

Rachel Dressler

Art Department
FA 214
(518) 442-4020
dressler@albany.edu

Education

Ph.D., Columbia University, May 1993, Medieval Art History, dissertation under Professors Stephen Murray and Linda Seidel, “Medieval Narrative: The Capital Frieze on the Royal Portal, Chartres Cathedral”

MA, Emory University, June 1981, Art History, thesis under Professor Clark Poling, “Personal Content in the Figural Painting of Paul Cézanne”

BA, Emory University, June 1974, Educational Studies

Academic Positions

University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, New York, Art Department, Chair, 2012-

University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, New York, College of Arts and Sciences, Associate Dean, 2007- 2009

University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, New York, Art Department, Assistant Professor, 1995-2003; Associate Professor, 2003-

Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Virginia, Art Department, Assistant Professor, 1994-95

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, Art History Department, Visiting Assistant Professor, 1993-94

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, Department of Art History, Theory and Criticism, Visiting Assistant Professor, 1990-93

Teaching Areas

Medieval Art and Architecture

Northern Renaissance Art

Art-Historical Methodology

Courses Taught

Medieval

Art and the Beholder

Art of the Boundaries

Art of Death

Art of Medieval Knighthood

Early Christian Art and Architecture

Early Medieval and Romanesque Art

Gothic Art and Architecture

Graduate Seminar on Chartres Cathedral

Images and Encounters: Medieval Europe and the Muslim World

Islamic Art and Architecture

Women in Medieval Art and Society

Other

Art and the Body

Graduate Methodology Seminar

Greek and Roman Art and Architecture

Internship in Art History

Netherlandish Painting

Renaissance Art and Architecture

Senior Seminar in Art History

Seminar in the Medieval Revival

Survey of Western Art I

Survey of World Art I and II

Publications

Books

Of Armor and Men in Medieval England: Chivalric Rhetoric and Three English Knights' Effigies. Burlington, VT., Ashgate Publishing Limited, February, 2004

Journals - Juried

"Identity, Status, and Material: Medieval Alabaster Effigies in England," *Peregrinations* (forthcoming).

"'Show Me the Money': Grants for Feminist Work" (invited co-editor and author), *Medieval Feminist Forum* 44.2 (2008): 12-20

"Tomb Effigies: Classing, Gendering, and Abjecting the Body" *Different Visions: A Journal of New Perspectives on Medieval Art*, 1 (2008), www.differentvisions.org (Editor-in-chief's contribution)

"The Contracting Discourse: Feminist Scholarship and Medieval Art," *Medieval Feminist Forum* 43.1 (2007): 15-34

"'Those effigies which belonged to the English Nation': Antiquarianism, Nationalism and Charles Alfred Stothard's *Monumental Effigies of Great Britain*," *Studies in Medievalism* (August 2005)

"Cross-Legged Knights and Signification in English Medieval Tomb Sculpture," *Studies in Iconography* 21 (2000): 91-121

"*Deus Hoc Vult*: Visual Rhetoric at the Time of the Crusades," *Medieval Encounters: A Journal of Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* 1,2 (1995): 188-218

Edited Volumes – Invited and Peer-Reviewed

"Sculptural Representation and Spatial Appropriation in a Medieval Chantry Chapel," in *The Thresholds of Late Medieval Visual Culture: Liminal Spaces* (peer-reviewed festschrift in honor of Pamela Sheingorn), Elina Gertsman and Jill Stevenson eds., The Boydell Press, 2012, 217-236

"Steel Corpse: Imaging the Knight in Death," in *Conflicted Identities and Multiple Masculinities: Men in the Medieval West*, edited by Jacqueline Murray. London and New York: Garland Publishing, 1999, pp. 135-67

Annotated Bibliographies - Invited

Entries in *French Romanesque Sculpture: An Annotated Bibliography*, edited by Thomas Lyman. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1987

Book Reviews - Invited

Review of Janet Snyder, *Early Gothic Column-Figure Sculpture in France*, *Speculum* 88 (2013): 340-341.

Review of Diane Wolfthal, *In and Out of the Marital Bed: Seeing Sex in Renaissance Europe*, *Studies in Iconography* 33 (2012): 290-293

Review of Madeline H. Caviness, *Visualizing Women in the Middle Ages: Sight, Spectacle, and Scopio Economy*, *Studies in Iconography* 25 (2004): 280-283

Exhibition Reviews - Invited

"Duane Michals at The Atlanta Gallery of Photography," *The Art Papers*, May/June, 1981

"Gary Keown at The Atlanta Art Workers' Coalition," *The Art Papers*, September/October, 1981

Encyclopedia Articles-Invited

"Artistic Representation of Women" (co-author with Marian Bleeke, Jennifer Borland, Martha Easton and Elizabeth L'Estrange), in *A Cultural History of Women in the Middle Ages*, ed. Kim Phillips, London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2013, 179-213

"Gender Studies in Medieval Art," in the *Grove Encyclopedia of Medieval Art*, edited by Colum Hourihane. Oxford University Press, 2012.

