Devrez, Brooklyn (Summer 2014)

Additional Training

- 2024 Graduate Seminar: Drawing in Eighteenth-Century London: Academies and Entrepreneurs, The Drawing Institute, Morgan Library & Museum
Kress Foundation Transatlantic Pigments Project, 1760-1840, Penn State University
- 2023 Summer Institute for Technical Studies in Art (SITSA), Harvard Art Museums
- 2019 Summer Institute, Winterthur Program in American Material Culture

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

- 2024-2025 Smithsonian Institution Predoctoral Fellow, Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery
Global Dissertation Development Grant, Department of Art History, University of Delaware
- 2023-2024 American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellowship, Boston Athenaeum
Drawn to Art Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society
Mayers Fellowship, Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens
- 2023 Anna R. and Robert T. Silver Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Delaware, Department of Art History
- 2022 Francis E. Malamy Research Fellowship, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum
- 2021 Dewey Lee Curtis Scholarship, Decorative Arts Trust
- 2019-2024 Unidel Distinguished Graduate Scholar, University of Delaware
- 2017 Summer Research Travel Grant, Williams College Graduate Program in the History of Art
- 2016-2018 Graduate Fellowship, Williams College Graduate Program in the History of Art
- 2016 The Meyer Schapiro Book Prize for Excellence in Art History, Columbia University

Publications

- 2019 *Renoir: The Body, The Senses*, edited by Esther Bell and George T.M. Shackelford. New Haven: Yale University Press (June 2019)
Wrote bibliography and edited essays. Assisted with the preparation of the edited volume, including research assistance for Esther Bell's essay.
- 2015 "Materials and their Makers" texts on luxury materials, gilt bronze, silver, porcelain, and portrait of Rose Ducreux for "A Virtual Enlightenment," a Mellon supported digital humanities initiative taught by Anne Higonnet.
Web: <http://bt.barnard.edu/ave2015/project2/>

Exhibitions

- 2019 "Renoir: The Body, The Senses," Clark Art Institute June 9–September 22, 2019; Kimbell Art Museum, October 27, 2019–January 26, 2020.
Research assistant to curator Esther Bell. Assisted with publication preparation and didactic content for wall labels and multimedia guide.
- 2018 "Are We Liberty? Posters from the Great War," Williams College Museum of Art, November 11, 2018–January 2, 2019.
Curator; exhibit of World War I posters emphasizing the invocation of liberty for purposes of propaganda

- 2017 “Orchestrating Elegance: Alma-Tadema and Design,” Clark Art Institute,
4 June–4 September 2017
Research assistant to curators Kathleen Morris and Alexis Goodin
Lauzon Glass Study Gallery and Burrows Gallery of American Decorative Arts,
Clark Art Institute, opened Spring 2017
Researched and wrote labels for the gallery reinstallation of American glass, silver,
and decorative arts from the permanent collection under Kathleen Morris
- Presentations**
- 2025 “‘That This Copy is Equal to the Other’: John Singleton Copley and Multiplicity in
Pastel,” Brown Bag Series, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, February 26,
2025
“Drawing Kinship: Pastel, Whiteness, and the Aesthetic Work of Colonial
Authority,” Middle Atlantic Symposium in the History of Art, March 1, 2025
“The Fragile Bonds of Empire: John Singleton Copley's Pastel Portraits and the Art
of Alliance,” Smithsonian American Art Museum Fellows Lectures, May 8, 2025
- 2024 “‘To Crayon Out What Conduct They Should Adopt’: Pastel and the Breaking of
Empire in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions,” American Empires: Art, Vision, Race,
and Power in the Long 18th Century, American Society for Eighteenth-Century
Studies, April 4, 2024
“Drawing the Lines of Revolution: Pastel Portraits, Boycotts, and American
Independence,” On the Eve of Independence: Art and Architecture in the British
Empire, The Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, June 1, 2024
“From Quarries to Paper: Pastel Production in Early America,” Dirty: The Detritus
of American Art, Association of Historians of American Art Eighth Biennial
Symposium, October 19, 2024
“Sarah Bushnell Perkins and the Texture of Pastel,” Reawakening Materials:
American Art, Empire, and Material Histories in Historic Deerfield’s Collection,
Historic Deerfield, November 7-9, 2024
“Paper, Pastels, and Patriotism: Artistic Innovation and the American Revolution,”
Drawn to Blue Symposium, J. Paul Getty Museum & University of Amsterdam,
November 12, 2024
- 2023 “The Roman Genesis of a New Franco-British Masculinity,” Off the Beaten Path:
New Approaches to the Grand Tour, American Society for Eighteenth-Century
Studies, March 11, 2023
“Making Paint from Stone: Unfreedom and Material Reuse in Eighteenth-Century
North America,” with Jennifer Van Horn, Wastework, Bibliotheca Hertziana, March
15-17, 2023
Co-chair, “Timing Aesthetics and the Aesthetics of Time,” HECAA@30, October
12, 2023
- 2022 “The Death of Patroclus and John Singleton Copley’s Visual Rhetoric of
Masculinity,” War Stories: Conflict in the Atlantic World, 1600-1850, McNeil Center
for Early American Studies, November 19, 2022

2021	“Crayon Rebellion: The Politics of Pastel Portraits in Colonial North America,” Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture Emerging Scholars Showcase, April 17, 2021
2020	“Exploiting Landscape and Pursuing Knowledge: Decoding Pierre Eugène du Simitière’s Graphic Work,” Farm to Canvas: Ecocritical Approaches to Art of Commodity Extraction and Exchange, SECAC, November 30, 2020 Co-chair of two-session panel “(Re)Envisioning Imperial Portraiture in the Americas,” SECAC, November 30 and December 4, 2020
2018	“François Boucher’s Limits of Vulgarity,” Twenty-Third Annual Spring Symposium, Williams Graduate Program in the History of Art, Clark Art Institute, June 1, 2018

Service

Since 2024	Early Career Scholars Committee and Mentorship Program, Massachusetts Historical Society
2024-2027	Web Coordinator and Board Member, Association of Historians of American Art
Since 2022	Founder of Graduate American Art History Reading Group, University of Delaware
2021-2023	Graduate Student Organizer, “Shifting Tides: Art in the 18 th -century Caribbean,” Symposium and Study Day at Winterthur Museum (April 20-21, 2023)
2021-2023	Committee Member, Graduate Student Lecture Series, Department of Art History, University of Delaware
2020-2021	Co-Chair, Graduate Student Lecture Series, Department of Art History, University of Delaware

Language Skills

German	Full professional fluency
French	Advanced reading, intermediate speaking and writing

Professional Memberships

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
 Association of Historians of American Art
 College Art Association
 Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture