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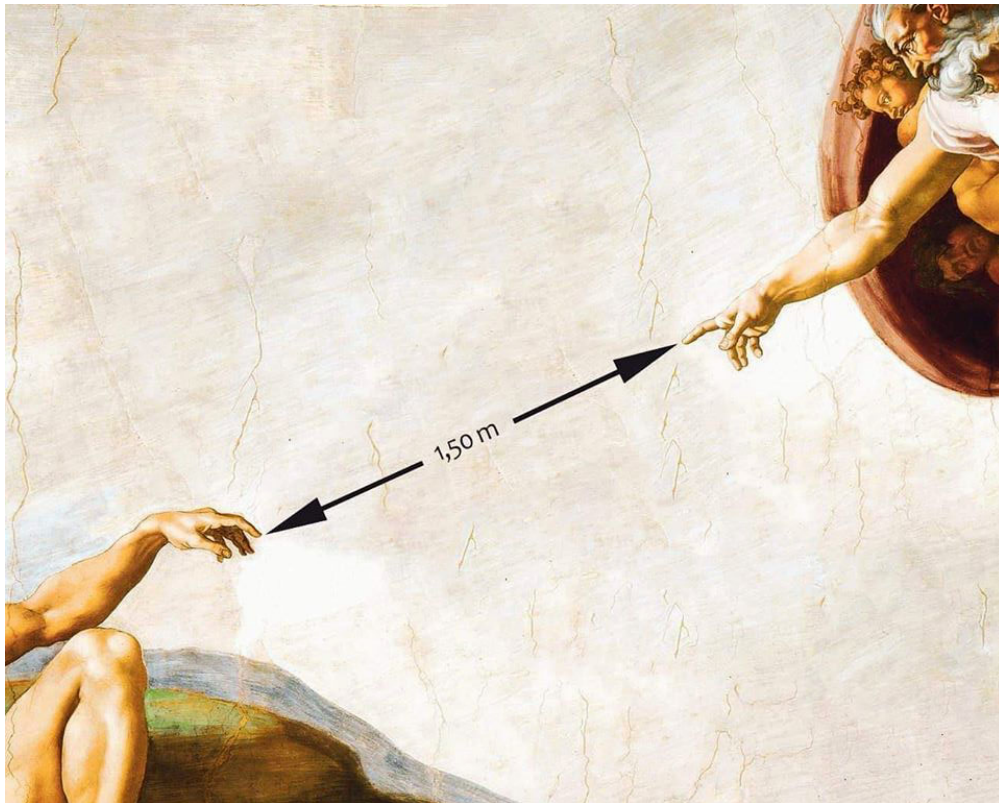
Much has happened since my last note in the fall Newsletter. Truth be told, the turn of the 2020 calendar wheel has ushered in its fair share of challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us into working and teaching remotely since early March, shutting down Tappan Hall and curtailing access to our offices, library books, and, above all, each other. Our faculty, students, and staff adapted to these circumstances quickly, and with typical good humor and creativity. Despite separation and hardship, we found joy in “Zooming” past social distance while also focusing on life’s silver linings. It is well worth pausing and reflecting on these as we wrap up the academic year.

First and foremost, I extend my warmest congratulations to our graduating seniors. Bravo on finishing college in less-than-ideal circumstances and may you enjoy continued success as you sail onward to the next phase of life and work! I also wish to flag our graduate students’ many accomplishments, from securing prestigious fellowships and awards to presenting and publishing papers in a wide array of venues. Our graduate students represent the next generation of energetic, canon-breaking art historians, with whom I look forward to working in order to confront a number of pressing issues, including the problem of systemic discrimination in academia. Our faculty, too, have accomplished much. My felicitations go most especially to those who secured grants to be on leave next year: Nicola Barham, on an ACLS fellowship, Ana María León, at UM’s Institute for the Humanities, and Joan Kee, who will join the Clark Institute as a visiting professor.

As we bid a fond farewell to our retiring professors Ray Silverman and Elaine Gazda, we also celebrate the looming arrival of—not one, not two, but six— extraordinary individuals. Please join me in welcoming **Lihong Liu**, assistant professor of Chinese art, **Brendan McMahon**, assistant professor of global early modern art, **Valentina Rozas-Krause**, Collegiate Fellow, **Michaela Rife**, Michigan Society Fellow, **Bryan Miller**, Lecturer in Central Asian archaeology, and **Deirdre Hennebury**, Lecturer in museum studies. They will bring to our department a rich and diverse array of skills and expertise come September.

