

Lauren Lessing
9 Merrill Street
Waterville, ME 04901
207-660-3605
llessing@colby.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History of Art, Indiana University, Bloomington, 2006
Dissertation: "Presiding Divinities: Ideal Sculpture in Nineteenth-Century American Domestic Interiors." Advisor and Committee Chair: Sarah Burns.

MA, History of Art, Indiana University, Bloomington, 1995

MLS, Library Science, Indiana University, Bloomington, 1994

BA with honors, Fine Art, Earlham College, 1991

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Mirken Curator of Education, Colby College Museum of Art, June 2007- present

Research Associate in American Art, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, September 2002-May 2007

Lecturer, Department of Art History, University of Missouri, Kansas City, January-December 2006

Reference Librarian/ Senior Reference Librarian, Ryerson and Burnham Libraries of the Art Institute of Chicago, July 1997-August 2002

Visiting Assistant Professor of Art History, Earlham College, August 1996-June 1997

PUBLICATIONS

"Forming an American Identity," in *A Gift of Art: The Lunder Collection at the Colby College Museum of Art* (Waterville, ME: Colby College Museum of Art, 2013), forthcoming.

" 'Not unworthy of his hand': Crossing Borders in Benjamin West's *A Drayman Drinking*," *Tran(s)udies* 2 (Summer 2012). With Terri Sabatos.

"Between Past and Present: Nineteenth-Century Paintings and Drawings in the Collection of James and Barbara Palmer," in *The James and Barbara Palmer Collection of American Art* (State College, PA: Penn State University Press, 2012), forthcoming.

"Roses in Bloom: American Images of Adolescent Girlhood," in Holly Pyne Connor, ed., *Angels and Tomboys: Girlhood in Nineteenth-Century American Art*, exh. cat. (Newark: Newark Museum, 2012), 107-32.

"The Artist as Explorer," in *Currents 6: Gina Siepel*, exh. cat. (The Colby College Museum of Art, 2011), 5-15.

"Angels in the Home: Adelia Acklen's Sculpture Collection at Belmont Mansion," *Winterthur Portfolio* 45 (Spring 2011), 29-60.

"New Perspective: Rereading Seymour Joseph Guy's *Making a Train*," *American Art* 25 (Spring 2011), 96-111.

"Ties that Bind: Hiram Powers' *Greek Slave* and Nineteenth-Century Marriage," *American Art* 24 (Spring 2010), 41-65.

Art at Colby: Celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Colby College Museum of Art (The Colby College Museum of Art, 2009). With Sharon Corwin and Elizabeth Finch.

"Unveiling Raphaelle Peale's *Venus Rising from the Sea—A Deception*," *Winterthur Portfolio* 43 (Summer 2009), 229-59. With Mary Schafer.

The Collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: American Paintings (The Nelson-Atkins Museum and Marquand Books, 2007). With Margaret C. Conrads and Randall R. Griffey.

Contributing author, Hardy George, ed., *Oklahoma City Museum of Art: Selected Paintings and Sculpture from the Collection* (Oklahoma City: The Museum, 2007).

"So Blessed Now that Accustomed Darkness: American Women's Response to Randolph Rogers' Sculpture *Nydia, the Blind Flower Girl of Pompeii*," *University of Michigan Art Museum Quarterly* 13 (2000-2001), 53-73.

"The Problem of Provenance: Searching for Looted Art in Museum Collections," *Art Documentation* 19 (Fall 2000), 48-51.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Elizabeth Siegel, *Galleries of Friendship and Fame* (Yale University Press, 2010) in *Photography and Culture* 5 (March 2012), 121-24.

Review of Mary F. McVicker, *Adela Breton: A Victorian Artist Amid Mexico's Ruins* (University of New Mexico Press, 2006) in *Aurora* 7 (2006), 86-9.

