

Ellen McBreen

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Department of Art and Art History
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Education

Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Ph.D. 2007. Dissertation: *The Pinup and the Primitive: Eros and Africa in the Sculpture of Henri Matisse (1906-1909)* (Robert Lubar, Advisor, Linda Nochlin, Kenneth Silver). **M.A.** 1996

Harvard University. B.A. 1992. *magna cum laude*. Joint Major: Fine Arts/Visual & Environmental Studies (studio arts). Honors thesis: *The Queen of Warhol's Heart: Marcel Duchamp and Rose Sélavy*, (Norman Bryson, Advisor)

Teaching Experience

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| 2016- | <i>Associate Professor</i> , Department of Art and Art History, Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts |
| 2009-2016 | <i>Assistant Professor</i> , Department of Art and Art History, Wheaton College
Courses: Seminar: <i>Art History Today: A Critical Assessment; The Art of Writing About Art; French Art and Its Others (1830-1930); Matisse and Methods, The Art of Writing About Art</i> . Lecture: <i>Modernism and Mass Culture in France (1848-1914) Photography as Knowledge in the Nineteenth Century; Art of the Avant-Gardes (1900-1945); Postwar and Contemporary Art (1945-Today); Arts of the Western Tradition</i> , team-taught survey and sections discussions. |
| 2008-2009 | <i>Adjunct Professor</i> , Department of Critical Studies, Parsons Paris School of Art and Design, Paris |
| 2003-2004 | <i>Adjunct Professor</i> , American University of Paris, Department of Art History, Paris |
| 1998-99 | <i>Adjunct Professor and Preceptor</i> , New York University, Department of Art History, New York |
| 1998 | <i>Adjunct Instructor</i> , Hunter College, Department of Art History, New York |

Curatorial and Museum Experience

- 2011—2017 Curator, “Matisse in the Studio,” Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Royal Academy, London, 2017.
- 2002—2009 *Founder and Director*, [Paris Muse](#)/Muse Education Group. Created a private educational company offering art history programs to individual travelers, school and university groups in Paris museums.

Publications

Editor and Contributing Author, *Matisse in the Studio*, Boston Boston Museum of Fine Arts Publications, 2017. Contributing authors include Jack Flam, Suzanne Blier, Claudine Grammont, Helen Burnham, and Hélène Ivanoff.

“American Responses to Matisse’s Nudes,” *Matisse and American Art*, Montclair, NJ: Montclair Art Museum, 2017.

Entries (20) for *Le Dictionnaire Henri Matisse*; forthcoming, Paris: Éditions Robert Laffont, 2017.

“Peindre les relations entre les objets,” in *Henri Matisse: Une palette d’objets*, Musée Matisse, Nice, Editions Artlys, 2016.

[Matisse’s Sculpture: The Pinup and the Primitive](#). New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014.

“Matisse’s *Le Cauchemar de l’Eléphant Blanc*,” Providence RISD Museum, [Manual: A Journal About Art and its Making](#) 3 (2014).

“Matisse: Painter as Sculptor,” ([exhibition review](#)) in *Nineteenth Century Art Worldwide* 8:1 (Spring 2009).

“Escultura en los orígenes de la diferencia: Matisse y Picasso en 1907” in *Arte Moderno: Ideas y conceptos*. Madrid: Fundación Cultural, Mapfre Vida, 2008.

“The Joy of Life, The Idyllic in French Art, circa 1900 by Margaret Werth,” (book review) *Modernism/modernity* 11:3 (September 2004): 596-598.

“Biblical Gender Bending in Harlem: The Queer Performance of Nugent’s *Salome* (1930),” *Art Journal* 57:3 (Fall 1998): 22-28.

“Emile-Antoine Bourdelle,” entry for *Encyclopedia of Sculpture*, ed. Antonia Boström. New York and London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004.

Collaborative Digital Projects

Editor, [Critical Concepts in Art History, For Students By Students](#) (2015)

A 40-entry illustrated interactive publication, critically assessing key concepts in art history and visual culture. Conceived, researched and written with 14 art history majors in *Art History Today* senior seminar, spring 2015. A semester-long series of workshops with outside specialists was coordinated with efforts to assess future directions of the discipline.

[Watson Conversations](#) (2011 —)

A platform for students to develop digital interpretative material, summarizing their research on individual objects in Wheaton's Permanent Collection.

Founder and Faculty Advisor, [ARTHive Revue](#) (2011—)

An online revue featuring art historical writing by students in ARTHive, the art history club of Wheaton College.

Invited Lectures (Selected)

"Matisse's Sculpture: The Pinup and the Primitive," Dartmouth College Department of Art History, October 2014, and Saint Anselm College, February 2014

"I Paint the Differences Between Things": Matisse, Photography, and African Sculpture," Guggenheim Museum, New York, 2011, Selected as Annual Robert Rosenblum Lecture for emerging art historians

"Henri/Henriette: Matisse's Variations on a Model," RISD Museum, Providence, 2011, Given on occasion of the exhibition "Changing Poses: The Artists's Model"

"Henri Matisse, Serial Portraitist," Bruce Museum, Greenwich, Connecticut, 2008 Given on occasion of the exhibition "Paris Portraits: Artists, Friends, and Lovers"

"The Past as Future: Sculpting at the Origins of Difference, Matisse and Picasso, 1906-1908," Instituto Cultura, Fundación Mapfre, Madrid, 2007

"I Understood Why I Was a Painter': Picasso's Encounter with African Art at the Trocadéro," New York University en France, Paris, 2006

"Paris: The Impressionists' City," New York University en France, 2004

"Modernist Primitivism in Early 20th-century Paris," Musée Nationale d'Art Moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2004

"Baudelaire's Paris: A 19th-Century User's Guide," New York University en France, 2003

"Hybrid Bodies: Matisse's Sculpture, 1906-1908," Colgate University, Art and Art History Series, 2002

"Haussmann's City/Manet's Response," New York University en France, 2002

"The Cubism of Picasso and Braque," Christie's New York Art Program, 1997

Conferences

"Matisse and his Palette of Objects," *Looking at Matisse Today: A Symposium*, Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, October 2016.

