As we begin the new semester, with first-year students returning from winter break refreshed from a fall immersion in the literature of Museum Studies, our second-year students move toward completing their own contributions to the study of museums in their MA theses. And beyond the classroom and the library, the city's museums will offer an array of stunning exhibitions, from MoMA's expanded presentation of its permanent collection and the Met's celebration of its 150th anniversary, to the Hayden Planetarium's technologically wondrous “World’s Beyond Earth” and Yayoi Kusama's outdoor Infinity Room at the New York Botanical Garden. And the Museum Studies faculty and staff look forward to enjoying the city with you in the warming weather.

Bruce Altshuler
Director, Program in Museum Studies
Student Resources

Did you apply for graduation?
Please visit graduation info page to find out about the deadlines, and to check the status of your graduation application.

Did you apply for Post-OPT?
Please visit OGS for more information.

Fulbright Info Session
Interested in Fulbright? Join the info session if you are!

Tuesday, March 3 from 1-2 PM, Wasserman Center (No RSVP required)

This seminar provides a detailed overview of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, discusses the differences between research/study and English Teaching Assistantship grants, offers advice on selecting a Fulbright destination, and reviews the Fulbright competition timeline and major application components.

Outside of this session, the Fulbright website is an excellent resource - host to a number of recorded and live information sessions.

How is your thesis going?

Please visit our forms & resources page to make sure you have a checklist for your thesis submission and graduation.
Important Dates and Deadlines:

March 16-22, 2020 - Monday through Sunday: Spring Recess; No classes scheduled.

April 20, 2020 - Registration begins on Albert for Fall 2020

May 8, 2020 - End of the Year Party, 5:00-7:00 pm, Pless Hall

May 11, 2020 - Monday: Last day of classes for spring semester

May 12, 2020 - 12 Tuesday: Reading Day

May 13, 2020 - Wednesday: Spring semester examination period begins

May 18, 2020 - Monday: GSAS Master’s and Certificate Convocation Ceremony http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/convocation/ (tentative date)

May 18, 2020 - Monday: GSAS Doctoral Convocation Ceremony http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/convocation/ (tentative date)

May 19, 2020 - Tuesday: Spring semester examination period ends

May 20, 2020 - Wednesday: All-University Commencement (tentative date)
Upcoming Events

Afro Syncretic Artist Panel

Date: February 21, 2020
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Location: King Juan Carlos Center 53 Washington Sq S

In addition to the talk, we will have a Haitian Tea Party hosted by Wynnie Lamour who teaches Haitian Kreyol here at NYU in the CLACS department sponsored by the CLACS department. Please find attached her description for the Haitian Tea Party event and tasting plus some images you could use to promote it as well.

The Haitian Tea Party is a unique experience during which we share with our guests specific information about a very particular aspect of Haitian culture – how we use the land to heal our bodies. As people of the Afro-diaspora, our connection to the land is not just tied to a history of tumultuous subjugation but also to healing, sustainable self-care, and conscious community building. The Haitian Tea Party is the space to explore all of this and more. Guests will be able to sample four traditional Haitian teas along with delicious Haitian snacks all while learning about Haitian culture and history

The artists in conversation are Fabiola Jean Louis, Melissa Misla, Lucia Hierro, Tifanny Alfonseca and Elia Alba.

2/21
AFRO Syncretic: Artist Panel
6:30-8:30 pm
KJCC
Upcoming Programs at the Grey Art Gallery NYU

FEB 25, 2020 | 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM
Film Screening: West Beirut, 1998
Against the turmoil of Lebanon's 1975 Civil War, this largely autobiographical coming-of-age drama, written and directed by Ziad Doueiri, follows an Arab family struggling to survive as their world is blown apart. Lebanon, 105 min., color. In Arabic and French with English subtitles.

MAR 05, 2020 | 06:30 PM - 08:00 PM
Lecture: Place, Poem, Body, Spirit: Looking at Abstract Art in Lebanon
Kaelen Wilson-Goldie, writer, critic, and contributing editor, Bidoun, will explore the multiplicity of modern abstract painting from Lebanon—from Etel Adnan’s evocations of landscape to Huguette Caland’s suggestions of self-portraiture, from Saloua Raouda Choucair’s distilled forms to Saliba Douaihy’s intimations of the divine.

MAR 11, 2020 | 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM
Exhibition Walkthrough with Conversation
Exhibition walkthrough with Ally Mintz, Exhibitions and Publications Manager, Grey Art Gallery, NYU.