JURIED PRESENTATIONS

"Benjamin West's Legs: Urban Exercise and Manly Health in *A Drayman Drinking*," in panel session *The Body of the Artist and the Artist as Body in American Artistic Practice*, College Art Association Annual Conference, New York, February 13–16, 2013

"Engaging Undergraduates with Art Conservation," American Institute for Conservation, Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 2012 (with Nina Roth-Wells)

"Selling Visions: Spiritualism and the American Art Market," Nineteenth-Century Studies Association Conference, Asheville, North Carolina, March 23, 2012 (with Terri Sabatos)

"The Virtues and Vices of Anatomy in Philadelphia in the 1820s: Charles, Raphaelle, and Rembrandt Peale," Society of Early Americanists Conference, Philadelphia, March 4, 2011 (with Carol Soltis)

"Theatrical Captivity and Murder in Junius Brutus Stearns' *Hannah Duston Killing the Indians of 1847*," Nineteenth-Century Studies Association Conference, Tampa, Florida, March 11, 2010

"Dirty Laundry: Dark Humor in Raphaelle Peale's *Venus Rising from the Sea—A Deception*," in panel session "What's So Funny? Senses of Humor in Nineteenth-Century American Visual Culture," College Art Association Annual Conference, New York, February 17, 2007 (with Mary Schafer)

"Being and Seeing: Tableaux Vivants and Gendered Responses to Nineteenth-Century American Ideal Sculpture," Conference of Women's and Gender Historians of the Midwest, Maryville University, St. Louis, MO, June 3, 2006

"Sentimental Christianity on a Southern Plantation: Adelia Acklen's Collection of Ideal Sculpture in Belmont Mansion," Southeast College Arts Conference, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL, October 15, 2004

"Looking and Longing: Re-viewing Randolph Rogers' *Merope, the Lost Pleiad* in a Domestic Context," 11th Annual Art History Graduate Student Association Symposium, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, November 9, 2002

"Captives in the Parlor: Hiram Powers' Ideal Busts in their Domestic Context," Graduate Symposium on Women's and Gender History, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, March 8, 2002.

"A Spirit So American: Consumption and Rebellion in Eastman Johnson's Painting *The Reprimand*," Interdisciplinary Children's History Conference, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA, February 21, 2002

"We Tremble for their Future Health and Morals: Adolescence and the Culture of Display in Seymour Joseph Guy's Painting, *Making a Train*," Society for the History of Childhood and Youth Conference, Marquette University, July 2001

OTHER CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Chair, panel session, "Beyond Whistler's Art Worlds," in the symposium *Palaces of Art: Whistler and the Art Worlds of Aestheticism*, Freer Gallery of Art, October 28, 2011

Co-organizer, *American School: American Art and Pedagogy* (a symposium supported by the Henry Luce Foundation), Colby College Museum of Art, October 9-10, 2009 (with Sharon Corwin)

Co-chair, panel sessions, "Representations of Death in Nineteenth-Century Art" and "The Culture of Death and Mourning in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries," WAPCC Organization, Constructions of Death, Mourning and Memory Conference, Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, October 27-29, 2006 (With Terri Sabatos)

Co-chair, panel session, "Lost and Found: The Problem of Provenance," Art Libraries Society of North America Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, March, 2000 (With Martha Neth)

EXHIBITIONS

Curator, *American Girls: John Singleton Copley's Portraits of Colonial Daughters*, Colby College Museum of Art, proposed for 2015

Curator, with Sharon Corwin and Elizabeth Finch, *Selections from the Lunder Collection*, Colby College Museum of Art, slated for 2013

Curator, *Little Elegies: The Art of Nineteenth-Century Mourning*, Colby College Museum of Art, November, 2010–June, 2011

Consulting scholar and contributing catalogue author, *Angels and Tomboys: Girlhood in Nineteenth-Century American Art*, Newark Museum of Art, February-May, 2012

Curator, *The Search for Beauty: Whistler and his Time*, Colby College Museum of Art, May 2010-January 2011.

