

NATASHA CHRISTINA RITSMA

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St Charles, IL 60174
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EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy: Department of Communication and Culture and American Studies Program, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, 2015.

- Dissertation: *The Postwar 'Arts Explosion' in an Age of Mechanical Reproduction: the American Films on Art Movement.*
- Pedagogy Certificate, January 2009.

Master of Arts: Art History Department: Modern and Contemporary American and European Art. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL, 2002.

- Thesis: *Lee Miller's War Photographs.*
- Study Abroad in Paris, France. Summer 2000.

Bachelor of Arts: Major: English Literature, Minor: Studio Art and Art History. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, 1997.

- Study Abroad at University of Manchester, Manchester, England. 1996-1997.
- Dean's List for Scholastic Excellence.

Mini-MBA Certificate Program: Quinlan School of Business, Loyola University Chicago, 2018

PROFESSIONAL MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

Schingoethe Center, Aurora University, Aurora, Illinois: Director, September 2019-Present

- Directs exhibition program. Curates original exhibitions and researches and selects traveling exhibitions.
- Supervises museum staff and student workers
- Develops and implements a comprehensive, long-range collections plan
- Organizes education and public programs for University students, staff, and faculty and surrounding community
- Coordinates museum initiatives with the university
- Oversees and manages Schingoethe Center budget
- Leads Aurora University Museum Studies Minor, teaches classes and supervises internships

Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago, Illinois: Curator, January 2016- April 2019

- Initiated, implemented and directed all curatorial, education, and public programs. Summer/Fall 2018 exhibitions brought in a record number of visitors.

- Wrote, edited, and supervised production of all print material including gallery didactics and labels, promotional and marketing materials, and museum magazine published three times a year.
- Curated over a twenty LUMA-generated exhibitions in addition to selecting and hanging traveling exhibitions.
- Built relationships and fostered collaborations with University community including departments of Anthropology, Art History, Dance, Digital Humanities, English, French, History, Music, Public History, Studio Art, Theology,
- Created, built and facilitated partnerships with local organizations such as Northwestern Hospital, the Poetry Foundation, Misericordia, Chicago Architectural Foundation, Newberry Library, the Dreihaus Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago Cultural Center, Ed Paschke Art Center, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Filter Photo Festival, Old Town School of Folk Music, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Urban Gateways, Sky Arts, and Marwen.
- Directly works with board members, donors, and University administration on strategic planning and fundraising.
- Successfully applied for and received grants. Cultivated gifts for the LUMA's permanent collection. Secured funds for museum's exhibitions and new Art Expressways gallery featuring the work of local K-12 artists.
- Supervised Curatorial/Education Fellow; directed student intern and museum docent/volunteer programs.

Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio: Curator of Academic Programs, June 2013 - December 2014.

- Forged strong connections between the Gallery and Kenyon faculty, staff, and the Central Ohio community.
- Cosponsored events with the Kenyon Review, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the Kenyon Farm, the Center for the Study of American Democracy, and community non-profit organizations such as SPI Spot (Science Play-Space Initiative for children).
- Built Curriculum Structured Gallery Programs designed to facilitate faculty utilization of gallery exhibitions. Met with more than 30% of Kenyon students in the 2013-14 academic year and worked with more than 60% of departments on campus.
- Managed Gund Gallery Student Associate Program. Trained 35 Student Associates on Inquiry method and gallery tours.
- Wrote, edited, and supervised the production of exhibition didactics.
- Founded "Cinearts," a film society that was named "best new organization of the year" 2014-15. Trained students to negotiate with distributors, apply for funding, publicize screenings, introduce, and project films.
- Collaborated with Kenyon Professors in curating a special exhibition titled "Shadows of Spirit: The Visual Culture of Gullah and Beyond." Designed series of public programs to compliment the exhibition including a cooking class led by Gullah Chef Charlotte Jenkins, and a sweet grass basket-weaving workshop taught by artist Antwon Ford. Closely worked with a group of Cleveland K-12 teachers in developing educational material about Gullah Art and Culture that corresponded with Common Core State Standards.

- Organized lecture/performance series to correspond with exhibitions, invited scholars and artists such as neuroscientist Bevil Conway, food scholar Jonathan Bloom, and contemporary artists Lee Mingwei and Tom Marioni.
- Edited exhibition descriptions and wrote public relations material.
- Collaborated with Kenyon faculty in designing dynamic interpretive programs such as “Art and Science: When Molecules Mix and Flavors Form.”
- Initiated and implemented public programs such as “Night at the Museum,” “Children’s Story Time,” “An Evening of Wine and Poetry,” and “Dinner and a Movie.”
- Implemented and managed interdisciplinary gallery talk program featuring Kenyon faculty from the departments of American Studies, Anthropology, Art History, Chemistry, Dance, Film, History, Math, Music, Neuroscience, and Psychology.
- Researched and produced training guides for Gund Gallery Associates for all rotating exhibitions.
- Researched and wrote descriptions of new gallery acquisitions
- Supervised Gallery Associates’ digital curation projects in creating website and social media content for the interpretation of exhibitions.
- Served on the Gund Gallery Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, the Kenyon Public Art Committee, the College Collections Committee, the Gund Gallery College Advisory Committee, and the Human Rights Watch Film Festival Faculty Committee.
- Managed \$40,000 annual programming budget for campus and community outreach.

