Rice University’s Department of Art History offers a doctoral program that trains students for academic research and teaching, curatorial positions, and other careers in the visual arts. Students have the opportunity to learn not only from the faculty members in the Department of Art History, but also from affiliated professors in other disciplines and from the curators of Houston’s museums, who are our educational partners. Working from a range of theoretical positions, our faculty includes specialists in the art of the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia, whose research and teaching covers periods from antiquity to the present.

The Department of Art History’s selective program encourages interdisciplinary coursework and research in part through collaborative links between the department and its seventeen affiliated faculty who serve as curators in Houston or who teach visual and material culture in other departments at Rice. Our program also benefits from the rich visual culture of Houston. The Menil Collection has exceptional holdings in ancient, Byzantine, African, and modern and contemporary art. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, has an encyclopedic collection of art that includes Bayou Bend, with its collection of American decorative art and painting; the Blaffer Collection of Old Master paintings and prints; the Latin American collections and the affiliated International Center for the Art of the Americas; and an outstanding collection of modern and contemporary works.

Rice’s Fondren Library has more than five million books, including more than 150,000 titles in art history. The library contains an additional 275 art and art history journals, plus access to online journals. Furthermore, the nearby Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, houses another 85,000 titles, and the Menil Collection has several thousand more. The Department’s Visual Resources Center has an ever-growing collection of digital images and offers access to ARTstor and Archivision, licensed digital image collections.

Generous funding for students is available. The Department of Art History offers stipends and tuition remission as well as funding for travel to libraries, archives, museums, and conferences in the U.S. and abroad. Fellowships are available to enable students to work closely with curators at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and Menil Collection. Graduate students at Rice also have the opportunity to gain experience as teaching assistants.

For specific degree requirements, visit the Department of Art History Web site at arthistory.rice.edu.

**FACULTY**

**Graham Bader.** Associate Professor, Ph.D. (2005) Harvard University. Dr. Bader’s research and teaching focuses on postwar Europe and American art and the interwar avant-gardes of Germany and Russia. In addition to his book *Hall of Mirrors: Roy Lichtenstein and the Face of Painting in the 1960s* (October Books, 2010), his published work includes essays on artists including Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, and Kazimir Malevich and on topics including Neue Sachlichkeit painting in 1920s Germany, the legacy of iconoclasm in 20th-century art, and American reception of contemporary German painting. His current research focuses on the art and design projects of the German Dadaist Kurt Schwitters.
Leo Costello. Associate Professor, PhD., 2003 (Bryn Mawr College). Dr. Costello studies European Romanticism. His book, J.M.W. Turner and the Subject of History, was published by Ashgate Press in 2012 and was included on the long list for the William M.B. Berger for British Art History for 2012. This book considers how Turner’s history paintings reveal changing notions of individual and collective identity at a time when the British empire was simultaneously fragmenting and developing. It also examines how Turner’s artistic modernism emerged out of a desire to both continue and exceed his eighteenth-century aesthetic background by responding to the altered political and historical circumstances of the nineteenth century. Dr. Costello has published numerous essays on Turner, including an essay in the catalog for the Turner and the Sea exhibition organized by the National Maritime Museum, (2013-14).


John Hopkins. Assistant Professor, Ph.D. (2010) University of Texas–Austin. John Hopkins works on the art and architecture of the Ancient Mediterranean with an interest in the intersection of physical/visual/spatial experience and the diachronic investigation of cultural and societal shift. He has written on Pompey’s Theater, the Roman Forum, the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus and the social significance of urban design in ancient Rome for volumes published by Cambridge University Press, The University of Texas Press, the Bulletino della Commissione Archeologica Comunale di Roma, the Journal of Roman Archaeology and elsewhere. He is currently finishing a book manuscript on the genesis of Roman architecture and the effects of early urban change on the formation of the Republic and the history of Roman art. In new work he has shifted his focus on connectivity between Rome and the Mediterranean world in the art of the fifth to second centuries BCE as well as to Flavian architecture and Imperial Politics.

Shih-shan Susan Huang. Associate Professor, Ph.D. (2002) Yale University. Dr. Huang’s current research focuses on Daoist visual culture in medieval China and the early print culture of East Asia. Her book-length project Picturing the True Form: Daoist Visual Culture in Medieval China is supported by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Junior Scholar Grants. Her recent publications, including studies of Daoist devotional paintings and illustrated printed divinations, appear in Artibus Asiae and Orientations.

