

Melynda Seaton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Art History

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Education

- Ph.D. Art History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, 2015
Areas of specialization: Contemporary Art of the American West and Native American Art
Dissertation: "It's Not About Cowboys: The Cowboy as Subject in Contemporary Art"
- M.A. Art History, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, 2006
Areas of specialization: art since 1945, emphasis on photography and film
Thesis: "Texas Cowboy as Myth: Visual Representations from the Late-Twentieth Century"
- B.A. Art, West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas, 1999
Areas of specialization: art history and photography

Teaching Experience

- 8/19 – present Assistant Professor of Art History, Texas A&M University - Commerce
Undergraduate Courses: History of Art I & II; Art Appreciation; History of Modern Art; History of Contemporary Art; History of Photography; Art of the Americas; History of Art and Activism; History of Graphic Design; History of New Media: Indigenous Arts of North America
Graduate Courses: Art of the American West; History of Contemporary Art; Research, Literature & Techniques
- 8/15 – 5/16 Professor of Practice, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Courses: History of Photography and Art Since 1945, Undergraduate Honor's Thesis Advisor
- 6/11 – 5/14 Lecturer, University of Oklahoma
Courses: Art History Survey I & II
- 5/09 – 5/14 Instructor, Art Institute of Pittsburgh Online Division, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Courses: Art History: Prehistory to the Early Modern Era, Art History: From the Early Modern to the Contemporary, History of American Art, History of American Architecture, History of Popular Culture, Strategies for Online Learning
- 9/07 – 6/10 Instructor, Art Institute of Dallas, Dallas, Texas
Courses: History of Art Survey I & II, History of Architecture I & II, History of Furniture I & II, History of Architecture, Interiors & Furniture I & II, Survey of Decorative Arts, Digital Imaging for Interior Design
- 2/06 – 8/06 Adjunct Instructor, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
Courses: Honors Art Appreciation, Art History Survey II

Professional Experience

- 1/24 – Present Art Gallery Director, Texas A&M University – Commerce
- 9/18 – 8/19 Curator of Photography, History Colorado, Denver, Colorado
- 6/14 – 7/18 Director and Curator, Great Plains Art Museum, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- 7/14 – 9/14 Independent Research Assistant, Erwin E. Smith Online Collection Project
Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas
- 8/13 – 12/13 Curatorial Intern; Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma
- 6/13 – 8/13 McGee Foundation Curatorial Intern, National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, Wyoming
- 8/10 – 5/12 Robert & Grayce Kerr Fellow, Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West, Norman, Oklahoma
- 1/08 – 7/09 Curator, Pegasus Gallery, Art Institute of Dallas, Dallas, Texas
- 6/07 – 8/07 Graduate Curatorial Intern, Artpace, San Antonio, Texas
- 6/06 – 12/06 Registrar, Gerald Peters Gallery, Dallas, Texas
- 10/02 - 8/04 Public Programs Assistant, Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo, Texas

Publications

Books

- “Reimagining *End of the Trail*,” chapter in *Rethinking Regionalism: 20th-Century Art and Visual Culture in the American West*, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, 2021
- “Pure Country - Pure Strait - Pure Myth: The Myth of the Texas Cowboy,” chapter in *Contemporary Westerns: Film and Television Since 1990*, ed. Andrew Patrick Nelson, Scarecrow Press, 2013

Exhibition Catalogs

- “Artist interview,” in *Don Russell Retrospective*, exhibition catalog, University Gallery, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Fall 2022
- “Artist interview,” in *Distinguished Visiting Artist: Robert Taylor*, exhibition catalog October 2017, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma
- “Contemporary Indigeneity: Spiritual Borderlands,” all text copy for exhibition catalog 2016, Great Plains Art Museum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. <https://www.unl.edu/plains/ci/ci-catalog-dec-2016.pdf>
- “Chronology” in *A World Unconquered: The Art of Oscar Brousse Jacobson*, exhibition catalog 2015, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma
- “The Business of Frankoma Pottery: A Merging of Beauty and Utility” in *Oklahoma Clay: Frankoma Pottery*, exhibition catalog 2012, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma

Journal Articles

- “An Interview with Black Ash Basket Makers Kelly Church and Renée Wasson Dillard,” *Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art* 7, no. 2 (Fall 2021), <https://doi.org/10.24926/24716839.12619>
- “Supernatural Cowboy Heroes,” *Popular Culture Review*, Western Special Issue, 32, no. 2 (Summer 2021): 3–32.
- “Native American Art on the Great Plains Today: An Overview of the Exhibition Contemporary Indigeneity: Spiritual Borderlands,” invited essay *Great Plains Quarterly*, Winter 2016.

