

UC SANTA BARBARA

# History of Art & Architecture

## Alumni News

**Aleesa Pitchamarn Alexander** (Ph.D. 2018) curated two critically reviewed exhibitions that are traveling in 2025. Both originating at the Cantor Arts Center, [\*\*East of the Pacific: Making Histories of Asian American Art\*\*](#) traveled to the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, Texas, and [\*\*Spirit House\*\*](#) traveled to the Henry Art Gallery at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. *Spirit House* is also accompanied by a [major publication](#) edited and co-authored by Aleesa.

Undergraduate alumna **Noelle Y. Barr** M.A. (B.A. 2021), was awarded a Kress Fellowship to attend the Middlebury Language School. Barr is a doctoral student at Duke University researching constructions of race in early modern French visual art.

**Marta Faust** (Ph.D. 2019) has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in Art History at Auburn University. She leaves the University of Tennessee Knoxville, where she was Teaching Assistant Professor in Art History in 2024-2025. Over the past year, she published an article in *Word & Image*, "[\*\*Art, Illusion, and Recycled Images in Johannes Pauli's Anecdotes on Artists\*\*](#)," and presented a paper, "[\*\*'Altdeutsch' Print Publishing in Early Nineteenth-Century Germany\*\*](#)," at the 48th Annual German Studies Association Conference in Atlanta.

**Charlene G. Garfinkle** (Ph.D. 1996) is an invited contributor to the 2025 Bulletin of the Bureau International des Expositions with the theme "Opening the Way: Women and World Expositions". Her article, entitled "Women's Progress Made Manifest: Creating the Woman's Building at Chicago's Columbian Exposition," can be accessed [here](#).

In July, 2024, **Ursula Aulinger Ginder** (Ph.D. 2011) delivered a talk "Promise of Renewal: Munich's Art Exhibitions 1931-1933" at the conference *Der Brand im Muenchner Glaspalast 1931. Folgen und Narrative des Verlustes* organized by the Zentralinstitut fuer Kunstgeschichte Muenchen.

**Holly Gore** (Ph.D. 2022) published the essay, "The Assembly Line, the Dance Camp, and Wharton Esherick's Rhythmic Art" in [The Crafted World of Wharton Esherick](#). She also co-authored the introduction to the book with Emily Zilber.

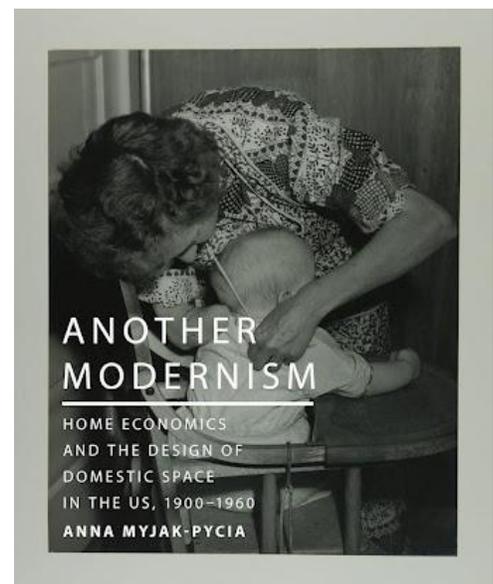
Following California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-1-24 directing the removal of homeless encampments on state land, **Ben Jameson-Ellsmore** (Ph.D. 2023) reflects on the implications of such a directive. In "[The Housing Crisis and Newsomville 2024](#)," published on *PLATFORM*, Jameson-Ellsmore directs the reader to a selection of articles published in *PLATFORM*, including two of his own, which helps place this policy shift in historical context.

**Heather Marx** (M.A. 1994) is the Art Advisor for the Public Art Program at Elco Yards, a multi use development in downtown Redwood City, CA - Coming in late 2025. Marx commissioned 8 international artists to create 11 new works of outdoor sculpture, benches and murals throughout the five block development.

**Reza Mirzaei** (Ph.D. 2024) has been appointed Clinical Assistant Professor of Art History at the School of Art and Design, Alfred University. He also published a peer-reviewed article "[Equestrian Semiosis: Unpacking the Parodic Layers of Bahman Mohassess's Painting and Theater](#)" in *ARTMargins* (2025), and an essay titled "[Bahman Mohassess. Minotaur](#)" in *Smarthistory* (2024).

**Anna Myjak-Pycia** (Ph.D. 2018), Senior Researcher at the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture (gta), ETH Zürich, published a book *Another Modernism: Home Economics and the Design of Domestic Space in the US, 1900-1960* with Bloomsbury Press and an article "[The Peripheral Interior and People as Infrastructure: Adopting the Sewer System for Passage](#)," in *The Journal of Architecture*.

**Daniel A. Novak**, Ph.D., (BA, 2006) was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Social Medicine, Population, and Public Health in the UC



Riverside School of Medicine. He also won UCR School of Medicine Outstanding Mentor of the Year, and the UCR University Honors Program Mentor of the Year award for his work with medical students and undergraduate honors students.

**Alexandra Schultz** (Ph.D. 2022) published two articles in 2024. The first examines the role of beach leisure spaces in reshaping the urban fabric of Alexandria, as well as the important role of women in shaping these spaces. The article appears on Metropole, the blog of the [Urban History Association](#). In the second article, Alex discusses the role of water infrastructure and resistance in the failure of Hassan Fathy's model village project of New Qurna. This article appears on [PLATFORM](#).

**Staci Gem Scheiwiler** (Ph.D. 2009) published a monograph, [Women's Agency and Ontology in Nineteenth-Century Iranian Photography: A Mirror for Princesses](#) (Routledge History of Photography, 2025), and a book chapter, "Contextualizing Islam, Slavery, and Orientalism in 19th-Century Iranian Photography," in [The Routledge Handbook of Islam and Race](#), ed. Zain Abdullah (Routledge 2025).

In September, **Michelle Sullivan** (BA 2005) co-presented *The Technical Study of Blue Paper Supports in Old Master Drawings: Combining Traditional Methods with Instrumental Analysis* with Leila Sauvage of the University of Amsterdam at the 37th Congress of the International Association of Paper Historians in Oslo, Norway.

**Monica Blackmun Visona** (Ph.D. 1983) is now Professor Emerita at the University of Kentucky, having retired this July. She is preparing an online, open access edition of *A History of Art in Africa* for University of Michigan Publishing, incorporating two decades of research on the art, artists and archaeology of the continent by scholars in the field.

**Lisa Volpe** (Ph.D. 2013) has been named Head of the Photography Department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

**Rachel Winter** (Ph.D., 2024) recently curated the exhibitions [unbecoming](#), a mid-career survey of Diana Al-Hadid, [Samia Halaby: Eye Witness](#), which was the Palestinian painter's first American museum retrospective, and [Kayla Mattes: DOOMSCROLLING](#),

the artist's first solo museum exhibition. She also co-edited the book [\*\*Samia Halaby: Centers of Energy\*\*](#), which was awarded outstanding monograph by the Midwest Art History Society, and her second co-edited book, [\*\*Diana Al-Hadid: unbecoming\*\*](#), will be published in late Fall 2025. In addition to co-convening the international symposium [\*\*Aesthetics of Solidarity\*\*](#), which was funded by a major NEH Collaborative Research Grant, Winter also published peer-reviewed articles about [\*\*Halil Altindere\*\*](#) and [\*\*Samia Halaby\*\*](#).