

Recommended Off-Site Speakers

DR. GIOVANNI ALOI, School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Sotheby's Institute of Art

Contact: galoi@saic.edu or (312) 405-1910

Bio: Giovanni Aloï is an art historian specializing in the history and theory of photography, representation of nature, and everyday objects in art. He has published with Columbia University Press, Phaidon, Laurence King, and Prestel and has been appointed co-editor of the University of Minnesota series *Art after Nature*. Since 2006, he has been the editor in chief of *Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture* (www.antennae.org.uk). He is a radio contributor and a regular public speaker at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Tate galleries in London. He has co-curated exhibitions of photography, digital, and time-based media. Aloï is a faculty member at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Sotheby's Institute of Art New York, where he lectures on the history of the art market and collecting. He studied history of art and art practice in Milan before obtaining his postgraduate diploma in art history from Goldsmiths University in London, where he also earned a master in visual cultures as well as a doctorate.

Topics:

Art Market, Art Objects, and Collecting

- Surface Tensions: Materiality in Art
- Genuinely Fake: A History of Fraudulent Art
- Degas: At the Track, On the Stage, In the Bedroom
- From Cabinets of Curiosities to the Contemporary Gallery Space
- Abstract Art and Spirituality
- The Value of Collecting: The Art Market Explained
- Land Art
- The Young British Artists: Shock, Fear, and Social Class
- Arte Povera
- The Dada Revolution
- The Pop Art Object
- Appropriation and Copyright
- A Matter of Perspective: Constructing Space, Power, and Wealth in Italian Art
- Gauguin: Symbolism and the Return to Spirituality
- Art in Flux: From Abstract Expressionism to Today
- Surrealism: Desire, Dreams, and Nightmares
- Surrealism: Fur, Taxidermy, and Everyday Objects

Nature in Art

- Forests in Italian Art: Myth, Mystery, Spirituality, and Ecology
- The Representation of Nature in Gauguin's Work
- Nature as the Mirror of the Soul: Romanticism and the Sublime
- Animals in Art: Modern and Contemporary
- Animals in Art: Renaissance to Neoclassical
- Natural History, Illustration, and Taxidermy: Possessing the Natural World
- Dioramas: Realism, Painting, and Classical Sculpture

- Flowers and Fruits at the Art Institute of Chicago
- On the Menu at the Art Institute
- Constructing Nature

Gender and the Body

- The Naked Truth: Gender and Sexuality in Art
- Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?
- Painting and Whiteness
- Queering the Canon
- Feminism and Homosexuality in Contemporary Art
- Primitivism: Gauguin and the Forbidden Paradise

Photography

- Impressionism and Photography: Capturing the Moment
- Photography Matters
- Mirrors of Modernity: Photography and Realism
- Photography as Contemporary Art: Conceptual and Post-Photography
- New Trends in Photography
- Photography as Contemporary Art: Voyeurism, Surveillance, and Pornography
- Constructing the Other: Photography and National Identity
- Photography as Art: Pictorialism and Surrealism
- Ethics and the Social Portrait
- Conceptual Photography
- Post-Photography
- Constructing the Other: Photography and National Identity
- Photography and Painting: Impressionism

Availability: Chicago only; weekends are fine

IONIT BEHAR, Art Historian and Curator

Contact: ionbehar@gmail.com

Bio: Ionit Behar is a PhD candidate in art history at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is interested in the relationship between art and politics in late 20th-century Latin America and North America. Her research focuses specifically on conceptual art in Argentina during the dictatorship. She holds a master's degree in art history, theory, and criticism from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a bachelor of art theory from Tel Aviv University, and a degree in art administration from the Bank Boston Foundation in Montevideo. She is director of curatorial affairs for Fieldwork Collaborative Projects NFP (FIELDWORK) and has served as the curator of collections and exhibitions at Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership. Behar also served as a research assistant for the exhibition *Hélio Oiticica: To Organize*

Delirium at the Art Institute of Chicago and as a curatorial assistant at Gallery 400. She recently curated *Ellen Rothenberg ISO 6346: ineluctable immigrant* at Spertus Institute, *More Strange Than True* at Pulaski Park, *My Feet Have Lost Memory of Softness* at the Franklin, *Twin Rooms* at Julius Caesar, *Hinged Space* at Terrain Exhibitions, and an online exhibition *¿Mañana será así?.* She served as a curatorial assistant at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago for the 2012 MFA show and the 2013 design show, and she has co-curated with Julian Myers and Joanna Szupinska at Julius Caesar. Behar has held curatorial internships at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; No Longer Empty, New York; and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. She has written for the *Chicago Reader*, *THE SEEN*, the *Exhibitionist*, and *ArtSlant*.

