This was a challenging yet busy year for the members of the Department of Visual Studies & Art History. Perhaps most noteworthy is that the College has reorganized its administrative structure, moving from departments to divisions. Visual Studies & Art History is now part of the Division of Historical, Philosophical, and Political Sciences, together with Global and International Studies, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and World Religions. This new structure will take some getting used to, but it also promises to bring new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and extracurricular programming. Professor Lisa Rafanelli has been named Chairperson of the new division, so we are in excellent hands.
A great example of the potential that can be unleashed with cross-disciplinary collaboration occurred over the summer, when a working group of faculty members from across the College, which included Professors Megan Cifarelli and Lisa Rafanelli, created an online, interdisciplinary course about Covid-19. The two-credit course, one of the first in the nation, was offered to incoming, first-year students during Summer II free of charge. The course, “Manhattanville Together...at a Distance: Coming together as a community in the age of COVID-19” brought together faculty from across campus to explore the pandemic and its effect on our lives through the lens of sports, history, arts, science and other fields. Twenty-seven faculty members participated in this innovative course that enrolled nearly 100 students, garnering positive press in The Journal News, Inside Higher Ed and various other media outlets.

As usual, the art historians were busy last year! Professor Cifarelli again served as School of Arts and Sciences Chair and led a committee that revised the General Education curriculum for undergraduates. Professor Deborah Saleeby-Mulligan chaired the Committee on Committees and ran college-wide committee elections. She also directed the Museum Studies Program and was the Assistant Director of the Castle Scholars Honors Program, organizing their trips and events. Professors Lisa Rafanelli and Gillian Greenhill Hannum were both on the Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee as co-chairs of Standards 7 and 3 respectively, and Professor Rafanelli also served on the Gen Ed reform committee. Professor Hannum chaired the department in its final year and also continued to direct the Atlas ePortfolio Program and, for Spring Semester 2020, served as Interim Coordinator for the First-Year Program. We were joined by adjunct faculty member Dr. Eric DeSena, who taught classes in Ancient art as Professor Cifarelli had course releases for her service as SAS Chair. This fall, Professor DeSena is teaching a section of First-Year Program.

The Curatorial Seminar, now the capstone for the Art History major as well as the Museum Studies minor, was hugely successful this year. Professor Saleeby-Mulligan and a very engaged group of students mounted a powerful and timely exhibition utilizing photographs by Magnum photographer Gilles Peress held in the Library’s Special Collections. The show was titled Capturing Conflict through the Lens of Gilles Peress, and explored various conflicts around the world, from Northern Ireland to Africa. This hands-on class, where students choose the work, research it to create wall text and labels, and hang the show, is a wonderful example of project-based learning, and we will now move ahead to make this our permanent capstone requirement for the major.

Despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, we were able to host a Berger field trip each semester. In the fall, we took a bus load of students to The Cloisters on a gorgeous October day. It was a first visit to this magical place for many of those in attendance, and the trip was a great success.
News from the Faculty

Professor Gillian Greenhill Hannum, in addition to the College service listed above, is on the Board of and edits the newsletter for The Print Club of New York (three issues a year); she edits the newsletter for the International Print Collectors’ Societies (two issues a year); she served as a Review Editor for the AAEEL ePortfolio Review’s Summer 2020 issue; and she judged photographic competitions at three regional photography societies. Over the summer, she gave three online alumni talks, two in collaboration with Professor of Studio Art Randy Williams, and was thrilled at the number of art and art history alumni who signed on. Finally, a proposal she submitted in collaboration with former adjunct faculty member Dr. Kyunghee Pyun (now a faculty member at Fashion Institute of Technology) was accepted for presentation at the 2021 Annual Meeting of CAA (formerly called the College Art Association). The theme of the panel is Political Engagement of Women Artists: An International Perspective on Status Negotiation; among the panelists will be current adjunct faculty member Dr. Soojung Hyun and Professor Debbie Saleeby-Mulligan.

