

## Megan Baker

Department of Art History, University of Delaware  
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### Education

- since 2019      Ph.D., Art History  
University of Delaware  
Advisor: Jennifer Van Horn  
Dissertation: “Crayon Rebellion: The Material Politics of North American Pastels, 1758-1814”  
Major Field: North American Art and Material Culture, 1700-1900  
Minor Field: Works on Paper, 1750-1900
- June 2018      M.A., History of Art  
Williams College  
Qualifying Paper: “François Boucher and the Limits of Vulgarité”
- May 2016      B.A., Art History  
Columbia University in the City of New York

### Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

- 2024-2025      Smithsonian Institution Predoctoral Fellow, Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery  
Global Dissertation Development Grant, Department of Art History, University of Delaware
- 2023-2024      American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellowship, Boston Athenaeum  
Drawn to Art Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society  
Mayers Fellowship, Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens
- 2023      Anna R. and Robert T. Silver Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Delaware, Department of Art History
- 2022      Francis E. Malamy Research Fellowship, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum
- 2021      Dewey Lee Curtis Scholarship, Decorative Arts Trust
- 2019-2024      Unidel Distinguished Graduate Scholar, University of Delaware
- 2017      Summer Research Travel Grant, Williams College Graduate Program in the History of Art
- 2016-2018      Graduate Fellowship, Williams College Graduate Program in the History of Art
- 2016      The Meyer Schapiro Book Prize for Excellence in Art History, Columbia University

### Additional Training

- 2024      Graduate Seminar: Drawing in Eighteenth-Century London: Academies and Entrepreneurs, The Drawing Institute, Morgan Library & Museum  
Kress Foundation Transatlantic Pigments Project, 1760-1840, Penn State University
- 2023      Summer Institute for Technical Studies in Art (SITSA), Harvard Art Museums
- 2019      Summer Institute, Winterthur Program in American Material Culture

## Teaching Experience

### University of Delaware

Summer 2024	<i>Instructor of Record:</i> American Art to 1900
Winter 2023	<i>Instructor of Record:</i> Art & Enlightenment
Spring 2022	<i>Head Teaching Assistant:</i> Introduction to Art History: Renaissance to Modern
Fall 2021	<i>Teaching Assistant:</i> Introduction to Art History: Pyramids to Cathedrals
Fall 2020	<i>Teaching Assistant:</i> Art of the Northern Renaissance

### Williams College

Spring 2019	<i>Instructor of Record:</i> Art and Architecture from the Age of Enlightenment to Present
January 2019	<i>Teaching Assistant:</i> English 137
January 2018	<i>Teaching Assistant:</i> English 137

## Relevant Professional Experience

2024	Graduate Student Intern, McGuigan Collection (Summer 2024)
2018-2019	Curatorial Assistant, Williams College Museum of Art (September 2018-June 2019) Curatorial Research Assistant to Senior Curator Esther Bell, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (August 2018-June 2019)
2018	Curatorial Collections Intern, Williams College Museum of Art (Summer 2018)
2016-2018	Curatorial Intern: Painting, Sculpture and Decorative Arts, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (September 2016-May 2018)
2015-2016	Bibliographic Assistant, Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art (September 2015-May 2016)
2015	Mellon Funded Researcher for “A Virtual Enlightenment,” Barnard College (Summer 2015)
2015	Books and Manuscripts Intern, Christie’s New York (January-May 2015)
2014	Cataloguer for the photographer Seze Devrez, Brooklyn (Summer 2014)

## Publications

2019	<i>Renoir: The Body, The Senses</i> , edited by Esther Bell and George T.M. Shackelford. New Haven: Yale University Press (June 2019) Wrote bibliography and edited essays. Assisted with the preparation of the edited volume, including research assistance for Esther Bell’s essay.
2015	“Materials and their Makers” texts on luxury materials, gilt bronze, silver, porcelain, and portrait of Rose Ducreux for “A Virtual Enlightenment,” a Mellon supported digital humanities initiative taught by Anne Higonnet. Web: <a href="http://bt.barnard.edu/ave2015/project2/">http://bt.barnard.edu/ave2015/project2/</a>

## Exhibitions

2019	“Renoir: The Body, The Senses,” Clark Art Institute June 9–September 22, 2019; Kimbell Art Museum, October 27, 2019–January 26, 2020. Research assistant to curator Esther Bell. Assisted with publication preparation and didactic content for wall labels and multimedia guide.
2018	“Are We Liberty? Posters from the Great War,” Williams College Museum of Art, November 11, 2018–January 2, 2019. Curator; exhibit of World War I posters emphasizing the invocation of liberty for purposes of propaganda