Curator, with Sharon Corwin and Elizabeth Finch, *Art at Colby: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Colby College Museum of Art*, July 2009-January 2010

Curator, *Beautiful Soup: Lewis Carroll in the Collections of the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries*, Art Institute of Chicago, July-August 1999

SELECTED PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

"Theatrical Captivity and Murder in Junius Brutus Stearns's *Hannah Duston Killing the Indians of 1847*" American Art and Visual Culture Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, 1 February 2013.

"Behind the Seen: Raphaelle Peale's *Venus Rising from the Sea—A Deception*," Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, January 24, 2013, with Mary Schafer.

"Was Andrew Wyeth a Magical Realist?" Farnsworth Museum of American Art, Rockland, Maine, June 1, 2011

"The Search for Beauty," Colby College Museum of Art, November 3, 2010

"Americans in Paris: Expatriates, Impressionists, and Sculptors," Farnsworth Museum of American Art, Rockland, Maine, April 15, 2009

"A Lost and Found Self-Portrait by Fitz Henry Lane," Colby College Museum of Art, March 19, 2009

"Forming the Modern," Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine, November 10, 2008.

"Thomas Crawford's *Adam and Eve*," Colby College Museum of Art, April 24, 2008

"The Joan Whitney Payson Collection," Colby College Museum of Art, February 28, 2008

"The Women of the Lunder Collection," American Association of University Women, Colby College, February 20, 2008

"Zelda Fitzgerald's Expressive Paintings," Guldner Gallery, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri, July 21, 2006

SERVICE

Referee for the journals *Early American Studies* (2012), *The Space Between: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945* (2011), and *Winterthur Portfolio* (2009)

Science, Technology and Society Program Advisory Committee, Colby College, 2008-present

Juror for the State of Maine, United States Congressional Arts Competition, 2011

Schools Make Art Relevant Today (SMART) Grant Review Committee, Maine Arts Commission, 2010

Board member, Maine Film Center, 2008-2010

Fulbright Scholars Nominating Committee, Colby College, 2009

Juror, 19th Annual Maine Open-Juried Art Show, April 2009

Precinct Committee Woman, Prairie Village, Kansas, 2003-2006

Diversity Committee, Art Libraries Society of North America, 2000-2001

Treasurer, Art Libraries Society of North America, Mid-states Chapter, 1998-2001

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

Maine Art Education Association, Arts Advocate of the Year, 2011

Association of Art Museum Curators, Outstanding Essay of 2010, for "Ties that Bind: Hiram Powers' *Greek Slave* and Nineteenth-Century Marriage."

Maine Arts Commission: Arts in Education Grant to support Lively Spaces, a dance and theater camp for elementary school students at the Colby College Museum of Art, 2009

Betterment Fund: Additional grant money to support educational outreach at the Colby College Museum of Art, 2009

Henry Luce Foundation: Grant to support the symposium *American School: American Art and Pedagogy*, 2008

Mellon Foundation: Conservation grant to support research on Raphaelle Peale's *Venus Rising from the Sea—A Deception*, 2008

College of Arts and Sciences of Indiana University: Dissertation Research Grant, 2005

Henry Luce Foundation: Dissertation Research Grant, 2000

AFFILIATIONS

Association of Art Museum Curators
Association of Historians of American Art
College Art Association
Nineteenth-Century Studies Association
Society of Early Americanists
Maine Art Education Association

REFERENCES

Dr. Sharon Corwin
Carolyn Muzzy Director and Chief Curator
Colby College Museum of Art
5600 Mayflower Hill
Waterville, ME 04901
(207) 859-5601
scorwin@colby.edu

Dr. Sarah Burns
Professor Emerita
Indiana University
burnss@indiana.edu

Dr. Margaret Conrads
Samuel Sosland Curator of American Art
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
4525 Oak Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 751-1218
mconrads@nelson-atkins.org