MAR 13, 2020 | 12:00 AM - 12:00 AM
Symposium: Taking Shape: New Perspectives on Arab Abstraction *TIME TBD*
Until the late 1960s, 20th-century art from North Africa and the Middle East was greatly understudied. Yet by the turn of the millennium, scholars were actively engaged in creating a global art history. Among questions to be considered are: Why did modern artists from these regions choose to create nonfigurative works? How can we approach Arab abstraction without falling back on borrowed methodologies?

MAR 24, 2020 | 06:30 PM - 08:00 PM
Lecture: Modernism in Beirut: The Politics of Postwar Abstraction
Beirut was the artistic and intellectual hub of the Arab world in the 1950s and ’60s. In this talk, Robyn Creswell, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, Yale University, will situate Beiruti modernism within a wider landscape of Cold War politics, aesthetic abstraction, and Arab intellectual history.

MAR 25, 2020 | 06:30 PM - 08:00 PM
Lecture: Traumatic Modernism
Frantz Fanon is best known as a leading theorist of decolonization, but he was also profoundly interested in questions of culture. For Fanon, the creation of a decolonized art was one of the principal means by which once-subjugated peoples would realize their independence and freedom, and come to terms with the traumas suffered in colonial warfare. In this talk, Adam Shatz, writer and contributing editor, London Review of Books, will discuss how Fanon’s writings might illuminate the traumatic modernism of postcolonial North Africa.
MSSO News and Events

Friday, March 6, 2020
MSSO Spring Conference
9:30am-4:30pm Kimmel 903
Please join us for a series of topical panels featuring NYC-based museum professionals. Topics to be discussed include collections management, education, curating, institutional advancement, and more. The list of attendees will be shared shortly, as will the registration link.

Saturday, March 14, 2020
Museum Visit + Snacks
Time TBD
Cooper Hewitt
Come check out two of the Cooper Hewitt’s upcoming exhibitions: Contemporary Muslim Fashion and Willi Smith: Street Couture. After exploring the museum, we’ll head to a local restaurant or bar for some refreshments.

Saturday, March 28, 2020
Admitted Students Day
Museum Studies Department, 240 Greene, Room 410

Friday, April 10, 2020
First-Year Rep event
Time & Location TBD

Friday, April 17, 2020
Post-Thesis Happy Hour (2nd Year Students)

Wednesday, April 22, 2020
Thesis Roundtable, 19 University Place

Wednesday, April 29, 2020
Transition Meeting
Museum Studies Department, 240 Greene, Room 410

Interested in joining MSSO?
Applications for the 2020-2021 MSSO Exec Board will go live on Wednesday, March 4. Be on the lookout for the announcement from the MSSO email (msso.nyu@gmail.com)!

As always, MSSO is always happy to get feedback from students in our program. Please let us know if you have any comments, questions, or concerns!
Faculty Updates - Research

Bruce J. Altshuler
Clinical Professor; Director, Program in Museum Studies

On February 6, Bruce participated in a RAAMP (Resources for Academic Art Museum Professionals) on-line conversation about Museum Studies and Arts Administration programs with Sandra Lang, Director of Steinhardt’s Visual Arts Administration Program, along with two students, including our own Olivia Knauss. Bruce also will be giving two invited lectures this spring. He will speak on “Understanding Exhibitions: History and Innovation” on March 17 as part of the Moss Lecture Series at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. And on April 24 in Paris, he will deliver the concluding lecture at the symposium The museum on show: a critical history of display, 1969-2019, organized by the Louvre’s Dominique-Vivant Denon Research Center. Bruce is a member of the symposium’s Scientific Committee.

Rosanna N. Flouty
Clinical Assistant Professor, Program in Museum Studies

Rosanna has spent the winter working with the Jewish Museum on a usability and visitor impact study designed to evaluate the museum’s new audioguide. She is starting new research on multisensory explorations in museums at the Intrepid with an IMLS-funded partnership between NYU Ability Project and the Intrepid. She continues to work with the New-York Historical Society on a plan for building digital literacy across their newly-launched Tech Commons @ N-YHS, and on an audience impact study for OpenSpace, an open-source data visualization about space funded by NASA. This spring, she will also be working on a new partnership and course opportunity with the Cooper-Hewitt on the subject of accessibility in museums, planned to launch in spring 2021.
Faculty Updates - Research

Elaine Ayers
Faculty Fellow, Program in Museum Studies

This winter Elaine published an article in The Site Magazine (Volume 40.1: "Devices / Collect") on the history of color theory and standardization in botany titled "Coded Colours: Botanical Histories of Colour Standardization" and will be giving a talk on the subject at a conference, Ordering Colors in 18th- and 19th-Century Europe, this March in Berlin. This is all part of Elaine's larger book manuscript and she will be working with some of these materials in her class this semester, MS3330: Science, Art, and Invisible Objects in Natural History Museums.