Eskenazi Museum of Art Interdisciplinary Programs Coordinator for Mellon Programs.
Position funded with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, May 2010-May 2013.

- Collaborated with faculty in designing object-centered tours of IUAM’s collection related to class material.
- Trained Hutton Honors students to be docents for specially designed “Themester” tours annually offered to the University and local community.
- Curated special exhibition on Vigee Le Brun’s, “Portrait of Mrs. Chinnery,” and designed corresponding programs that included a keynote lecture by Mary Sheriff and violin concert arranged by Jacobs School of Music Professor Massimo Ossi. Worked with students on writing exhibition text and exhibition brochure. Collaborated with filmmaker Suzanne Schwibbs on the production of a short film, *What’s in a Picture: Portrait of Mrs. Chinnery*, that was screened during the exhibition and that won a 2014 regional Emmy Award.
- Organized and publicized interdisciplinary museum study days, workshops, and symposia, such as “Exhibiting Blackness” (study day event with author Bridget Cook), “What is Ab Ex?” (workshop designed to complement Perle Fine exhibition), and “Bringing the World to Bloomington” (symposium featuring Paul Sachs of the National Gallery of Art).
- Created, managed and led scholarly interest group, Student Academic Committee for Mellon Programs that provided advanced undergraduate students an opportunity to

- explore a career in the arts and to interact with IUAM curators, conservators, educators as well as visiting scholars such as Richard Meyers and Nancy Yeidi; artists Rowland Ricketts and Anne Drew Potter; filmmakers Albert Maysles and Kenneth Anger. Students were also given tours of special exhibitions by IUAM curators and participated in curatorial workshops and docent training.
- Developed partnerships across campus and the community. Identified, networked and built relationships with the Grunwald Art Gallery, the Bloomington Entertainment Art District, the Paper Crane Gallery, the Indiana University Cinema, the Student Academic Center, Collins Living-Learning Center, and the Center for Sustainability.
 - Established a specialized tour for IU Summer Groups Program that serves more than 200 first-generation and low-income students each year. The tour was incorporated into the curriculum.

Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, January-August 2001.

Curatorial Assistant for Louise Bourgeois Exhibition:

- Conducted primary research for museum exhibition and exhibition catalog.
- Prepared press packets for media distribution.
- Prepared exhibition description and budget plan.

Research Assistant for Jacques Lipchitz Exhibition:

- Wrote two exhibition catalog essays.
- Researched relevant biographical and historical information.
- Participated in exhibition weekly planning meetings.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “The Business of Fine Art” Symposium at the Palm Springs Art Museum. Palm Springs Photo Festival, May 2018.
- "History of the Indiana University Audio-Visual Center," *Orphan Film Symposium, Orphans Midwest: Materiality and the Moving Image* sponsored by Indiana University Libraries Film Archive and Indiana University Cinema with NYU Tisch School of the Arts' Department of Cinema Studies. September 26-28, 2013.
- “Edward Weston, Willard Van Dyke, and the Politics of American Films on Art in the Postwar Era,” *Art and Cultural Diplomacy in the Cold War Symposium* sponsored by the Indiana University Art Museum. September 2013.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Following the Box: Taking an Estate Sale Find Halfway Around the World and Back Again.” Association of Midwest Museums. Chicago, Illinois, July 2018.
- “The Photographer: A Weapon of Cultural Diplomacy.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Atlanta, Georgia, April 2016.
- "Student Engagement in the Gallery: Evaluating the Impact of Object-based Learning at the Gund Gallery." Panel title: To Go Class by Way of a Museum:

