

SARAH LOUISE COWAN

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Art and Art History
DePauw University
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EDUCATION

- 2019 **Ph.D.** in art history, University of California, Berkeley
Dissertation: "Mending Abstraction: Howardena Pindell's Black Feminisms"
Committee members: Julia Bryan-Wilson (chair), Darcy Grimaldo Grigsby,
Lauren Kroiz, Leigh Raiford
- 2015 **M.A.** in art history, University of California, Berkeley
Thesis: "Figures of Speech: Looking through Loss in Amalia Pica's *Sorry for the Metaphor* (2005 – 2010)"
- 2011 **B.A.** in art history, University of California, Berkeley, *summa cum laude*

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2019– Assistant Professor of Art and Art History, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2022 *Howardena Pindell: Reclaiming Abstraction* (Yale University Press)
Reviews: Blake Oetting, *caa.reviews*, 2023

Peer-reviewed Journals

- 2024 "To Touch Time: U.S. Black Feminist Modernist Sculpture in the 1970s and 1980s," *Arts* 13, no. 1 (February 2024) (*cover story*).
- 2020 "Texturing Abstraction: Howardena Pindell's Cut and Sewn Paintings," *Art Journal* 79, no. 4 (Winter 2020): 26–43.

Exhibition Texts

- 2023 "On the Dance Floor: Copresence and the Problem of Artistic Influence," in *Tales of Brave Ulysses: Al Loving, Howardena Pindell, Alan Shields, Richard Van Buren*, Garth Greenan Gallery, Van Doren Waxter, New York.
- 2018 "Clearly Seen: A Chronology," in *Howardena Pindell: What Remains to Be Seen*, eds., Naomi Beckwith and Valerie Cassel Oliver, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.
- 2018 Bibliography (with Grace Deveney), in *Howardena Pindell: What Remains to Be Seen*, eds. Naomi Beckwith and Valerie Cassel Oliver, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.
- 2014 "The 44th Annual University of California, Berkeley Master of Fine Arts Graduate Exhibition," Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.

Reviews

- 2023 Double review of “Dragging Away: Queer Abstraction in Contemporary Art” and “Jennifer Packer: The Eye Is Not Satisfied With Seeing,” *Woman’s Art Journal* 44, no. 2 (fall/winter 2023): 43–46.
- 2021 “Review of Feminist Subjectivities in Fiber Art and Craft: Shadows of Affect by John Corso-Esquivel,” *Journal of Modern Craft* 14, no. 2 (July 2021).
- 2018 “Outliers and American Vanguard Art,” *caa.reviews*.
- 2014 “Public Intimacy: Art and Other Ordinary Acts in South Africa,” *caa.reviews*.

Popular Publications

- 2022 “The Past and Future of Art History Is Black Feminist Art History,” *Yale University Press*, yalebooks.edu.

Edited Volumes

- 2016 “Palm Burn,” in *No Cruising: Mobile Identities and Urban Life*, Global Urban Humanities, UC Berkeley.

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2022 Tyson Scholar of American Art, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
- 2021 Wyeth Foundation for American Art Publication Grant, College Art Association
- 2020 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend
- 2020 Inclusive Pedagogy Team Mini-Grant, DePauw University
- 2020 Catherine E. Fruhan Art and Art History Prize, DePauw University
- 2020 Fisher Course Reassignment, DePauw University
- 2018 Mellon-ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2018 Townsend Dissertation Fellowship
- 2018 Getty Library Research Grant
- 2018 Finalist, Dedalus Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
- 2017 12-month Smithsonian American Art Museum Pre-doctoral Fellowship
- 2017 Finalist, 24-month Chester Dale Predoctoral Fellowship, CASVA
- 2016 Mellon Curatorial Internship Fellowship
- 2016 Emory’s Rose Library Short Term Fellowship
- 2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley
- 2015 Graduate Division Summer Grant
- 2015 Center for Race and Gender Graduate Student Research Grant
- 2014 Foreign Language Area Studies Summer Grant (declined)
- 2012 Una Fellowship for Graduate Studies

CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIA ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2023 Co-Chair, “Abstraction and the Everyday,” College Art Association Annual Conference, New York, February 18.
- 2020 Co-Chair, “The Queer Feminist 1980s,” College Art Association Annual Conference, Chicago, February 15.
- 2018 Co-Chair, “Women’s Liberation and the Persistence of Painting,” College Art Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, February 24.