Elaine has been involved this semester in organizing this conference at Gallatin that might be interesting to students working on environmental / Anthropocene studies. Most importantly, though, the conference is culminating in an exhibition of Mierle Ukeles' work in the exhibition space of Gallatin; the first night of the conference (Thursday, 4/23) will be a reception and lecture by Ukeles, who will be there for the whole weekend.
Faculty Updates

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

We are delighted to welcome Ramona Bronkar Bannayan as our new adjunct faculty to our program!

Ramona Bronkar Bannayan, Senior Deputy Director of Exhibitions and Collections has worked at the Museum of Modern Art since 1990. As a member of the senior management team, Ms Bannayan is responsible for six divisions of program staff (exhibition design and production; exhibition planning and administration, registrar; art handling; collection and exhibition technologies; imaging and visual resources) and a staff of more than 100. She oversees the administration of the entire roster of temporary exhibitions, gallery rotations, performance, film, and collection shows, overseeing an annual program of approximately 50 on site presentations. In addition, she oversees the Museum's outgoing loan program and touring exhibition program developing collaborations with other museums on jointly organized exhibitions with up to 15 worldwide venues, and other special projects. She served as a member of the steering committee responsible for leading the support and logistical exhibitions and collections staff on programmatic space planning, related design development and project management for the recent expansion and reinstallation of the museum's expanded 170,000 square foot galleries.

Bannayan talked about her role in the new MoMA on WNYC's show All of It: “I'm involved from the original ideation when an exhibition comes forward as a proposal, to seeing it all the way through to the walls,” Bannayan said. She worked with teams of artists from conceptualization to execution of the MoMA's historic expansion. On BBC's podcast In the Studio, Bannayan said earlier this year, in anticipation of the project, “Every single work of art will be removed, and then everything will be reinstalled. We will probably have 10,000 object movements over the course of the next six months, probably touch about 6,000 individual objects as part of this process.”

She regularly lectures about collection management and serves on juries related exhibition design.

From 2005-2008 Bannayan was a Project Project Leader with Matters in Media Art. Launched in 2005 by the New Art Trust this collaborative multi-phase project between Tate, SFMoMA and MoMA was designed to provide guidelines for the care of time-based media works of art (e.g. video, film, audio and software-based installations).

Ms. Bannayan has an M.F.A. in visual arts from Columbia University where she graduated with honors. Since graduation, Ms. Bannayan has maintained her studio practice. She works with a variety of materials including pastels, conte, watercolor, gesso and charcoal to create small square format landscapes. Her work has been included in exhibitions with Wolf Kahn, Lois Dodd, Emily Nelligan and Eric Aho among others. One of her images was even selected for interpretation by poet Mark Doty. She currently serves on the Columbia University Alumni Trustee Nominating Committee for the School of the Arts. She is also on Dean Carol Becker's Advisory Committee, and she remains an active part of the Columbia University community.
New Courses

**Digital Frictions-Museum Accessibility and Digital Design, Flouty.**
This class examines the potential for museums to embrace multi-modal ways to make experiences and collections accessible through digital design and new technologies. Several classes will co-facilitated with NYU’s Ability Lab, an interdisciplinary research space dedicated to the intersection between disability and technology located at NYU’s Tandon campus. Students will learn about accessible alternative formats, sonification, haptic technologies, and the creation of visual descriptions supported by open-source, cloud-hosted toolkits. We will also examine both strategies and failures employed by museums to design for individuals with diverse motor, cognitive, sensory and behavior-emotional abilities. This is a project-based class with required museum visits. Students will complete two project assignments: a) the re-design of a museum map using tactile graphics applications and b) a prototype for the design and implementation of a selected museum object so that it becomes accessible beyond the bounded regions of a visual field. Museum class visits to the Intrepid Museum and the Cooper-Hewitt to meet with museum access professionals, as well as studio visits with interactive designers based in New York City, will complement the course.

**Spirit(ual) Collections—Magic, Science, and Religion in Museums, Franz**
This course looks at museums and their collections of religious, spiritual, scientific, and magical materials. This will involve addressing various aspects of museum labour, including collection practices, preservation, curation, and classification. The class will engage the intellectual histories that created categories such as the fetish, the icon, the idol, and the totem. The course will look at how museums deal with ritual practices, hauntings, and immortality. As a group, we will work with a diverse selection of case studies to explore how different museums and cultural sites are caring for these objects. Through this investigation, we will consider more broadly the epistemic and ontological systems within museums that shape how we understand religious, spiritual, scientific and magical materials.