Census of Gothic Sculpture in America, Vol. 3: the Northeast, edited by Joan Holladay and Susan Ward, three entries (forthcoming)

Works in Progress

"Alabaster and Agency: The Tomb of Edward II in Gloucester Cathedral"

"Enclosed, Eroticized Space in Medieval and Early Modern Secular and Sacred Images."

Conference Papers

"Alabaster and Agency: The Tomb of Edward II in Gloucester Cathedral," Midwest Art History Society Annual Conference, 2015

"Alabaster Effigies: Death and Status," Forty-Seven International Congress on Medieval

Studies, Kalamazoo, 2012

“Motherhood and Lineal Anxiety in the Performance of Status,” Medieval Academy of America Annual Conference, 2008

Respondent, “Feminism, Medievalisms and the Histories of Art,” Forty-Third International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, 2008

"Tomb Effigies: Classing, Gendering, and Abjecting the Body," Forty-First International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 2006

"Re-Habilitating the French Middle Ages: The Tomb of Heloise and Abelard at the Musée des monuments français and Père Lachaise," Studies in Medievalism Annual Conference, Towson State University, Baltimore Maryland, 2005

"Corporate Identity, Corporeality, and the Man Who Would Be (But Was Not) a Knight," College Art Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, 2005

"The Allard Effigy and the Construction of Social Identity," conference on "Changing Identities: 1000-1600" sponsored by the Canterbury Centre for Medieval and Tudor Studies, University of Kent, 2001

“Separating ‘Fact’ From ‘Fiction’: The Case of the English Knight’s Effigy,” "Identity" a conference sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Medieval Circle, State University of New York at New Paltz, 2000

“And a Lusty Fellow he Looked: Constructing the Knight’s Body on English Tombs,” “Subject to Desire: Refiguring the Body,” a conference held at the State University of New York, New Paltz, New York, 1997

“Muscle and Steel: The Visual Construction of Knighthood,” Thirty-Second International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1997 and the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, 1997

“Re-Presenting Bodies: Variations on the Corporeal Paradigm,” Plenary Address, “The Male and Female Image,” a conference held at the University at Albany, State University of New York, 1996

“Crusader Rhetoric on the Royal Portal of Chartres,” College Art Association Annual Conference, San Antonio, Texas, 1995

“How the Academy Neutralized Medieval Art,” Universities Art Association of Canada Annual Meeting, Windsor, Ontario, 1993

“Visual Rhetoric at Chartres Cathedral,” Twenty-Eighth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1993

Discussant, "Medieval Art Historians Confront the Gaze," Twenty-Eighth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1993

"The Notion of Exile: The South Door of the Royal Portal, Chartres Cathedral," Twelfth Annual Canadian Conference of Medieval Art Historians, Toronto, 1992

"Transgressing the Boundary: A Reconsideration of the Sculpture on the Royal Portal, Chartres Cathedral," Twenty-Fifth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1990

"On the Threshold of Salvation: The North Door of the Royal Portal, Chartres," Midwestern Association of Medievalists, Chicago, Illinois, 1989

"The *Ordo Faciendum Sponsalia* and the Iconography of the Coronation of the Virgin," Eighteenth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1983

"The Tapestry Landscape: An Early Vision of Nature in Italian Painting of the Fourteenth Century," Southeastern College Art Conference, Oxford, Mississippi, 1981

University Lectures

"Sculptural Representation and Spatial Appropriation in a Medieval Chantry Chapel," Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Binghamton University, 2009; University at Glasgow, 2009

"Interdisciplinarity/E-Disciplinarity: Will Electronic Publishing Promote a True Conversation Among the Disciplines?" Case Western Reserve University, 2008

"Convivencia" class on "Medieval Spain," University at Albany, 2005

"*Objet d'art* or Object of Use: the Knight's Tomb Effigy as a Test Case for Medieval Visual Culture," Anthropology Lecture Series, University at Albany, 2004

"Those effigies which belonged to the English Nation: Antiquarianism, Nationalism and Charles Alfred Stothard's *Monumental Effigies of Great Britain*," Columbia University, 2003

"The Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Dome of the Rock," seminar on "Jerusalem," University at Albany, 2002

"Death and the Medieval Knight," University at Albany, State University of New York, 1998

"Knowledge Under Siege: Epistemological Anxieties and Visual Culture at Chartres," Visual Culture Colloquium, Cornell University, 1996

"The Coronation of the Virgin: History, Iconography, Politics," Art Department, Wayne State University, 1992

Public Lectures

"The Changing Medieval Body," The Cloisters Museum, New York, 2004

"The Defended Body: Knights, Arms and Armor," The Cloisters Museum, New York, 2001

"Guardians and Warriors: Knights in Medieval Art," The Cloisters Museum, New York, 1996

"Passover: A Celebration of Freedom and Belief," The Art Institute of Chicago, 1993