Book and Exhibition Reviews

Rounded Up in Glory: Frank Reaugh, Texas Renaissance Man, Michael R. Grauer. University of North Texas Press, 2016 in *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*, Fall 2017

“The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky, September 19, 2014 - January 11, 2015 at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.” for *caa.reviews*, the online review journal published by the College Art Association, October 15, 2015. <http://www.caareviews.org/reviews/2618>

Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society. By Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney and Kirby Lambert. Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 2014 in *Great Plains Quarterly*, Fall 2015

Painters and the American West, Volume II, Joan Carpenter Troccoli, University of Oklahoma Press, 2013 in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, the scholarly quarterly of the Oklahoma Historical Society, spring 2015

Interviews

Art This Week- *Chryssa & New York*, Michelle White interview at the Menil Collection, Episode 389- December 1, 2023, <https://artthisweek.com/atw-chryssa-new-york-michelle-white-interview/>

Art This Week- *Robert Frank and Todd Webb: Across America, 1955*, Lisa Volpe interview at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Episode 388-November 20, 2023, <https://artthisweek.com/atw-robert-frank-and-todd-webb-across-america-1955-lisa-volpe-interview/>

Art This Week-*Juane Quick to See Smith: Memory Map*, Juane Quick-to-See-Smith interview at The Modern Art Museum Fort Worth, Episode 386, November 10, 2023, <https://artthisweek.com/atw-jaune-quick-to-see-smith-memory-map-jaune-quick-to-see-smith-interview/>

Art This Week-*Trespassers: James Prosek and the Texas Prairie*, James Prosek interview at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, September 25, 2023, <https://artthisweek.com/atw-trespassers-james-prosek-and-the-texas-prairie-james-prosek-interview/>

Art This Week-*The World Outside: Louise Nevelson at Midcentury*, Shirley Reece-Hughes interview at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, September 22, 2023, <https://artthisweek.com/atw-the-world-outside-louise-nevelson-at-midcentury-shirley-reece-hughes-interview/>

Art This Week-*Juane Quick to See Smith: Memory Map*, Laura Phipps interview at Whitney Museum of American Art, Episode 377-June 26, 2023, <http://artthisweek.com/atw-jaune-quick-to-see-smith-memory-map-laura-hipps-interview/>

Art This Week-*Chryssa & New York*, Megan Holly Witko interview at DIA: Chelsea, Episode 376, June 4, 2023, <http://artthisweek.com/atw-chryssa-new-york-megan-holly-witko-interview/>

Art This Week-*I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen* Alison Hearst interview, Episode 374, April 5, 2023, <http://artthisweek.com/atw-ill-be-your-mirror-art-and-the-digital-screen-alison-hearst-interview/>

Art This Week-*Speaking with Light: Contemporary Indigenous Photography* John Rohrbach and Will Wilson interview at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Episode 371, December 28, 2022. <http://artthisweek.com/atw-speaking-with-light-contemporary-indigenous-photography-john-rohrbach-and-will-wilson-interviews/>

Art This Week-*Sargent, Whistler, and Venetian Glass: American Artists and the Magic of Murano*-Maggie Adler interview at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Episode 367. July 13, 2022.

<http://artthisweek.com/art-this-week-sargent-whistler-and-venetian-glass-maggie-adler-interview/>

Blogs

“Stories of Colorado Dude and Guest Ranches.” History Colorado, 28 June 2019,
www.historycolorado.org/story/stuff-history/2019/06/28/stories-colorado-dude-and-guest-ranches

“Collecting the History of Marijuana Legalization in Colorado” History Colorado, 19 April 2019,
www.historycolorado.org/story/stuff-history/2019/04/19/collecting-history-marijuana-legalization-colorado

Guest Lectures/Guest Juror

“Cowboys in Art,” guest lecturer for Cowboys & Cowgirls course at Texas A&M University Commerce, Texas, March 10, 2021, and April 6, 2022

“Postmodernism and the American West,” guest lecturer for Art History Methodologies graduate course at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, November 9, 2016

“Art Since 1945 – Connections to Works on View,” guest lecturer for docent program at Sheldon Museum Art, Lincoln, Nebraska, August 18, 2016.