**Science, Art, and Invisible Objects in Natural History Museums from the Enlightenment to Present, Ayers.**
Dinosaurs, birds of paradise, planetary eclipses, transitory facial expressions, bodily interiors: over the last few hundred years, natural historians have engaged with scientific and artistic methodologies to try to visualize and translate objects that have otherwise evaded the human hand and eye. Natural history and anatomical collections, from the private Wunderkammern of the early modern period to the AMNH’s award-winning Hall of Biodiversity, have consistently struggled with the politics and poetics of representing objects without names, immaterial objects difficult to describe, and objects that, in fact, never existed at all. Using these “invisible objects” as our entry point over the course of the semester, we will trace the rise and fall of private and public natural history and anatomical collections from the Enlightenment to the present. Ranging from so-called monsters to rotting plants and stars, we approach the history of museums by investigating how the contentious categories of science and art have worked together (and sometimes at odds) to make visible objects that have eluded collection, classification, preservation, and display.
MSAA News

Congratulations to our alumna, Lillia McEnaney on her newly published article: "Seeing the Penitente Brotherhood Through Artists’ Eyes" https://hyperallergic.com/540774/seeing-the-penitente-brotherhood-through-artists-eyes/

Congratulations to our alumna, Alexis Fleming on her new position as Curatorial Associate at the MOFAD (Museum of Food and Drink) in Brooklyn, NY.

Congratulations to our alumna, Kellie Honeycutt, who was just promoted to Deputy Director of the Public Art Fund! You can read more about it here.

Congratulations to our alumna, Kimberly Kitada on her new position as Curatorial Assistant at the MOCA in Los Angeles. She’s currently working on research for upcoming 2020 exhibitions and would be happy to connect with other Museum Studies alumni at kkitada@moca.org.

Congratulations to our alumnus, Criss Beyers on his new position as Education Associate at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, MI.
Graduates in the Workplace

Michael Chagnon ('04), Curator at the Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Ontario

Shannon Morrow ('15), Curator at the Alamo, San Antonio, Texas

Megan Innes ('13), Manager of Interpretive Programs at the New Jersey State Museum

Patricia Pforte ('12), Senior Marketing Manager, Public Programs Department at the California Institute of Integral Studies

Stephanie Baker ('05), Registrar at the Getty Museum

Elizabeth Abbarno ('09), Exhibitions Manager at the Jewish Museum

Marissa Ulie ('19), Humanities Gallery Facilitator at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis

Jason Smith, Digital Media Coordinator for the Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum.

Margery Greenspan ('14), Creative Director at the American Jewish Committee

Kayla Rakowski Dryden ('10), Director of Institutional Partnerships at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco

Lauren Turek, Assistant Professor of History at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where I teach classes on modern U.S. political and diplomatic history as well as public history

Lindsay Palmer ('10), Buyer and Merchandiser at the Museum of the City of New York

Fran Wu Giarratano ('06), Deputy Director at Independent Curators International

Natalie Smith, Associate Registrar for Collections and Exhibitions at the Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, Nebraska

Mina Elison ('08), Communications Director & Curator at the Donkey Mill Art Center

Lillia McEnaney ('19), Curatorial Assistant at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Beth Huffer ('10), Director, Archive and Research Center at the Chevy Chase Historical Society in Chevy Chase, MD

James Rodgers ('13), Project Coordinator at the Japanese American Museum, Portland, Oregon
At the Bobst Library

- The Library is currently trialing the database History of Modern Russian and Ukrainian Art Online through the month of February 2020 and the database MutualArt for the month of March 2020. They can be accessed at library.nyu.edu by clicking on Articles and Databases and searching for them under Databases A-Z. Please send any feedback on these resources to Giana Ricci, Librarian for the Fine Arts (giana.ricci@nyu.edu).

- The Library offers free classes throughout the semester related to research methodologies, data software, and data visualization. You can sign up for these classes as well as free yoga and meditation at the Library here: http://nyu.libcal.com/calendar/classes/?cid=1564&t=d&dt=0000-00-00&cal=1564

- If you are still interested in library and research instruction or assistance for the Spring 2020 semester it's not too late! You can contact Giana Ricci, Librarian for the Fine Arts (giana.ricci@nyu.edu) to schedule an instruction session or research consultation.