"Digital Art History: Opportunities to Engage," Panel: A Digital Publications Future, CAA, New York, 2015

"Matisse and the Anti-Commodity Mystique of African Sculpture," Panel:
Antimodernism(s) in French Art and Culture, 1890-1914, CAA, Chicago, 2014

Moderator, "Land Reformations," with exhibiting artists for *Sitelines*, Wheaton's Beard
and Weil Galleries, 2011

"Cracking the *Da Vinci Code* at the Louvre," Panel: A Novel Approach: The Fusion of
Art History and Historical Fiction, CAA, Boston, 2006

"Matisse, the Maghreb, and the Model," Panel: Oriental Erotics, CAA, Philadelphia,
2002

"The Primitivism of Matisse's Sculpted Nudes," Metropolitan Museum Research
Fellows Colloquium, New York, 2001

"*Documents* and *Les Noirs*: The Representation of Race in a Surrealist Journal"
New Scholars/New Ideas Symposium, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2000

"The Victorian Mad Woman Confined: Dr. Hugh Welch Diamond's Photographs of the
Insane," History of Photography Group Symposium, Manhattanville College, New
York, 1997

"Richard Bruce Nugent's *Salome* (1930): The Spectacle of Homosexuality in the
Harlem Renaissance," CAA, Boston, 1996

Fellowships/Grants/Awards

- Andrew W. Mellon Faculty/Research Award (2013)
- Foundation Course Transformation Award for Infusion, *French Art and Its Others*
(2011)
- Connections Curriculum Award for [*From Manet to Colbert: Negotiating New Media*](#)
(2010)

Predocctoral: Rousseau and Whitney Research Fellow, Metropolitan Museum of Art
(2000); Dean's Summer Research Award, New York University (2000); Morse
Academic Plan Fellowship, New York University (1998-99); Levy Travel Fellowship,
Institute of Fine Arts, New York University (1995); Lila Acheson Wallace Fellowship,
Institute of Fine Arts (1994-98); David McCord Prize, Outstanding Achievement in the
Arts, Harvard University (1992)

Exhibition Reviews (freelance contemporary art writer 1998-2005)

"David Shrigley at Galerie Yvon Lambert, Paris," *ARTnews* (May 2005): 153-54.

"Donald Baechler at Galerie Thaddeus Ropac, Paris," *ARTnews* (March 2005): 126,
136.

"Roberto Matta at Galerie Malingue, Paris" *ARTnews* (October 2004): 200.

"Jacques Villon at Galerie Schmit, Paris" *ARTnews* (Summer 2004): 184.

"Cristina Iglesias at Galerie Marion Goodman," *ARTnews* (June 2004): 124.

"Christian Boltanski at Galerie Yvon Lambert," *ARTnews* (February 2004): 124

“Isaac Julian at Galerie Yvon Lambert,” *Tema Celeste* (September-October 2003): 96.

“André Derain at Galerie Schmit,” *ARTnews* (September 2003): 146.

“Didier Marcel at Galerie Michel Rein,” *Tema Celeste* (July-August 2003): 91.

“Wade Saunders at Corinne Caminade,” *Art in America* (July 2003): 104.

“Thomas Ruff at Galerie Nelson,” *ARTnews* (June 2003): 128,136.

“Fred Stein at Galerie Claude Samuel,” *ARTnews* (June 2003): 136.

“Haluk Akakçe at Cosmic Galerie,” *Tema Celeste* (May-June 2003): 89.

“Michael Elmgreen & Ingar Dragset at Emmanuel Perrotin,” *Art in America* (May 2003): 155-6.

“Johannes Kahrs at Galerie Almine Rech,” *Art in America* (February 2003): 124-5.

“Claude Closky at Galerie Jennifer Flay,” *Art in America* (January 2003): 119.

“Olafur Eliasson,” *Art Monthly* (London) 257 (June 2002): 35-37.
(Review of Eliasson retrospective at Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris)

“Letter from Washington, D.C.,” *ArtNet Magazine* (April 2000).
(Reviews of Robert Gober and Leonardo Drew at the Hirshhorn, Remedios Varo at National Museum of Women in the Arts, and Honoré Daumier at the Phillips Collection, Washington D.C.)

“Academy Women,” *ArtNet Magazine* (February 2000).
(Review of “Overcoming All Obstacles: The Women of the Académie Julian” at Dahesh Museum, New York)

“Matisse en masse,” *ArtNet Magazine* (November 1998).
(Review of “Henri Matisse: Sculpture” at C&M Arts, New York)

Service

- Manuscript Review, *Modernism/Modernity*, Yale University Press
- Contributor, Channel, RISD Museum Digital Interpretation Platform
- Advisory Committee, Wheaton College (as of 2014)
- Founder and Advisor, ARTHive (Wheaton’s art history club)
- Beard and Weil Galleries Committee
- Beard and Weil Galleries Director Search Committee
- Chair, Mellon Postdoctoral Search Committee
- Writing Across the Curriculum Committee
- New Faculty Orientation
- Wheaton Friends of Art
- Permanent Collection Acquisitions Committee