Until then, I extend to one and all my best wishes for a happy and restorative summer,

Christiane Gruber



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[Graduation 2020](#)

Although we couldn't be with you in person, we still wanted to mark the occasion and recognize the accomplishments of our incredibly talented students. [Click here](#) to view our virtual commencement page.



2019 - 2020 Graduate Student Accomplishments

Our graduate students continue to impress and represent the department well year after year. We take this opportunity to congratulate our students on their hard work and highlight their accomplishments as we move into a new academic year.



A New Discovery in the Michigan Sinai Archive

- Alice Sullivan

"On February 11, 2020, as I was working through the metadata and images of the Sinai Archive at the University of Michigan in efforts to ensure concordances and accuracy in the records, I stumbled across a batch of images of icon fragments. These had little to offer in terms of visual interest, so I prepared for my work that day to be quite mundane and add little to my fascination with the Sinai material. But among the icon fragments I discovered something quite exceptional."



Learning on the Road: Michigan Faculty Meet Communities Across the State

History of Art faculty member Nicola Barham was one of thirty Michigan scholars selected to be part of the Michigan Roads Scholars tour for 2019. The group spent a week living and travelling together in May throughout the state of Michigan, meeting members of the diverse communities that call Michigan home, and learning about their lives and work in various parts of the state.

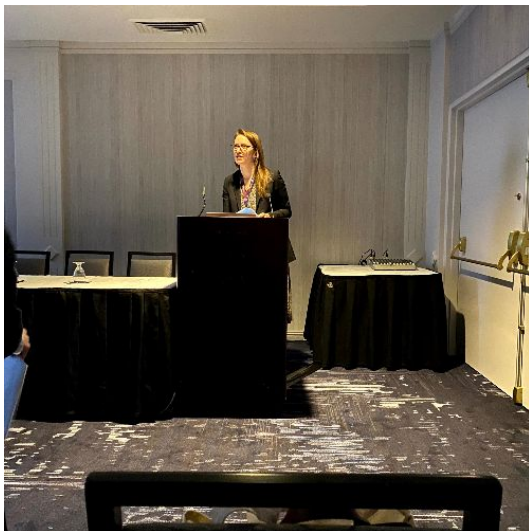


Why America Looks This Way

-Matthew Quirk

"Growing up, I never understood how my classmates weren't aware of all of the museums everywhere around them. Every town has a historical society and maybe a building or two from a notable architect. You can find them if you know where to look. I have my dad to thank for that knowledge."

College Art Association Conference 2020





With a wide array of topics at hand, the department of History of Art sent a cohort of faculty and graduate students to present at the annual College Art Association Conference.

We also invite faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the department to join us for a reception and a chance to mingle. [Click to read titles of all UM presentations at CAA 2020.](#)

Undergraduate Student Spotlight

Graduating senior Evan Binkley spent his Fall semester working at the United States Department of State's Office of Art in Embassies and during the Winter semester was awarded the prestigious Marshall Scholarship. Please join us as we take a moment to highlight his achievements this past year!



Alumni Spotlight

- Allison Martino - ['Fast/Fashion' sparks dialogue on clothing industry](#)

- Emily Talbot - [Get A Glimpse Of Labor, Leisure And Everyday Life In Paris' Belle Époque](#)
 - Lara Blanchard - [Association for Asian Studies Book Prizes 2020](#)
 - Alana Valko & Sarah Nisbett - [Drawn on the Way](#)
 - Wendy Sepponen - [‘Alonso Berruguete: First Sculptor of Renaissance Spain’ Review: A Taste of Spain](#)
 - J.P. Park - [Charles Rufus Morey Book Award](#)
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How to Stay in Touch...

- For the latest news and updates, make sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)!
 - Although our events are on hiatus currently, for future reference: do you live in the Ann Arbor area and would like to be notified of public lectures? Send a request to hstart-events-comm@umich.edu to be added to our mailing list!
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