

## **Courtney Leigh Harris**

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### **Education**

MA 2012 Courtauld Institute of Art, London, UK  
Dissertation title: "Commemoration of a Saint: the role of place and memory in the imagery of San Bernardino in Perugia 1450-1500"

BA 2011 Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

### **Experience**

2021-present Assistant Curator, Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Art of Europe  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

- Co-curator of eight new galleries dedicated to [Dutch & Flemish art](#), including over 150 decorative arts objects.

- Curator of the upcoming gallery renovation of the French Salon period room and the reinstallation of over 100 pieces of French silver (summer 2022)

- Curator of the exhibition Tiny Treasures, studying miniaturization in art from Ancient Egypt to the present day (expected 2024)

2014-2021 Curatorial Research Fellow, Decorative Arts & Sculpture, Art of Europe,  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

- Development and programming, preparation, loan logistics, curatorial support, and research for the major loan exhibition Casanova's Europe: Art, Pleasure, and Power in the 18th century (2017-2018, Kimbell Art Museum, Fine Arts Museums of SF, and MFA Boston), including narration and content for the MFA Mobile for Casanova's Europe.

- Preparation, loan logistics, curatorial support and research for 2016-2017 international loan exhibition Della Robbia: Sculpting with Color in Renaissance Florence (MFA Boston, National Gallery, Washington)

- On-going research on collection objects for public and scholarly inquiries and visits.

- Organizing installation and deinstallation of objects in European galleries to accommodate curatorial changes and loan commitments as well as writing labels for gallery installation.

- Producing original content for guided talks and tours of both permanent collections and special exhibitions.

2012-2014 Provenance Researcher  
Commission for Looted Art in Europe, London, UK

- Conducted in-depth research using a range of online and library resources in French, German, Italian and Dutch for the purpose of locating works of art and for making subsequent restitution claims
- Identified and attributed works of art through bibliographic and photographic research in libraries and through contacting experts in the given field
- Proposed and executed innovative and new avenues of research for existing objects while also crafting research plans for new objects
- Reviewed original documentation and created professional reports and presentations for claimants or their representatives

2010- 2011     Student Curator  
                     Evergreen Museum & Library, Baltimore, MD

- Selected as the 2010 Student Curator and designed exhibition titled The Art of Diplomacy: The Garretts in Rome, which opened in March 2011, that drew upon the archival materials, art works and furniture in Evergreen's substantial collections and archives
- Wrote interpretive label copy; installed the exhibition; trained Museum guide staff; and presented a public curator's talk at an opening reception.
- Conducted primary research in Italian, performed research in conjunction with the National Gallery, US Embassy in Rome and Herbert Hoover Presidential Library

2008             Assistant to Registrar  
                     Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA

- Organized exhibition and artist files from 1931 to present
- Helped coordinate removal of artwork as part of museum's 2-year expansion and closure
- Learned about the conservation and preservation demands for the long-term storage of paintings, sculpture, prints and photographs

## **Publications**

Courtney Leigh Harris, Patrons, Period Rooms, and the Museum: The French Salon at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, *Furniture History Society journal*, fall 2021.

--, 'Kéramos: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Wedgwood, and the MFA, Boston,' in Proceedings of the Sixty-Fourth International Seminar, Salem, MA (published by the Wedgwood International Seminar, early 2020)

Ronni Baer, Marietta Cambareri, Courtney Harris and Frederick Ilchman, MFA Highlights: European Paintings and Sculpture before 1800 (MFA Publications, Boston, April 2020).

Harris, 'Reflecting their Time: The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death as Microcosms of

Mid-Century America,' in Denkste: Puppe: Puppen als miniaturen- mehr als klein, Issue 01/2019 (expected mid-2019)

—, 'An English Chair in Boston,' in Antiques and Fine Art Magazine (Volume XVI, issue 4, Winter 2017), p.122-124.

—, 'Casanova's Europe' in The Decorative Arts Trust Magazine (Volume 4, no.1, summer 2017), p. 14.

—, 'Annotated Chronology,' in Casanova: The Seduction of Europe, edited by Esther Bell, C.D. Dickerson, Frederick Ilchman and Thomas Michie (Boston: MFA Publications.

—, 'Artist Biographies,' in Della Robbia: Sculpting with Color in Renaissance Florence, by Marietta Cambareri with contributions by Abigail Hykin and Courtney Leigh Harris, (Boston: MFA Publications, 2016), pp. 145-147.

### **Scholarships and study travel**

Getty Research Institute, library grant recipient for 2019 for research on the French Salon period room project. In residence at the GRI, March 4-15, 2019.

Attingham Trust Summer School, June-July 2017

Royal Oak Foundation Scholar and Summer School Class of 2016 Scholar

Decorative Arts Study Trip Abroad scholarship 'Yorkshire in the Age of Thomas Chippendale,' September-October 2016

### **Lectures and media**

2021, "Wealth in Miniature" video for new galleries of Dutch and Flemish art

2019, November, 'Patrons, Period Rooms, and the Museum: The French Salon at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston', Furniture History Society Early Career Symposium, Wallace Collection, London.

2019, November. Organizer curatorial content of 'Culture Crawl' at the MFA for the North American WikiConference in collaboration with MIT student organizers

2019, April. 'Kéramos: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Wedgwood, and the MFA, Boston' at the 64th annual Wedgwood International Seminar

2019, April. 'Meissen Menagerie' for MFA Facebook Live

2018, July. 'In the Studio: Casanova's Europe' with Jared Bowen, WGBH Boston.

2018, September. Televised presentation on Dutch 17th century dolls houses for WGBH Boston (feature for The Miniaturist mini-series)

2017, December. 'A Dutch Doll's House' for MFA Facebook Live

2017, January. 'Inspiring Interiors: England in the time of Casanova' at the Decorative Arts Trust Emerging Scholars Colloquium, New York, NY

### **Professional affiliations and activities**

Member of the Collections Committee, Natick Historical Society, September 2021-present

Museum Council Steering Committee, Development sub-committee, 2019-present

Adjunct lecturer, MFA, Boston, 2016-2020

American Alliance of Museums  
New England Museum Association

Co-juror for the Newburyport Art Association 'Regional Juried Show' May 2, 2018

### **Languages**

French- fluent; Italian- high advanced; German- advanced; Dutch- reading knowledge.