Gordon Hughes. Mellon Assistant Professor, Ph.D. (2004) Princeton University; M.F.A. (1992) University of Illinois at Chicago. Gordon Hughes received his PhD from Princeton in 2004, after studying philosophy at the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism at the University of Western Ontario. Originally trained as a painter, he received his MFA in studio arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago. His publications include essays on Robert Delaunay’s early abstraction, Douglas Huebler’s photo-conceptualism, Jenny Holzer’s text-based artworks, Roland Barthe’s book Camera Lucida, George Braque’s still lifes, and Fernand Leger’s film and painting. He is also the editor, with Hal Foster, of October Files: Richard Serra, and was a contributor to the catalogue of the exhibition Inventing Abstraction held at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. His book Resisting Abstraction: Robert Delauney and Vision in the Face of Modernism, is forthcoming in 2014 from the University of Chicago Press. In 2012-13 he was a scholar in residence at the Getty Research center in Los Angeles. His is currently working on
two book projects: one currently titled Seeing Red: Murder, Abstraction, Machines; the other an edited collection of short, previously untranslated writings by the philosopher Henri Bergson.

Adopting a transnational and interdisciplinary perspective, Fabiola López-Durán’s research and teaching focuses on the history and theory of modern and contemporary European and Latin American art and architecture. Her forthcoming book, Eugenics in the Garden: Architecture, Medicine and Landscape from France to Latin America in the Early Twentieth Century, investigates a particular strain of eugenics that, at the turn of the twentieth century, moved from the realms of medicine and law to design, architecture, and urban planning — becoming a critical instrument in the crafting of modernity. Her work analyzes the cross-pollination of ideas and mediums — science, politics and aesthetics — that informed the process of modernization on both sides of the Atlantic, with an emphasis on Latin America. López-Durán earned her Ph.D in the History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art from MIT. Prior to joining the Rice University faculty, she was the 2009–11 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at the Department of History of Art at University of California at Berkeley. Her fellowships and awards include the Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship, the Dedalus Foundation Award, the Harvard Center for European Studies Grant, the Samuel H. Kress Fellowship, and the Fulbright Scholarship. Her work has been published in Europe, Asia, South America and the United States.

Dr. Manca’s research focuses on both Italian Renaissance and Early American art and architecture. His books include The Art of Ercole de’ Roberti, Cosmé Tura, Moral Essays on the High Renaissance, and Andrea Mantegna and the Italian Renaissance. He also edited and contributed to Titian 500. Forthcoming books include Meaning in Italian Renaissance Art and George Washington’s Eye: Landscape, Architecture, and Design at Mount Vernon.

Linda Elaine Neagley. Chair, Associate Professor, Ph.D. (1983) Indiana University.
Dr. Neagley’s research interests include late Gothic architecture of northern Europe, late medieval urban planning, vision and visuality in Middle Ages, and medieval pictorial narrative and space. She is author of Disciplined Exuberance: The Parish Church of Saint-Maclou and Late Gothic Architecture in Rouen and is currently working on a book on the open porches of Normandy as well as studies on visual experience and spatial representation in the Bayeux Tapestry. She has published articles in The Art Bulletin, Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians and Gesta.

Lida Oukaderova. Assistant Professor, Ph.D. (2005) University of Texas at Austin.
Dr. Oukaderova’s research focuses on 20th-century European film and literature, particularly Russian. Publications include articles on postwar and contemporary Russian cinema and intersections between culture and economics. Her current book project is on conceptualizations of space in Soviet cinema of the 1950–60s.

