

How Can an Art History Minor Help Your Career?

6:00 pm, Thursday, April 19th

204 McComsey Hall

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What do a museum curator, an archivist at a world class museum, a Silicon Valley software engineer, and a University of Arizona graduate student have in common? They were minors (or the equivalent) in art history at Millersville, which had a significant impact on their careers and in their lives. If your major is History, English, Applied Engineering, Art, Communications, Design, Computer Science, Philosophy, or any other, join Rose Chiango, Aaron Chu, Kiersten Levens, and Lauren Nye to learn how an art history minor can shape your career, make you more competitive in the job market and in graduate school applications. These MU grads will discuss the role the art history minor (or near equivalent) played in helping them obtain their current position, and how art history has impacted their lives. This panel is supported by the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; The Department of Art & Design; and Art Club.

Lauren Nye, Director of Exhibitions, Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM), Harrisburg, PA,

Aaron Chu, Software Engineer, Top-three tech company, Silicon Valley

Rose Chiango, Associate Archivist and Records Manager, Philadelphia Museum of Art Library and Archives

Kiersten Levens, Candidate, Master of Arts, Art History, University of Arizona



Art History Panelist Bios

Rose Chiango, Associate Archivist and Records Manager, Philadelphia Museum of Art Library and Archives

Rose is an archivist and records manager at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She is privileged to work with the fabulous collections at the Library and Archives, including institutional records dating from 1876, as well as manuscript collections such as the papers of Marcel Duchamp, the Julien Levy Gallery, and other major figures in art history from the early 20th century. She started her career as an archivist working in the Millersville University Archives and Special Collections. She graduated from Millersville University in Winter 2013 with a BA in English and minors in Art History and French, and attended the University of Pittsburgh for Archives and Information Science and graduated in 2015. She started at the Philadelphia Museum of Art as Project Archivist in 2015, processing the papers of the late Anne d'Harnoncourt (1943-2008) who served as the George D. Widener Director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art from 1982-2008. Rose was promoted to Assistant Archivist in 2016 and Associate Archivist and Records Manager in 2017. She enjoys all aspects of her work, which has included reference, moving collections, digital projects, processing, installations, and the kitchen sink.

Lauren Nye, Director of Exhibitions, Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM), Harrisburg, PA

Artist Lauren Nye is Exhibitions Director at the Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM) in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Prior, she served as Art Program Director at Gallery360 and as Gallery Manager at Isadore Gallery, both in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Lauren graduated from Millersville University with concentrations in art history and sculpture, with experience in bronze foundry metalworking. She was selected as artist-in-residence for the Millersville sculpture studio and the Nyholm Foundation in Denmark. She has curated regional exhibitions for over seven years and assisted in sculpture installations both nationally and internationally. Additionally, Lauren has served as a juror / judge for exhibitions at regional arts organizations such as the York Art Association, Berks Art Council, and Whitaker Center. Her interest in public art sparked the beginning of the SAM mural project, and she successfully coordinated the installation of an ambitious 1,400 sq. ft. outdoor mural in the Midtown district of Harrisburg. Recent speaking engagements include the 2015 PA Museums Conference at the State Museum of Pennsylvania and the Impact Arts Conference panel on the challenges of opening a successful art space.

Aaron Chu, Software Engineer, very famous company, Silicon Valley

Aaron Chu is a software engineer in Silicon Valley who is continuously inspired and amazed by the accessibility and connectivity afforded by the Internet and the history of Contemporary Art. Aaron sees the idea of “boundary” between Art and Technology as an old gossip. It’s hard for him to take the idea seriously when every gif reminds him of the repetitive performance of Fluxus; “We don’t need another hero” rings in his ears every time an alpha male engineer speaks unnecessarily loudly and dismissively; and every “Like” and “Tweet” flirts with the idea of self-expression that was fought for more than one hundred years ago by the Fauvist (beast) Matisse! Aaron believes that history is our tool to wisdom and our path to propel society forward. It can prevent us from making the same mistakes over and over again. Similar to a machine that needs to analyze a dataset to gain Artificial Intelligence, we must study our past to gain wisdom.

Kiersten Levens, Master of Arts Student, Art History, University of Arizona

Kiersten Levens graduated from Millersville University in 2015 with a BA in Studio Art. She is currently a second year Master’s student studying Art History at the University of Arizona. Since starting the program, Kiersten has been nominated by the Art History division for the Creative Achievement Award, selected as a Medici Scholar, and awarded the Ellwood C. Parry Award in Art History. In February 2017, she planned and

organized the graduate symposium, “Taboo: Deviance and Normativity in Art,” with seven invited presenters and a keynote lecture by art historian, Richard Meyer, Ph.D., Robert and Ruth Halperin Professor in Art History, Stanford University. Her Master’s thesis, “Platforms of (In)visibility for the Life and Work of George Platt Lynes”, focuses on the ways in which censorship has been a defining aspect of visibility for the life and work of early twentieth-century photographer George Platt Lynes. Kiersten has worked and interned at various art institutions including The Demuth Museum (Lancaster, PA), the Philadelphia Art Alliance, and The Print Center (Philadelphia, PA). She has also interned at the Center for Creative Photography (University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ) which was co-founded by Ansel Adams and is the largest institution in the world devoted to documenting the history of North American photography. Upon completing the MA program, Kiersten looks forward to pursuing her PhD and teaching art history.