DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Anthropologies of Fiber: Claire Zeisler, Ed Rossbach, Sheila Hicks

In the 1960s and 1970s, American artists Claire Zeisler, Ed Rossbach, and Sheila Hicks helped forge an international art movement that expanded the boundaries of fiber usage, and by extension, the boundaries of art itself. Often with only a loom, hook, or their own hands as tools, they crafted innovative soft sculptures from both organic and synthetic materials. In order to write a new chapter in fiber’s history, these artists mined the textile traditions of the deep past. They borrowed anthropological strategies to research the materials and processes associated with non-western, Native American, and South American textile histories, creatively repurposing these traditions to reflect their own contemporary American experience. The intrinsic properties and extra-artistic connotations of fiber thus allowed the artists in this dissertation to engage with major social and political issues of feminism and diversity that were—and continue to be—relevant to American society as a whole.

EDUCATION

Boston University, Boston MA
Doctor of Philosophy, History of Art & Architecture
Advisor: Gregory H. Williams, Second Reader: Patricia Hills
Dissertation: “Anthropologies of Fiber: Claire Zeisler, Ed Rossbach, Sheila Hicks”

Graduate Certificate in Teaching Writing, Boston University Writing Program
October 2015

Master of Arts, History of Art & Architecture
May 2010

Colby College, Waterville, ME
Bachelor of Arts, Honors in Art and English
May 2008

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Graduate Writing Fellowship, Boston University Writing Program, Fall 2014-Present

Craft Research Travel Grant, The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design, 2015

Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship, Boston University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the Center for the Humanities, 2014-2015

Beaze and Harry Adelson Travel and Research Grant, 2014-2015

Travel Grant, Boston University Graduate Student History of Art & Architecture Association, 2014-2015

Curatorial Research Fellowship, Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, July 2012-December 2013
Research Assistantship, Boston University Department of the History of Art & Architecture, September 2010-May 2011

Gallery Assistantship, Boston University Art Gallery, Fall 2008-Spring 2010

Phi Beta Kappa, Colby College, May 2008

 magna cum laude, Colby College, May 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Essays


Book Reviews


Exhibition Reviews


Catalogue Entries


PRESENTATIONS


“Materializing Global Networks: Craft and Capital in Sheila Hicks’s Air France Tapestries,” *Threads of Circulation*, Ohio State University History of Art Department Graduate Conference, April 11-12, 2014

Respondent, *Think Art: Memory* Conference, Boston University, October 14-15, 2011

“Visualizing Velocity: Jackson Pollock and the Futurist Movement,” *Bodies in Motion*, University of Rhode Island Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, March 28, 2009

“David Kapp’s Sidewalk 111,” Colby College Museum of Art, October 26, 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Boston University**

Instructor: WR100-K9, “When Cultures Collide: Global Perspectives in Contemporary Art.” Fall 2015
AH112, “Introduction to Art History II: Renaissance to Today.” Summer Session 2014
WR100-EA, “Crafting Culture, 1960-Now.” Fall 2014

Tutor: Boston University Writing Center. Spring 2015


**Lesley University, College of Art & Design (previously the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley)**


Tutor: MFA thesis tutoring program. Spring 2012-Present


**Suffolk University**

VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE

**Docent Program Coordinator.** *Queer Threads: Crafting Identity and Community*, traveling exhibition curated by John Chaich, Boston Center for the Arts, Mills Gallery. November 2015-Present

**Symposium Abstract Reading Committee Member.** Graduate Student History of Art & Architecture Association (GSHAAA). 2008-Present

**Symposium Coordinator.** 31st Annual Boston University Graduate Student Symposium on the History of Art & Architecture, GSHAAA, Boston University. September 2014-May 2015

**President.** GSHAAA, Boston University. September 2011-May 2012

**Comprehensive Exam Preparation Coordinator.** GSHAAA, Boston University. Summer 2009, 2012

**Guest Scholar Lecture Series Coordinator.** GSHAAA, Boston University. September 2009-May 2010

**Secretary.** GSHAAA, Boston University. Fall 2008-Spring 2009

MEMBERSHIPS AND SKILLS

**Memberships:** College Art Association, 2012-Present

**Languages:** Proficient in written and spoken French, reading knowledge of German

**Computers:** Proficient in Microsoft Office and Photoshop; Experience with social media for education

COURSEWORK

**Doctoral Coursework**
- Globalization and Contemporary Art
- Contemporary Chinese Art
- African-American Art
- Material Culture
- Teaching College Writing
- Feminist Inquiry
- Documentary Photography
- Theories of the Avant-Garde After 1960
- Screen Women: Body Narratives in Popular American Film

**Masters Coursework**
- The Museum and the Historical Agency
- Curatorship Seminar
- The Role of Jackson Pollock
- Romanesque and Gothic
- African Islam at the Saharan Crossroads
- The Female Nude in Renaissance Art
- Paris: 1900-1940
- Arts of Japan