- 2017 “Orchestrating Elegance: Alma-Tadema and Design,” Clark Art Institute, 4 June–4 September 2017  
 Research assistant to curators Kathleen Morris and Alexis Goodin  
 Lauzon Glass Study Gallery and Burrows Gallery of American Decorative Arts, Clark Art Institute, opened Spring 2017  
 Researched and wrote labels for the gallery reinstallation of American glass, silver, and decorative arts from the permanent collection under Kathleen Morris

## Presentations

- 2025 “‘That This Copy is Equal to the Other’: John Singleton Copley and Multiplicity in Pastel,” Brown Bag Series, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, February 26, 2025  
 “Drawing Kinship: Pastel, Whiteness, and the Aesthetic Work of Colonial Authority,” Middle Atlantic Symposium in the History of Art, March 1, 2025  
 “The Fragile Bonds of Empire: John Singleton Copley's Pastel Portraits and the Art of Alliance,” Smithsonian American Art Museum Fellows Lectures, May 8, 2025
- 2024 “‘To Crayon Out What Conduct They Should Adopt’: Pastel and the Breaking of Empire in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions,” American Empires: Art, Vision, Race, and Power in the Long 18th Century, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, April 4, 2024  
 “Drawing the Lines of Revolution: Pastel Portraits, Boycotts, and American Independence,” On the Eve of Independence: Art and Architecture in the British Empire, The Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, June 1, 2024  
 “From Quarries to Paper: Pastel Production in Early America,” Dirty: The Detritus of American Art, Association of Historians of American Art Eighth Biennial Symposium, October 19, 2024  
 “Sarah Bushnell Perkins and the Texture of Pastel,” Reawakening Materials: American Art, Empire, and Material Histories in Historic Deerfield’s Collection, Historic Deerfield, November 7-9, 2024  
 “Paper, Pastels, and Patriotism: Artistic Innovation and the American Revolution,” Drawn to Blue Symposium, J. Paul Getty Museum & University of Amsterdam, November 12, 2024
- 2023 “The Roman Genesis of a New Franco-British Masculinity,” Off the Beaten Path: New Approaches to the Grand Tour, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, March 11, 2023  
 “Making Paint from Stone: Unfreedom and Material Reuse in Eighteenth-Century North America,” with Jennifer Van Horn, Wastework, Bibliotheca Hertziana, March 15-17, 2023  
 Co-chair, “Timing Aesthetics and the Aesthetics of Time,” HECAA@30, October 12, 2023
- 2022 “The Death of Patroclus and John Singleton Copley’s Visual Rhetoric of Masculinity,” War Stories: Conflict in the Atlantic World, 1600-1850, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, November 19, 2022

- 2021 “Crayon Rebellion: The Politics of Pastel Portraits in Colonial North America,”  
Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture Emerging Scholars  
Showcase, April 17, 2021
- 2020 “Exploiting Landscape and Pursuing Knowledge: Decoding Pierre Eugène du  
Simitière’s Graphic Work,” Farm to Canvas: Ecocritical Approaches to Art of  
Commodity Extraction and Exchange, SECAC, November 30, 2020  
  
Co-chair of two-session panel “(Re)Envisioning Imperial Portraiture in the  
Americas,” SECAC, November 30 and December 4, 2020
- 2018 “François Boucher’s Limits of Vulgarity,” Twenty-Third Annual Spring Symposium,  
Williams Graduate Program in the History of Art, Clark Art Institute, June 1, 2018

### **Service**

- Since 2024 Early Career Scholars Committee and Mentorship Program, Massachusetts Historical  
Society
- 2024-2027 Web Coordinator and Board Member, Association of Historians of American Art
- Since 2022 Founder of Graduate American Art History Reading Group, University of Delaware
- 2021-2023 Graduate Student Organizer, “Shifting Tides: Art in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Caribbean,”  
Symposium and Study Day at Winterthur Museum (April 20-21, 2023)
- 2021-2023 Committee Member, Graduate Student Lecture Series, Department of Art History,  
University of Delaware
- 2020-2021 Co-Chair, Graduate Student Lecture Series, Department of Art History, University  
of Delaware

### **Language Skills**

- German Full professional fluency  
French Advanced reading, intermediate speaking and writing

### **Professional Memberships**

- American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies  
Association of Historians of American Art  
College Art Association  
Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture