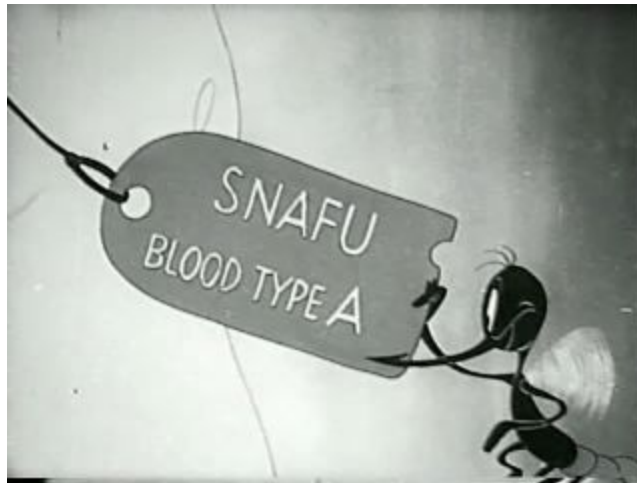


**PROJECT TITLE:** First Annual Rice University Department of Art History Graduate Conference

**PROJECT TAGLINE/CAPTION:**

Initiating discourse among scholars, artists, professionals and the general public through nuanced programming and dynamic paper presentations.

**IMAGE:**



*"...Choice Cuts American Soldier. Prime Rib. Filet Mignon. Tenderloin. RATIONED!"*  
*Image:* Still from "Private Snafu vs. Malaria Mike," United States War Department, c. 1944.

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## **PROJECT DETAILS**

Rice University's department of Art History is delighted to introduce the Rice University Department of Art History Graduate Conference. A four-member team of first and second year PhD students within the department are currently vigorously conceiving of a critical and open ended theme and structure for the inaugural year.

Though still under consideration and in a conceptual stage, the working theme takes as its point of departure divergent and constructed considerations of "health." Conceptions of health and healthfulness – of both individuals and societies – have varied alongside beliefs regarding sickness, disease, contagion and treatments. Taking cues from languages surrounding questions of health (of the body and mind, and on the other hand, of society) that can either serve to unite or divide, we aim to create a conference structure that is accessible and inclusive within and beyond academia. Looking to ways in which artists, activists, and grassroots leaders have grappled with representations and realities of health, care, and disease visually or conceptually across time, we hope to unhinge claims of normativity and exclusionary logics – an act that will, hopefully, open up individual modes of thinking. We will invite artists, activists, community leaders and academics to explore ideas of "health" in relation to the history of art and visual cultures – as related to the body, the mind, the built and natural environment, society, systems of governance, and more.

The inaugural conference will consist of an opening event on Friday, September 29 (working date) that will be open to the public. Saturday the 30th (working date) will include small sessions for graduate paper presentations, discussion, and consideration of relevant art objects, time-based media, and relics of visual culture. Workshop participants and other invited conference participants will break mid-day for a visit to a Houston cultural institution or community project, encouraging our conversations to be augmented by resources in our urban environment. An evening round table of invited, non-graduate students, will close the event and help to consolidate lessons and strategies explored over its course, and will be open to the public.

Our goal is to both encourage new relationships among graduate students and to expand discourse surrounding our theme.

### **Timeline:**

The Isabel Brown Wilson Graduate Conference will be inaugurated in the Fall of 2017 and continue annually, indefinitely.

### **Audience:**

Our audience will consist of graduate student presenters, invited speakers, members of the Art History department, the larger Rice and Greater Houston academic community as well as the general public and interested professionals. We anticipate approximately 100 attendees.

## **Marketing Plan:**

Following standard academic procedures, we plan to distribute a call for papers through various academic list-servs and websites, and also forward it directly to academic departments internationally in January 2017. To draw a wider audience and insert our programming into the broader context of the city, we will also distribute a press release with details on opportunities open to the public in early Fall. Finally, we will hang signage in various locations around campus closer to the event date.

## **ADVANCEMENT**

*What are the goals of the project?*

We intend to create an annual conference put on by the Art History Department at Rice University that will provide relationship-building opportunities to graduate students at Rice as well as those in the Houston community. A conference allows scholars from various institutions space to deliver research and discuss creatively and collaboratively upon a topic in the History of Art and related fields. The goal of this year's conference is to create interdisciplinary communication between broader fields through a comprehensive definition and exploration of "health." This concept provides scholars wider avenues of consideration from concepts of preservation and physical decay of art to fascism and control of the body politic. While this symposium will foster development for academics, our hope is to create a unique conference experience that will heighten cooperation between not only graduate students, but artists and the community generally. The project will differ from others in its intimate and inclusive nature.

Limiting the number of papers to nine allows us to create sessions that stray from the typical symposium structure where one paper after another is read aloud to a scholarly audience. Instead, to build our intellectual community, our conference will incorporate performance, artist talks, and presentations from those in the wider community who engage with notions of "health," alongside academic papers. This will create broader discussion and promote conversation that branches outward from academia.

*Briefly explain the need for the project and how it will promote excellence in scholarship, training, and/or development?*

Currently, no annual conference for the History of Art exists at Rice University. Our initial goal existed around developing for Rice graduate students an opportunity to network and engage with peers and scholars from around the world in line with other art history programs around the nation and abroad. The inclusive atmosphere of the conference is a unique way to engage graduate students and to promote academic innovation that collaborates with community goals. Our desire to revamp the conference model will create new opportunities for creative collaboration between disciplines. This unique conference experience will provide students with a wider view of a topic, and hopefully allow them to ask 'what's at stake' in their research and their art in relation to the broader milieu. Likewise, its workshop format will facilitate national and international collaboration of graduate students, Rice University, and the city of Houston, with those who are selected to present at this conference.

*If this is an existing project/event or a similar one exists, describe how the project/event is being expanded or enhanced.*

Currently, there is no annual conference for the History of Art at Rice. This proposal seeks to change that and to create an annual conference put on by Art History graduate students and the History of Art Department to facilitate connections between students and the community, and between our department and others.

*If your proposal is for a pilot project, suggest how it might develop over a three-year period.*

This proposal is in its inaugural year with the intent to continue annually. We hope that, with time, we will be able to gain a reputation allowing for a growing audience, increased competition for presentation spots, and to engender collaboration between our academic setting and the wider city. Each year the conference will take on an important topic that can engage multiple disciplines. The success of the program hinges on community engagement and dialogue. Year three should see established involvement with the public and hopes to foster communication between students and the community. The conference should continue to reach students across the globe in order to build an international intellectual community. To do so we have taken steps to set up a web page at Rice to engage the community and spread awareness. For the continuation of this project in future years, documents tracking set up for the project are added to this website to ensure an ease of transition each year.

*Describe how you will measure the success and impact of this project. Please, provide quantitative targets, if possible.*

A successful conference will yield both intimate and expansive results. If our project is to successfully engage with the public we must have community participation. In order to reach this audience, we will seek publicity using typical PR channels, and include at least one presentation per session from an individual not from the academic community. This might include a nurse who uses art therapy, or a member of Houston's preservation society working to preserve the life of historic architecture. An impactful conference would be attended by graduate students from at least three departments outside Art and the History of Art. In order to further community engagement, members of the public should be in attendance. If thirty members of the public attended the conference, we could consider it a successful initial address to the community. In the coming years, a successful project would increase application numbers from presenters, both in the academic and public realm. It would also encourage further collaboration with the community and Rice students to future projects. In the long run, the success of the conference might bring more opportunities for grad students as well as higher recruitment interest for Rice graduate programs.

**Itemized Budget**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Academic speaker fee	Fee per invited speaker at \$1,000 per speaker	\$3,000
Artist speaker fee	Artist fee (\$1,000) plus additional funds for performers, materials, or related fees (up to \$1,500)	\$2,500
Printing and graphics	Signage, program, and fliers	\$1,500
Speaker accommodations	Wyndham Houston Medical Center rooms at negotiated rate of \$109 per night plus tax (av. \$40 tax per night) for 4 speakers/artists, at 2 nights each (approximately \$298 for each speaker for 2 nights)	\$1,192
Speaker flights	1 international flight at approximately \$1,000, 3 domestic flights at approximately \$500	\$2,500
Speaker per diem	\$40 per day, for 2 days, for 4 invited speakers/artists	\$320
Speaker transportation	Uber or taxi transportation to and from Hobby or IAH airports for 4 people (\$50 each way)	\$400
Conference tea and coffee	Tea and coffee service for 30 people	\$250
Conference lunch	Lunch and beverages for 9 graduate speakers, 4 invited speakers, and 7 Rice HART representatives (20 people total) at Cohen House	\$800
Friday evening drinks and light hors d'oeuvres	Wine, beer, and nonalcoholic beverage options plus light food for reception following opening event plus bartender fee	\$1,000
Saturday evening drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres	Wine, beer, and nonalcoholic beverage options plus food for reception following close of conference plus bartender fee	\$1,200
Saturday evening speaker dinner	Dinner for 4 invited speakers and 4 Rice faculty at area restaurant	\$1,000
Transportation to offsite experience	Rice charter bus (at \$75 per hour), for 3 hours	\$225
Transportation support for conference attendees	Aid to cover cost of transportation and accommodations for conference participants whose institutions cannot fully fund their participation. Anticipating funding 3 participants' domestic flights (approximately \$400)	\$2,100

	and 3 participants' hotel accommodations (approximately \$300 for 2 nights)	
Total Expenses		\$17,987

***Funds from other sources***

Source	Status	Cost
Art History Department	Secured/approved	\$15,000
Humanities Research Center Symposia Award	Intend to apply	\$900
GradStarter	Applying	\$2,100
Total Amount		\$18,000

This conference has not been offered in the past, but the Department of Art History at Rice University supports conferences and symposia arranged by Rice University faculty and graduate students.