Diane Wolfthal. David and Caroline Minter Chair in the Humanities, Professor of Art History, Ph.D. (1983) Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Diane Wolfthal’s research focuses on late medieval and early modern European art. She is the author of four books: The Beginnings of Netherlandish Canvas Painting: 1400–1530; Images of Rape: The “Heroic” Tradition and Its Alternatives; Picturing Yiddish: Gender, Identity, and Memory in Illustrated Yiddish Books of Renaissance Italy; and In and Out of the Marital Bed: Seeing Sex in Renaissance Art. She co-authored Princes and Paupers: The Etchings of Jacques Callot and a forthcoming book, The Corpus of Fifteenth-Century Painting in the Southern Netherlands and the Principality of Liège: Early Netherlandish Paintings in Los Angeles. She has edited or co-edited four collections of essays: Peace and Negotiation: Strategies for Coexistence in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, Framing the Family: Narrative and Representation in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods, New Studies on Old Masters: Essays in Renaissance Art in Honour of Colin Eisler, and Money, Morality, and Culture in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe. She also was co-founder and co-editor of the journal Early Modern Women, and co-edits the book series Visualizing the Middle Ages for Brill. She is currently editing a collection of essays on Jacques Callot and writing a book titled Household Help: Images of Servants and Slaves in Europe and its Colonies, 1400-1700, for which she was appointed a Museum Scholar at the Getty Research Center.

AFFILIATED FACULTY

FROM RICE UNIVERSITY


Richard Smith. Professor of History, Ph.D. (1972) University of California at Davis. Chinese history and visual culture.

FROM HOUSTON MUSEUMS


VISUAL RESOURCES CENTER

The Visual Resources Center (VRC), located in the Department of Art History, is the primary campus location for instruction and research using images of cultural objects. Comprehensive in scope, the VRC contains approximately 450,000 35mm slides and 35,000 digital images of works of art, architecture and visual culture from prehistoric to contemporary times. The collection is fully cataloged and labeled, and approximately 10,000 digital images are acquired annually through commercial purchase and in-house digital photography.

Additional visual resources include:

• Course-based image Web sites for student review using Portfolio software by Extensis, and every course offered by the department is supported using this software.
• The Image Resource Information System (IRIS), a complex, relational database developed by a consortium of visual resources professionals that incorporates the latest data standards to ultimately lead to shared records among the visual resources community. IRIS is noted for its ability to relationally distinguish among work and image records (the data for an object as opposed to all the view—and asset—information of that object), as well as its rich authority tables to ensure data accuracy and conformity.
• A university subscription to ARTstor, a digital library of research-level collections that currently totals more than three-quarters of a million images that appear seamlessly within ARTstor to users from the Rice community.
• The Madison Digital Image Database (MDID) as the Instructional Media Management (IMM) component of its online courseware. Every art history course is available to faculty and students within IMM, and any Rice faculty member with an appropriate account is able to log into IMM and access the VRC Digital Image Library, as well as any other image collection created or licensed by the university. IMM allows users to search across multiple collections and assemble desired images into slideshows that then are presented in class, available to students for review and archived for re-use. Users can also retrieve digital assets for inclusion into third-party presentation software (PowerPoint, Keynote, etc.).
• The Archivision Digital Research Library, an archive of 35,000 high quality digital images of architecture and architecture-related painting and sculpture.
• The Princeton University Index of Christian Art is available through Fondren Library.

HOUSTON ART MUSEUMS

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, contains an encyclopedic collection of art from antiquity to the present. Bayou Bend, the American decorative arts center of the MFAH, is the largest repository of early Americana west of the East Coast of the United States. The renowned Menil Collection has major examples of modern art as well as significant holdings in antiquity, Byzantine and medieval, tribal and 20th-century art (with a concentration in Surrealism).

Directly across the street from the MFAH is the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, a noncollecting museum that first opened in 1948. Reflecting the full diversity of contemporary art practice, recent one-person shows have included exhibitions by Kiki Smith, Andrea Zittel, Shirin Neshat and William Kentridge, among many others, and group exhibitions that include, Double Consciousness: Black Conceptual Art Since 1970, Fade In: New Film and Video, and The Old, Weird America. CAMH also hosts a wide range of cultural events and artist talks.

The Menil Collection, which opened to the public in 1987, is located in a quiet residential neighborhood about a mile and a half from Rice. Designed by Renzo Piano, the museum houses and exhibits the diverse private art collection of John and Dominique de Menil, in addition to hosting traveling exhibitions. The collection of approximately 15,000 objects features strengths in the European avant-garde, American post-war modernism and African art, as well as the arts of Oceania and the Pacific Northwest. The Rothko Chapel, which features fourteen large paintings commissioned by the de Menils in 1964, is a short walk from the main museum building. In 1995 the Menil Collection opened the Cy Twombly Gallery in collaboration with the Dia Art Foundation. The Menil campus also features a site-specific installation of works by Dan Flavin. In 2007, the Menil Collection announced its plans for a Drawing Institute and Study Center dedicated to the acquisition, research, conservation and display of drawings.