Sample topics:

- Contemporary Art
- Latin American Art
- International/Transnational Art
- Museums, Biennial, Galleries
- Political Art
- Chicago Art
- Socially Engaged Art Practice
- Sculpture
- Installation

Availability: Prefers to lecture within Chicago; available on evenings and during the day on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays

ALEXIS CULOTTA, PhD

Adjunct Lecturer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Adjunct Lecturer, The Odyssey Project; and Adult Seminar Instructor, The Newberry Library

Contact: alexis.culotta@gmail.com or (504) 427-8076 (email is best)

Bio: Alexis Culotta holds a PhD in art history from the University of Washington. She is currently a lecturer at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, an adult seminar instructor at the Newberry Library, and a lecturer in the Department of Learning and Public Engagement at the Art Institute of Chicago. Her area of expertise is 16th- and 17th-century Italian art and architecture. However, she has also published and participated in conference presentations focused on 18th- and 19th-century trends in European art.

Sample Topics:

- The Art of the Souvenir during the Days of the Grand Tour
- Let's Hear It for the Ladies: Renaissance and Baroque Female Artists
- The Art of Antiquity
- Pursuing the Art of Porcelain
- The Glamour of the Gilded Age in Chicago

Sample Themes:

- Renaissance and Baroque art
- 18th-century art and architecture
- 19th-century art and architecture (Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism)
- Early 20th-century innovators
- Cultural exchange
- Chicago topics

Availability: Prefers weekday events and is happy to travel across the greater Chicagoland area

KATHLEEN CUMMINGS, Independent Architectural Historian

Contact: kathleen2cummings@gmail.com (773) 935-2166 (land line) or (773) 914-2008 (cell phone)

Bio: Kathleen Cummings is an independent architectural historian whose writing and lecturing focuses on Chicago architecture and design, especially the work of Prairie School and architect George W. Maher. Cummings is an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Learning and Public Engagement at the Art Institute of Chicago and teaches architectural history in the School of Professional Studies at Northwestern University. As a guest curator, she has developed exhibitions related to Chicago architecture at Roosevelt University, the Field Museum, and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. She holds a BA in art history from Northwestern University and a master's degree in art history from Brown University.

Sample Topics:

- Parks and Buildings for the People: The Work of the National Park Service from Yellowstone to Indiana Dunes National Park
- Suburban Building and Planning by Prairie School Architects
- "Lives That Touch": Stories about Chicago Women and the Arts and Crafts Movement
- Stained Glass by Tiffany and Healy & Millet in Chicago
- Other topics related to current issues in Chicago architecture and exhibitions of architecture and design at the Art Institute

Availability: Weekdays in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs.

MARGARET FARR, Independent Scholar and Adjunct Lecturer, the Art Institute of Chicago

Contact: mfarr2308@gmail.com

Bio: Margaret Farr is an independent art historian with a PhD specializing in art from 1800 to the present. She teaches courses at the Newberry Library and the Center for Life and Learning and is an adjunct lecturer at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Sample Topics: I can speak on a variety of topics ranging from early 19th century art to the present, encompassing a variety of media. Past topics have included:

- What Is Art History?
- Building for the Future: Prominent Collectors of the Art Institute
- The Painted Feast: Food and Dining in Art
- The Abstract Tradition in Art
- The Lure of Italy
- Jules Breton's *Song of the Lark*
- Impressionist Paris
- Women of Impressionism
- Rising from the Ashes: Chicago's Rich Architectural Legacy
- Edvard Munch's *The Scream* in Context
- Pioneering Women of the Early 20th Century
- Picasso's Women
- Spanish Modern: Picasso, Miró, Dalí
- Katharine Kuh: A Love Affair with Modern Art
- Women Artists at the Art Institute of Chicago
- Modern and Contemporary Sculpture
- Splendors of the Winter Season (Including the Neapolitan Crèche)

Availability: Available for daytime lectures and tours in Chicago as well as the near north, near west, and southern suburbs.

DEBRA N. MANCOFF

Contact: dnmancoff@gmail.com

Bio: Author of more than 20 books, Debra N. Mancoff explores the interconnections of art, fashion, and culture, with a focus on Britain. Her essays appear in museum exhibition catalogues and art magazines, and she has lectured across the United States and the United Kingdom. Debra received her doctorate in Art History at Northwestern University. Her recent books include *Fashion Muse: Inspiration Behind Iconic Designs*; *Danger! Women Artists at Work*; *Fashion in Impressionist Painting*; *The Garden in Art*; and *Icons of Beauty: Art, Culture, and the Image of Women*. She is a scholar in residence at the

Newberry Library, where she regularly teaches courses on Victorian culture and fashion in the Seminars program. Her newest book, *The Face: Our Human Story* for the British Museum, has just been published in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Sample Topics:

- Dress Code: The Decorum of Dress During the Downton Era
- American Impressionists in Monet's Garden
- Extraordinary Occupations: Women Artists in the 19th Century
- Fashion Muse: Inspirations Behind Iconic Designs
- Flora Symbolica: The Secret of Pre-Raphaelite Flowers
- The Garden in Art
- Haunted Hearts: Dead but Not Departed in Victoria's Britain
- Jacqueline Kennedy: An American Icon
- Monet's Garden in Art
- Prairie Avenue Style: Holiday Edition
- Princess Brides from Queen Victoria to the Duchess of Sussex
- Queen Victoria's Secrets
- The Royal Wedding . . . and what to wear!
- A Scandal in Diamonds and Black Velvet: John Singer Sargent's Portrait of Madame X
- Valentines and Romance in Victorian England
- Widow's Weeds: Mourning in Style from Queen Victoria to Jacqueline Kennedy

Availability: No restrictions. Willing to travel beyond metropolitan area. Does not drive.

ROSIE MAY, PhD

Contact: rmay525@gmail.com

Bio: Rosie May has a PhD in Italian Renaissance art with a specialization in Rome of the 1500s and 1600s. She has taught art history at the college level and spent several years working as a guide giving tours of museums in Rome, Philadelphia, New York, and Chicago. She has as a museum educator for fourteen years at museums around the country, including the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa.

Sample Topics:

- The Emergence of the Italian Renaissance
- The Renaissance in Rome
- The Baroque in Rome
- Navigating Rome for Tourists
- Artist Rivalries That Made Rome

Availability: Evenings, weekends.

ANNIE MORSE, Independent Educator

Contact: Annie.mo57@gmail.com

Bio: Annie Morse is an independent art educator and curator who has worked with the Art Institute of Chicago, the Hyde Park Art Center, Columbia College Chicago, and 3Arts, among other organizations. She earned a master's in 20th-century art history, theory, and criticism from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a master's in library and information science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She teaches in Continuing Studies at SAIC and is a docent at the Newberry Library.

Sample topics:

- Modern and contemporary art
- Chicago artists
- American art
- Chinese antiquity
- Photography
- Art and society
- Special topics by request

Availability: City of Chicago on weekdays, weeknights, or weekend days; Chicagoland locations served by commuter rail on weekdays.

TRACY MONTES, Adjunct Lecturer, the Art Institute of Chicago

Contact: onyxmontes@gmail.com

Bio: Tracy was raised in Mexico and lived in Amsterdam and Seattle before moving to Chicago in 2015. She studied art history and women, gender, and sexuality studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is currently pursuing her MA in museum and exhibition studies at UIC and is part of the inaugural Arts & Culture Leaders of Color Fellowship by Americans for the Arts. Tracy is involved as an educator at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and manages social media for Hyde Park Art Center. She has taught art history workshops for incarcerated women in Mexico and works as a tutor for GirlForward, a nonprofit that works with refugee teenage girls on Chicago's North Side. She is an avid reader and well traveled, having visited 17 countries and counting.

Sample topics:

- Surrealism

- Women in Surrealism
- Contemporary art
- Mexican muralists

Availability: Weekday afternoons and evenings; weekends within the Chicago area.

LAURA E. MUELLER, Adjunct Lecturer, the Art Institute of Chicago and lecturer, Illinois Humanities Road Scholars

Contact: truelaura@earthlink.net

Bio: Artist, art teacher, and art historian Laura Mueller worked for the Art Institute's Department of Learning and Public Engagement from 1987 to 2017. In 2017, she began lecturing for the Road Scholars program of the Illinois Humanities council. She teaches drawing for the CLL program of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago and has taught courses in literature and art history at local colleges. She also created and taught a host of new classes for the Art Institute's Member Sketch Classes. Laura has been an Art Institute study leader on a number of museum trips to Europe, including Adriatic Odyssey; Holland and Belgium; the Dordogne: Prehistoric and Medieval; Normandy and Paris; and a trip down the Rhine River in Germany. She holds a BFA in painting and drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MA from the University of Chicago in comparative literature. She also studied art in Venice via a New York University program.

Sample Topics:

- Music and Modern Art
- Klee, Kandinsky, and Color at the Bauhaus
- A History of Fresco Painting
- An Overwhelming Desire to Get Away: Gauguin, Kandinsky and Other Runaways
- Artists' Gardens
- Shakespeare's Garden
- Paradise Gardens: Persia, Spain, Sicily
- Jan Van Eyck
- I Was There: The Renaissance Artist as Witness
- Other topics on demand

Availability: Most days and evenings. Can travel, though preferably not far in the winter.

JEFF NIGRO, Research Associate, Department of Ancient and Byzantine Art, and Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Learning and Public Engagement, the Art Institute of Chicago

Contact: (773) 320-1088 or jeffnigro@mac.com

Bio: Jeffrey Nigro is an art historian, lecturer, and educator. He has had a professional relationship with the Art Institute of Chicago for more than 30 years, first as a staff lecturer and later as director of adult programs in the Department of Learning and Public Engagement. He has acted as study leader on Art Institute–sponsored trips to Italy, Greece, and Germany, and he has received the Art Institute Chairman’s Award for outstanding service. Nigro currently serves as president of the Classical Art Society of the Art Institute and is a research associate in the Department of Ancient and Byzantine Art. He teaches adult education seminars at the Newberry Library and is an instructor at the Center for Life and Learning in Chicago. Nigro is also a frequent speaker for the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA). He serves as a member at large on the JASNA board and is a former regional coordinator of the greater Chicago region of JASNA.

Areas of Interest:

- Egyptian
- Greek and Roman Art
- Renaissance and Baroque Art
- Neoclassical and Romantic Art

Sample Topics:

- Greek Myths Revisited
- You Are What You Wear: Fashion Statements in Art
- Soundless Poetry: Chinese Painting
- Nature and Art in Japanese Culture
- Art, Trade, and Luxury in the Dutch Golden Age
- The Grand Tour: Artists, Tourists, and Collectors in Italy
- Women Artists from Rococo to Impressionism
- Art in the Time of Jane Austen
- Estimating Lace and Muslin: Dress and Fashion in Jane Austen’s Work and World
- Artists, Collectors, Donors: The Helen Birch Bartlett Memorial Collection at the Art Institute
- The Art of Nicolai Remisoff
- The Christmas Story in Art
- The Art Institute’s Neapolitan Crèche

Availability: Chicago, and suburban communities if transportation is covered; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays are best, and weekends are possible.

ONUR ÖZTÜRK, Columbia College Chicago

Contact: oozturk@colum.edu

Bio: Onur Öztürk is an art historian specialized in teaching art history, visual culture, and global awareness courses. Originally from Turkey, he received an M.Arch. degree in History of Architecture

from the Middle East Technical University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Öztürk's research focuses on art and architecture, and archaeology of ancient and medieval Asia Minor, modern Turkey. His dissertation provided an in-depth study of the cults of divine rulers and urban transformation in Roman Asia. His current project focuses on the funerary monuments of the female elite in Kayseri. His most recent maps and architectural illustrations can be viewed at Penelope Davies' book *Architecture and Politics in Republican Rome* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). Dr. Öztürk teaches courses related to the Art of Islam and Art and Ritual to build students' critical thinking skills and increase awareness of the historical and cultural diversity of our world.

Sample Topics:

- Art of Islam (specifically Turkish Islamic Art)
- Roman Art
- Ottoman Pottery during the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent
- Monuments of Female Elite in Medieval Turkey
- General Art History and Visual Cultural Topics

Availability: Flexible

KATHARINE A. RAFF, Assistant Curator of Ancient Art, the Art Institute of Chicago