Professor Megan Cifarelli, in addition to serving as Faculty Chair for the School of Arts and Sciences, as well as on College Faculty Council, chaired a session and presented two papers at the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meetings in San Diego and delivered an invited lecture at the Bade Museum in Berkeley, California in November of 2019. She was scheduled to present at the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East in Bologna in April, which was regrettably postponed due to COVID-19. She was also invited to a regional archaeology conference in Sanandaj, Iran, and while unable to attend, she contributed a chapter to the publication, which came out in December. Publications in the pipeline include (2021) “Dress, Sensory Assemblages, and Identity at Hasanlu, Iran” in Handbook of the Senses in the Ancient Near East, edited by Kiersten Neumann and Allison Thomason (Abingdon: Routledge); (2020) “The Hasanlu Lion Pins and Communal Identity: The case for empathy in interpretation,” in Outward Appearances/Inward Significance: Addressing Identities through Attire in the Ancient World (Oriental Institute Symposium Vol. 14), edited by Aleksandra Hallmann (Chicago: University of Chicago, Oriental Institute), and (2020) “The Dynamism of Dress Items in the Period IVb Mortuary Assemblages at Hasanlu, Iran.”
Museums annual conference in March. During her upcoming sabbatical in the fall of 2020, she will work virtually with the research director of the Clyfford Still Museum, Denver, on her sabbatical research project: “Directing the Myth-Maker: Peggy Guggenheim, Betty Parsons, and Clyfford Still.”

We are also happy to share news of several former faculty members. **Professors Emeritae Mary Lee Baranger** and **Laura Kaufman** revisited Venice together in the fall of 2019, taking in many of their favorite sights as well as enjoying some of the pavilions and displays associated with the Biennale. They used Hotel al Codega, known to many of our Venice Trip alumni, as their base. Professor Baranger was to have returned to Venice in the spring with her sister, but COVID-19 has put that trip on indefinite hold.


**Professor Deborah Saleeby-Mulligan**, in addition to the College service already mentioned, served as a member of the Middle States Self-Study, Standard 3 Team, studying the assessment of the General Education Program. Her work as an independent curator continues, and she regularly advises contemporary art collectors during the contemporary art fair season in New York. She presented a brief overview of Irish Political Murals in a virtual paper presentation titled: “Peace on the Walls: Reinventing Political Street Murals in Belfast,” for the Tir Na N’og Society in March. She also (virtually) attended the Alliance of American
Alumni News

Professor Megan Cifarelli chaired a session at the AIA annual meeting in January at which alumna Irene Bald Romano, Ph.D. ’78, a faculty member at University of Arizona, presented a paper on “Classical Antiquities and the Nazi Elite.” Although an English major at Manhattanville, Romano took classes with Professor Emerita Mary Lee Baranger.

Brigitte Mulholland ’07 was featured in the Anniversary Edition of Art MAZE Mag (Issue 15, 2019) in an interview titled “My Heart Still Flutters.” Brigitte talks about her career path working in galleries and as an independent curator and gives some great advice to those interested in pursuing the path.

Gabrielle (Gaby) Del Vecchio ’10 joined the Rye City School District as a 3rd-grade leave replacement teacher at Osborn School in 2016 and joined the faculty full time in 2017. She recently served on the Elementary Math Committee and coordinates the MakerSpace Club. Prior to coming to Rye, she was a 4th grade ICT special education teacher at PS68 in Bronx, NY, and an Associate Teacher at the Stanwich School in Greenwich. She has a BA in Art History and an MPS in Childhood and Special Education, both from Manhattanville College.


Yara Haddad ’18 earned her Master of Music in Voice at Manhattan School of Music in May.

Elizabeth Sweeny ’18 earned her master’s degree in Art History from Purchase College this spring with a thesis titled “In the Midst of a Response: Crafting Cultural Collaboration, Investigating France’s Sarr-Savoy Report and its Repercussions on Art Repatriation Debates.” Liz will be back at Manhattanville in the Fall; she has decided to pursue a master’s degree in our School of Education.

News of our Students

Omar Reatiga ’20 completed requirements for the major and graduated in January of 2020. Omar, whose primary interest is in ancient art and archaeology, interned at the American Numismatic Society in New York, where he was excited to have an opportunity to engage hands-on with ancient coins. We also had several May graduates who completed a minor in Art History: Janae Fells ’20, Juliette Macron ’20, Indigo Moore ’20 and Rachel Palumbo ’20. Special congratulations go to Juliette for winning the Sr. Eleanor Carr Award for Service to the Department of Visual Studies & Art History, and to Juliette, Indigo and Rachel for achieving Distinction in the Minor Field of Study. These prizes were awarded at a special Virtual Baccalaureate and Awards Ceremony held on Instagram in May due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also recognized continuing students at a virtual ceremony in April. Excellence in Art History as a First-Year Student went to Jaylyn Perez ’23, as a Second-Year Student went to Irving Sanchez ’21 and Gabrielle Kazlow-Johnson ’22 and as a Third-Year Student was awarded to Emma Wilson ’21 and Katherine Frost ’21. Emma was also the recipient of the Clemencia Saleeby Award for Excellence in Art History for 2019-20. Emma interned with Special Collections Librarian Lauren Ziarko in the College Archives, and Katherine interned in the Education Department at Katonah Museum of Art.

Spring 2020 Berger Trip, The MET