"The Imagery of Belief: Jewish and Christian Art, 1100-1600," four-week series, The Art Institute of Chicago, 1992

Professional Activities

Participant, Summer Teacher's Institute in Technical Art History (STITAH), Yale University Art Gallery, June 2015

Board Member, International Center for Medieval Art (ICMA), 2014-

Founding Member, The Material Collective, 2010-

Invited Participant, German-American Frontiers of Humanities (GAFOH) Annual Symposium, 2009

Editorial Board, *Medieval Feminist Forum*, 2009-

Advisory Board, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship, 2007-

Featured Art Historian, "Practices in Art History," Course taught by Prof. Mimi Hellman, Skidmore College, Spring 2008

Co-Chair, "'Show Me the Money': Grants for Feminist Work," Forty-Third International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 2008

Founder and Editor-in-chief, *Different Visions: A Journal of New Perspectives on Medieval Art* (www.differentvisions.org)

Chair, "Whither Feminist Art History Now?", Forty-Second International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, 2007

Reader, Lane, Evelyn Staudinger; Pastan, Elizabeth; Shortell, Ellen M., eds., *The Four Modes of Seeing: Approaches to Medieval Imagery in Honor of Madeline Harrison Caviness*, Williston,

VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2007.

Co-Chair, "Medieval Nostalgia, Nostalgic Medievalism: Perceptions of the Past in Visual and Written Texts," Thirty-Eighth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, 2003

Reader, University of Toronto Press, 2003

Sound and Visual Designer, Cast Member, "The Making of Sapientia," an adaptation of a medieval drama, the Hrosvit Collective, University at Albany, 2002

Member-at-large, Program Committee, International Center for Medieval Art, 2002

Co-Chair, "Post-Colonial Framings of Medieval Visual Culture," Thirty-Seventh International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, 2002

Co-Chair, "Re-Assessing the Legacy of Meyer Schapiro," College Art Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, 2002

Chair, "Art and Architecture of the English Medieval Parish Church: In Memory of Professor Lawrence R. Hoey," Thirty-Sixth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, 2001, and International Medieval Congress, Leeds, 2001

Chair, "Chivalry," conference on "Pageantry and Power in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance," sponsored by *Convivium*: the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Siena College, Loudonville, New York, 2000

Organizer, Capital Region Art Historians Group

Chair, Medieval Session, The Midwest Art History Association Meeting, Chicago, 1994

Editor, *The Art Institute of Chicago Museum Studies*, 1988-90

Professional Societies

Association for Gravestone Studies

Capital Region Art Historians Group

College Art Association

International Center for Medieval Art

Material Collective

Medieval Feminist Art History Project

Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship

Awards

College of Arts and Sciences Tavel Award, 2015

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 2009

United University Professions Individual Development Grant, 2005

United University Professions Individual Development Grant, 2003

Faculty Research Awards Program, University at Albany, 2012, 1998, 1996

Nuala Drescher Award, State University of New York, 1998-99

Howard Hibbard Fund, Columbia University, 1988

Georges Lurcy Charitable and Educational Trust, 1987-88

Service

Departmental

Search Committee for Fulltime Lecturer in Film Studies, 2014-2015

Search Committee for Specialist in Contemporary Art and Criticism, 2013-2014

Chair, Department of Art and Art History, 2012-

Search Committee for Specialist in Renaissance Art, 2006-2007

Director of the Art History Program, 2005 –

Visiting Artist's Committee, 2004 - 2005

Acting Director of the Art History Program, Spring 2002, 1996-97; Fall 1999

Art History Ad Hoc Committee, Spring 2000

Building Committee, Spring 2000

Departmental Liaison for Fine Arts 126, Summer/Fall 1999

Head of the Film Studies Minor, Fall 1999

Chair, Search Committee for Visual Resources Curator, Spring/Summer 1998; Spring 2000; Fall 2005

Faculty Liaison to the Visual Resources Collection, 1996-1998; 1999-2000; 2001-

Undergraduate Committee, 1996-97; 1999-

Visiting Artists Committee, 1996-97; 2003-5

College of Arts and Sciences

Director Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, 2008-2011

Arts Alliance, 2004-2006

Director Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, 2004-2005

Search Committee for Medieval and Early Modern Position, English Department, Fall 2001-Spring 2002

Search Committee for Chair, English Department, Spring 2001

Faculty Council, 1998-99; Spring 2000, Fall 2001, Spring 2002

University

Strategic Planning Committee on Emerging Technologies, 2011-

Organization of Women Faculty Steering Committee, 2008-2009

Provost's Blue-Ribbon Task Force on Writing, 2006-2007

University Senate Fall 2004

Undergraduate Academic Council, Fall 2004 – Spring 2005: Chair, Curriculum and Honors Committee

Undergraduate Academic Council, Fall 2002

Library Resources and Collections Advisory Committee, Spring 2000-2002

WebCT Advisory Board, 2000-2001

Educational Policy Committee, Spring 1999