Contact: kraff@artic.edu

Bio: Katharine A. Raff is assistant curator of ancient art at the Art Institute of Chicago, which she joined in 2011 after completing her PhD at the University of Michigan. A specialist in ancient Roman art, Katharine's research interests include Roman sculpture (particularly portraiture and sculptures based on earlier Greek types), the arts of the Roman home (frescoes, mosaics, and small-scale sculptures), Roman dining, and Roman gardens. She is also interested in the connections between the arts and cultures of Rome and those of its predecessors in ancient Greece and its successors in the Byzantine world, as well as the history of collecting ancient art from antiquity to the present. Most recently, Katharine curated the installation *Collecting Stories*, which explores the ownership histories of numerous ancient artworks on display in the Mary and Michael Jaharis Galleries of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Art. She served as general editor and primary curatorial author for *Roman Art at the Art Institute of Chicago* (2017), an interdisciplinary scholarly catalogue featuring original art historical and conservation research on the museum's Roman collection. Previously, she contributed to the special exhibition *A Portrait of Antinous, In Two Parts* (2016), and she was the Roman specialist for the reinstallation of the Jaharis Galleries of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Art (2012), for which she developed an in-gallery multimedia interactive program, LaunchPad.

Sample Topics:

- A Feast for the Senses: The Private Banquet in Roman Italy
- The Roman Domestic Garden: Cultivating Leisure and Status through Art and Nature
- Luxury Apartments in Ancient Rome
- Aphrodite Meets Venus: The Goddess of Love in the Greek and Roman Worlds

- Images of Children in Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman Art
- Roman Portraiture (various topics; e.g., Hairstyles in Roman Female Portraiture)
- What's Greek about a "Roman Copy"?: The Influence of Greek Art on Roman Sculptors
- The Arts of the Roman Home
- The "Four Styles" of Pompeian Wall Painting
- Roman Mosaics
- Luxury Arts in the Greek and Roman Worlds
- Collecting Ancient Art during the Grand Tour in the 18th century
- New Discoveries in Roman Art at the Art Institute of Chicago
- Ancient Art at the Art Institute of Chicago (various topics)

**For topics of interest not listed, please inquire by email.

Availability: Prefers weekdays.

GINNY VOEDISCH

Contact: vvoedisch@yahoo.com

Bio: Ginny Voedisch has been an adjunct lecturer for the Art Institute of Chicago's Department of Learning and Public Engagement since 2007. Prior to that, she was the museum's communications director. She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Northwestern University and a master's degree in art history, theory, and criticism from the School of the Art Institute. Her graduate studies focused on 19th and early 20th-century European art, specifically German art.

Topics: Enjoys tailoring topics to specific themes. Able to speak on a wide range of topics and historical periods as well as Art Institute–specific subjects. Areas of interest:

- Understanding Contemporary art
- How 19th-century Romanticism speaks to us today
- A wide range of Modern art topics from Impressionism to art of 1960s
- Artmaking workshops informed by art historical techniques

Availability: Most days/evenings; able to travel to Chicago, surrounding suburbs, and possibly exurbs and SE Wisconsin.

PAULA WISOTZKI, Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Learning and Public Engagement, the Art Institute of Chicago; and Professor of Art History, Loyola University Chicago

Contact: 001blacksmith@msn.com

Bio: Paula Wisotzki is an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Learning and Public Engagement at the Art Institute of Chicago and professor of art history in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Loyola University Chicago. She is a specialist in modern and contemporary art, American art, and

feminist art history. She served as an area editor for the *Grove Encyclopedia of American Art* (5 vols. Oxford University Press, 2011) and co-edited with Helen Langa the anthology *American Women Artists, 1935–1970: Gender, Culture and Politics* (Ashgate, 2016). She has also published articles exploring American sculptor David Smith’s art through the lens of his political engagement. Her recent research has focused on Dorothy Dehner’s early career and her 2016 essay “Dorothy Dehner and World War II: Not Just ‘Life on the Farm’” appeared in *Archives of American Art Journal*. Having graduated magna cum laude from Lewis and Clark College in her hometown of Portland, Oregon, she earned her PhD at Northwestern University.

Sample Topics:

- From Auguste Rodin to David Smith: A Look at Early Twentieth Century Sculpture
- The Armory Show in Chicago
- American Abroad: The Lure of Europe, 1890–1930
- Georgia O’Keeffe: A Feminist’s Femininity
- Frida Kahlo: A Ribbon around a Bomb
- Confronting Race and Gender in Mid–20th Century American Art
- Sock It to Me: 1968, Art, and Reality
- Andy Warhol in the 21st Century
- What’s Up in the Gallery? Museum Display and the History of Art

Availability: Any day of the week in the Chicagoland area.