Invited Lectures

- 2024 “Abstract Art and Liberation,” Butler University, JCA Signature Series, Indianapolis, IN, February 5.
- 2023 “Howardena Pindell: Reclaiming Abstraction,” University of Louisville, Hite Institute of Art and Design, Kentucky, March 5.
- 2022 “Moving Modernisms,” Kettle’s Yard, University of Cambridge, UK, September 30.
- 2018 “Textured Abstractions: Howardena Pindell’s Cut and Sewn Paintings,” Library of Congress, Washington, DC, March 30.
- 2018 “Moving in Modernism: Howardena Pindell’s Early Abstract Paintings,” Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, May 4.

Papers Presented

- 2022 “Black Feminist Modernisms in the 1970s,” SECAC Conference, October 27.
- 2021 “‘Direct, Unblinking Eye Contact’: Beverly Buchanan’s Memorial to Slavery,” College Art Association Annual Conference, February 10.
- 2019 “TV Play: Athletic Imagery in Howardena Pindell’s *Video Drawings*,” College Art Association Annual Conference, February 14.
- 2018 “Howardena Pindell’s *Autobiography* Paintings: Re-membering the Body,” Black Portraiture[s] IV, Harvard University, March 24.
- 2017 “Howardena Pindell’s Abstract Woven Paintings: Materiality as Black Feminist Critique,” College Art Association Annual Conference, February 15.
- 2017 “Mending Abstraction: Howardena Pindell’s Woven Paintings as Black Feminist Critique,” Refracting Abstraction, Anderson Collection, Stanford University, January 28.
- 2015 “Resisting Light: Roy DeCarava’s Early Harlem Street Scenes, 1948–1954,” Black Arts Initiative Conference, Northwestern University, June 5.
- 2015 “Figures of Speech: Losses of Exchange in Amalia Pica’s *Sorry for the Metaphor* (2005–2010),” Possibilities of Exchange Conference, University of Edinburgh, May 14.
- 2014 “Harlem Dwelling: The Restrained Intimacy of Roy DeCarava’s Early Photographs,” Annual Americanist Symposium, Yale University, May 3.

EXHIBITIONS

Mellon Curatorial Intern Fellow, “We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965–85,” Brooklyn Museum, New York, April to September 2017.

Research Associate, “The Utopian Impulse: Buckminster Fuller and the Bay Area,” San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, March to July 2012.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

DePauw University

Art History Senior Seminar

Advanced course with thesis advising

Art, Labor, and Laziness

First-Year Seminar

Courageous Conversations course

Art and Liberation: Social Movements in the United States Since 1960

Intermediate course

Serves Power, Privilege, and Diversity designation

Cowan C.V.

Black American Art Histories

Introductory course

Serves Africana Studies, and Power, Privilege, and Diversity designation

Contemporary Issues in Museum Studies

Introductory course

Serves Power, Privilege, and Diversity designation

Contemporary Queer and Feminist Art

Intermediate course

Histories of American Art, 1619–present

Introductory course

Serves Power, Privilege, and Diversity designation

Histories of Photography

Advanced course

Serves Film Studies, and Power, Privilege, and Diversity designation

Music Video and American Visual Art

Intermediate course

Serves writing competency program

Performance Art of the Americas

Intermediate course

Serves Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

University of California, Berkeley

Histories of Photography (lead instructor)

Visual Culture in Early Modern Spain and Colonial Latin America (assistant)

Histories of Performance Art (assistant)

Histories of Photography (assistant)

OTHER TRAINING

2019–2020 Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity, DePauw University

2019 Restorative Justice Mediation Training, DePauw University

2019 Weaving Knowledge Workshop on Lanna Weaving and Dyeing, Chiang Mai, Thailand, Organized by Center for Science and Society, Columbia University

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Proficient); German, French (Reading Knowledge)

SERVICE

To the University

Faculty Development Committee, fall 2022, fall 2023

Africana Studies Steering Committee, 2021–2023

Assessment Committee, 2020–2022, fall 2023

Chair, 2020–2022

Cowan C.V.

Committee to Establish Principles and Processes for Reconsideration of Names, Statuary,
Monuments, and Traditions, 2020–2021

Adopt-a-Tour, 2020–2021

Visual Arts Gallery Committee, Spring 2021

Facilitator, DePauw Day of Dialogue on Diversity and Inclusion, DePauw University, 2019

To the Department

Search committee, tenure-track position in early modern Latin American art, 2023–24

Search committee, Three-year term in early modern art with transnational focus, 2020

To the Discipline

Occasional reviewer: *Art Bulletin*, *Art Journal*, *Arts*, *Grove Art*, *In Media: The French Journal of
Media Studies*, National Endowment for the Humanities

Co-Convener, Visibility and Invisibility, Graduate Student Symposium, History of Art
Department, UC Berkeley, April 11, 2014

To the Profession

Head Steward, UAW 2865, University of California Graduate Student Union, 2014

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

College Art Association

Association for Critical Race Art History

Association of Historians of American Art

Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present

American Studies Association

SECAC