Rice Gallery is dedicated to installation art. Five times a year, the gallery invites an artist to create a single work of art that transforms the gallery space. When you walk into Rice Gallery, you enter the art and move through it.
HOW TO APPLY

All prospective applicants should note that the Department of Art History offers a Ph.D. program only and does not consider applicants pursuing a terminal master’s degree.

To apply online or download a paper copy of the application, please visit the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at graduate.rice.edu.

The department admits only once a year: in the fall semester. We must have a completed file in our office by January 15, 2013, for you to be considered for admission to the 2013–14 academic year:

• Application Form: You may apply online or with a paper copy. $85 nonrefundable application fee (check or money order, U.S. currency only).

• Official Transcripts: Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended should be sent to the address listed below. Photocopies are not acceptable.

• Recommendation Letters: Requested from four persons who know your personal qualities and scholastic accomplishments (preferably professors in your major field) should be sent to the address listed below. It is important that you to ensure that your letters of recommendation have been received, as your application will not be processed until we have received a minimum of three letters of recommendation in addition to the other materials.

• Official GRE/TOEFL: Scores should be sent by the Educational Testing Service to the address listed below. The subject test is not required, only the general portion of the GRE. When taking the GRE, please indicate School Code: 6609 and Department Code: 2301. Photocopies are not acceptable.

• Research Paper: Send a copy (not the original) of a research paper consisting of 15–25 pages, preferably in your area of interest. This will not be returned to you.

• Interviews are strongly encouraged but not required.

• We recommend that you contact our office at least one month prior to January 15th to check on the status of your application. Contact the Graduate Program Coordinator at 713-348-4276. (NOTE: Many transcripts, recommendation letters and GRE/TOEFL scores arrive after our January 15th deadline; this results in incomplete applications. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission. It is the applicant’s obligation to check with our office to ensure all materials have been received and that the application file is complete.)

Send all application materials to:
Department of Art History MS-21
Rice University
6100 Main Street
ABOUT RICE AND HOUSTON

Rice is a leading American research university—small, private and highly selective—distinguished by a collaborative, interdisciplinary culture and a global perspective. Only a few miles from downtown Houston, it occupies an architecturally distinctive, 285-acre campus shaded by nearly 4,000 trees. State-of-the-art facilities and laboratories, internationally renowned centers and institutes and one of the country’s largest endowments support an ideal learning and living environment.

The university attracts a diverse group of highly talented students and faculty with outstanding graduate and professional programs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, architecture, music and business. With just 2,374 graduate students and 3,708 undergraduates, it offers an unusual opportunity to forge close relationships with eminent faculty scholars and researchers and the option to tailor graduate programs to specific interests.

Houston offers all the expected educational, cultural and commercial advantages of a large urban center, and more. It’s home of the Texas Medical Center, the largest concentration of medical schools, hospitals, and research facilities in the world, as well as several other universities. Rice has cooperative programs with the University of Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Texas Health Science Center and Texas Southern University. Houston is one of the few U.S. cities with resident companies in all four major performing arts—drama, ballet, opera and symphony. It also boasts a museum district featuring exhibits of national and international prominence.

As urban as it is, Houston also is a surprisingly green city. Houstonians enjoy the outdoors in more than 300 municipal parks and 120 open spaces, and many frequent the beach at Galveston Island, only a 45-minute drive away. Other short trips include Austin, the state’s capital, and historic San Antonio, both of which are a little more than three hours away.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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6100 Main Street, MS-21
Herring Hall 103
713-348-4276
713-348-4039 (fax)
Web site: www.arthistory.rice.edu

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Rice University homepage: www.rice.edu
Rice University Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies homepage: graduate.rice.edu
Graduate Student Association homepage: gsa.rice.edu
City of Houston homepage: www.houstontx.gov
Houston information from the Houston Chronicle: www.chron.com
Houston information from the Greater Houston Partnership: www.houston.org
Houston information from Citysearch: houston.citysearch.com