Awarding Juror, Quest for the West Art Show and Sale, The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, September 2015

Conferences/Presentations/Papers

SECAC (Southeast College Art Conference) 2022, Baltimore, Maryland, October 26-29, 2022
Paper: “Playing Cowboys and Indians in David Levinthal's *Wild West*”

Open Texas 2022 Virtual Conference, September 21-23, 2022
Paper: “A More Equitable Art History: Collaborating Across Institutions for Implementing an OER-Based Texas Core Curriculum Course” co-presented with Liz Kim, Ph.D. Texas A&M-Kingsville

Symposium: *Rethinking Regionalism: 20th-Century Art and Visual Culture in the American West*
Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado, December 6-7, 2019
Paper: “Reimagining *End of the Trail*”

College Art Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, California, February 21-24, 2018
Paper: “The American West, Appropriated”

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference, Washington, D.C., March 27-30, 2013
Paper: “Matthew Barney’s *Cremaster 2*: Gothic Western or Not?”

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association 2012 National Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, April 11 -14, 2012
Panel Chair: Westerns and the West I: Re-Examining the Western Myth
Paper: “Visual Representations of Western Celebrity—Buffalo Bill Cody, John Wayne, and George Strait: Perpetuation of Western Myth in Popular Culture”

Mid-America American Studies Association 2012 Annual Meeting Oklahoma State University-Tulsa, April 1-3, 2012,
Participant in Roundtable: “Utilizing Visual Culture as Amends to Misperceptions of Mid-American Academia”

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association 2011 National Conference, San Antonio, Texas, April 20 -23, 2011,
Paper: “George Strait: Fashion Icon of the Texas Cowboy”

Regional Symposium Costume in the American West: Historic to Modern Times, Sacramento, California, September 25 - 26, 2009

Paper: "George Strait: Fashion Icon of the Texas Cowboy"

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association 2008 National Conference, San Francisco, California, March 19-22, 2008,

Paper: "The Cowboy Hat: Icon of America and Texas"

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association 2006 National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, April 12-15, 2006,

Paper: "Texas Cowboy as Myth: Visual Representations from the Late-Twentieth Century"

Midwest Art History Society Annual Conference, Dallas Texas, March 23-25, 2006,

Paper: "Texas Cowboy as Myth: Visual Representations from the Late-Twentieth Century"

Annual Conference of the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Albuquerque, NM, February 8-11, 2006,

Paper: "Texas Cowboy as Myth: Visual Representations from the Late-Twentieth Century"

Grants/Fellowships/Awards

2021 Open Educational Resources (OER) Course Development & Implementation Grant Program from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

2020 Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant, Texas A&M University-Commerce

2017 Nebraska Arts Council Grant to support *Cowboys from the Collection*
Humanities Nebraska Grant to support *Cowboys from the Collection* and *Robert Taylor*

2016 Lincoln Community Foundation Grant for purchase of gallery stools
Woods Charitable Fund Grant for catalog production and artwork purchase for exhibition
Contemporary Indigeneity 2016
Nebraska Arts Council Grant to support exhibition *Contemporary Indigeneity 2016*
Humanities Nebraska Grant to support exhibition *Contemporary Indigeneity 2016*
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Convocation Grant to support education programming related to exhibition *Contemporary Indigeneity 2016*

2015 Nebraska Arts Council Grant to support *From This Grass Earth and We, The Heartland*
Nebraska Arts Council Grant to support *Looking Back, Looking Forward: Native American Art from the Permanent Collection*

2010 Robert & Grayce Kerr Fellowship in Art of the American West
- 14 Mark Allen Everett Scholarship for Art of the American West/Native American Art
Madeline Colbert Steed Scholarship, Madeline Colbert Steed Art Sooner Heritage Scholarship
Laura C. Stauffer Scholarship, Alumni Reunion Sooner Heritage Scholarship, Robberson Travel Grant

2008 Faculty Member of the Quarter, Art Institute of Dallas

Exhibitions Curated

2022

Ben Brit Photography, Dallas PinUp, Dallas, Texas, January

Great Plains Art Museum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2018

Art & Poetry of the Barada Hills, July 13 – October 20

Robert Taylor, May 4 – August 25

Oddities, May 4 – August 25

Henry Payer: Elizabeth Rubendall Artist in Residence, March 2– June 20

Cowboys from the Collection, January 16 – April 28

2017

Collection Critters, November 3 – February 24, 2018
Collecting Nebraska, August 3 – December 16
Presence of Absence: Photographs by David Lovekin and Rick Houchin, July 7 – October 28
Bridges, Sharing Our Past to Enrich the Future, January 6 – March 25
Paul Johnsgard - Hand-Tinted Prints from the Permanent Collection, January 6 – March 25
Rising: Lari R. Gibbons: Elizabeth Rubendall Artist in Residence, March 3 – June 23
Human Trafficking in the Great Plains: Photographic Essay by Anna Brettman, March 3 – May 27
Deeply Rooted: Studio Art Quilt Associates, April 7 – July 15, 2017

2016

Glimpses of the Southwest: Native American Art from the Permanent Collection and the University of Nebraska State Museum, November 4 - February 25, 2017
Contemporary Indigeneity: Spiritual Borderlands, September 2 – December 17
Ten Years of Elizabeth Rubendall Artists in Residence, September 2 – December 17,
Flat Land, Flat Water: B.C. Gilbert, Elizabeth Rubendall Artist in Residence, July 12 – Oct. 29
Cropping to Circles by Kendall McMinimy, June 3 – August 27
We, The Heartland: Photographs by Kate Schneider, April 1 – August 27
From This Grass Earth: Photographs by Robin Walter and Sebastian Tsocanos, March 4 – May 28

2015

Gems from the Collection, February 5 – March 26
Large-scale landscapes from the Permanent Collection, November 10 - January 30
We Are Star People: The Art and Poetry of Gwen Westerman, September 1– January 30
American Plains Artists 30th Annual Juried Exhibit - Art of the Plains, August 7 - October 24
Looking Back, Looking Forward: Native American Art from the Permanent Collection, April 28 -Aug. 1
Select Photographs by Fred E. Miller: Photographer of the Crows, January 13 - March 28

2014

Narrow All Horizons: Selected Works from the Permanent Collection, August 1-December 21
Recent Photographs by Jan Christensen, August 1-December 21

National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, Wyoming

Conservation Gallery, November 16, 2013 – November 16, 2014
Wonder Cabinet: A Collection of Curiosities, November 15, 2013 - April 13, 2014

Pegasus Gallery, Art Institute of Dallas

Interior Design Faculty Exhibition, June 1 – July 10, 2009
Donna Sapp – MFA Exhibition, April 20 – May 29, 2009
Brooke A. Knight: Landscapes, March 3 - April 17, 2009
Fashion Design Faculty Show, January 12 – February 27, 2009
Lesli Robertson – Necessity of, October 13 – November 21, 2008
Fig Brand Design, August 25 – October 10, 2008
Soon Chun Park – Space of Metaphor, July 14 – August 22, 2008

Professional Service

2020 CORE Committee Member, Texas A&M University-Commerce
-present Department of Art Curriculum Committee Member, Texas A&M University-Commerce
Visual Arts Committee Member, Texas A&M University-Commerce
Honor's Thesis Advisor, Texas A&M University-Commerce
Art Club Faculty Advisor, Texas A&M University-Commerce
Volunteer, Commerce Food Bank, Commerce, Texas

2018- 23 Advisory Committee Member, Dr. Susan La Flesche Hospital Restoration Project

- 2013-14 Volunteer Educator, ArtFeeds, Moore, Oklahoma
- 2008-09 Volunteer, Bryan's House, Dallas, Texas
Volunteer, For the Love of the Lake, Cleanup at White Rock Lake, Dallas, Texas
Faculty Sponsor, Chair-ity Event, Dallas, Texas
Co-curator, Pet Event and Art Auction Benefit, Dallas, Texas
Art Institute of Dallas Image Committee

Professional Affiliations

- 2022 - 23 Southeast College Art Conference Member
2021 - 23 Association of Historians of American Art
2016 - 23 Center for Great Plains Studies Fellow
2006 - 22 College Art Association
2006 - 14 Popular Culture Association