- Assessing the Impact of Museum Visits on Student Learning. Association of Museum and Galleries Conference. Seattle, WA, May 2014.
- “Partnerships and Collaborations: Interdisciplinary at Work at the Indiana University Art Museum.” Association of Midwest Museums. Indianapolis, Indiana, July 2012.
 - “A New Media Pioneer: Carolyn Guss and the Indiana University Audio-Visual Center.” Console-ing Passions Conference. Suffolk University, Boston, July 2012.
 - “Pioneering the Films on Art Movement: Art Film Festivals and Non-Theatrical Exhibition Practices in the Postwar Era.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Boston, Massachusetts, March 2012.
 - “Art Treasures’ on 16: American Film Societies and the Postwar Arts Explosion.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies. New Orleans, Louisiana, March 2011.
 - “Art, Media, and Cultural Capital: Transformations in the Transnational Middle Eastern Art World.” National Communications Association. San Francisco, California, November 2010.
 - “Lurking in the Shadows: Famous Monsters of Filmland and their Female Fans.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Los Angeles, California, March 2010.
 - “Queen Rania: Transnationalism, Race, and Celebrity on YouTube.” National Communications Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 2009.
 - “Revisiting Mona Hatoum: *Measures of Distance* and *Corps Étranger*.” Avant-Doc: Intersections of Avant-Garde and Documentary Film. Iowa City, Iowa, March 2009.
 - “Never Not an Artist’: Remapping the Geography of the Art Museum Environment.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 2008.
 - “*Born into Brothels*, *Salaam Bombay!* and Emmanuel Levinas.” Film and History Conference, Dallas, Texas, November 2006.
 - “Jehane Nourjaim’s *Control Room*: Public Memory and the Documentary Tradition.” Public Memory Conference, Syracuse University, NY, October 2005.
 - “The Politics of Representation: Martha Rosler, Democratic Theory and Alternative Visions.” Crossroads in Cultural Studies. Champaign-Urbana, IL, June 2004.
 - “Lee Miller’s War Photographs.” Annual Graduate Student Seminar Competition at the Art Institute of Chicago. Chicago, IL, April 2001.
 - “Lee Miller’s War Photographs.” Graduate Symposium in Women’s and Gendered History. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, March 2000.
 - “Mobilizing Identity in the Transnational Art Community: Mona Hatoum and the Politics of Representation.” Chicago, Illinois, November 1999.
 - “Authenticity in the Transnational Art Community: Mona Hatoum and the Politics of Representation.” Cultural Studies Symposium. Manhattan, KA, March 1999.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Museum Studies: Materials and Techniques: Fall, 2012; Museum Studies: Across Cultures: Spring, 2012; Interdisciplinary Studies: The Art of War and Peace: Fall 2011; Museum Studies: Vigee Le Brun’s Portrait of Mrs. Chinnery: An Interdisciplinary Approach: 2011; Managing Resources for Learning, 2008-2010; Critical Reading and Reasoning for the New College Student: Summer 2007 and 2008; Interdisciplinary Studies: Reel Artists on Screen-

Geniuses, Outcasts, and Madmen: 2007; Production as Criticism: Critical Perspectives on Children's Television: 2007; Introduction to Film Studies (online): 2006-2012; Introduction to Film and Television: 2005-2007; Introduction to Communication and Culture: 2004-2005; Introduction to Public Speaking: 2003-2004, 2005, 2008.

PUBLICATIONS

Ritsma, Natasha: "Projecting Cultural Diplomacy: Cold War Politics, Films on Art, and Willard Van Dyke's *The Photographer*." Art in the Cinema: The Mid-Century Art Documentary. Edited by Steven Jacobs, Birgit Cleepe and Dimitrios Latsis. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020.

Ritsma, Natasha: "Lurking in the Shadows: Famous Monsters of Filmland and its Female Fans." Journal of Fandom Studies. Henry Jenkins, Editor 1:1, pp. 47-64, 2013.

Ritsma, Natasha: Entries on "Photojournalism" and "Vogue magazine" in The Encyclopedia of Women and American Popular Culture. Facts on File, 2012.

Ritsma, Natasha: Review of Rasha A. Abdulla, The Internet in the Arab World: Egypt and Beyond. (Digital Formations) New York: Peter Lang Publishing. 2007. Resource Center for Cyber-Culture Studies. August 2009.

Ritsma, Natasha: Entries on Jacques Lipchitz, Danny Lyon, and David Wojnarowicz in Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, Selected Works. Urbana, Ill.: The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, 2008.

Ritsma, Natasha: "Transition From Cubism to the Transparents" and "Mythological Themes" in Lipchitz and the Avant-Garde: From Paris to New York. Exhibition catalogue. Urbana, Illinois: Krannert Art Museum. University of Washington Press, 2001.

SERVICE

- Board Member, St. Charles Art Council, St. Charles IL, 2021
- Portfolio Reviewer, Filter Photo Festival Chicago, 2018, 2019, and 2021
- Member of Jury, Flash Forward, International Photography Competition, 2018-19
- Portfolio Reviewer, Palm Springs Photo Festival, 2018
- Affiliated Scholar, Kenyon College, Department of Art History, 2014-2016.
- Member of Profession Women of Color at Kenyon (PWOCK), 2013-2015.
- Affiliated Scholar, Kenyon College, Department of Art History, 2014-2016.
- "Trashion Fashion" planning committee. Collaborated with local artists and community organizers in planning a juried fashion show featuring apparel designed from recycled materials, 2012 and 2013.
- Founded and curated "Films on Art" program at the Indiana University Cinema in conjunction with the IUAM and Underground films series, 2011-2013.

- Official Judge, Iris Film Festival, Indiana University, 2007 and 2009.
- Film critic for “See It or Skip It” broadcast on Bloomington PBS affiliates, WTIU and WFIU, 2008-2009.
- Faculty Advisor for Indiana University Best Buddies student volunteer organization. Served as liaison between student organization and campus administration, attended group meetings, assisted the treasurer with school funding, and provided additional support as needed, 2007-2009.
- Board Member, City Lights Classical and World Cinema Series. Served on selection committee, screened 16mm films, collaborated in planning bi-annual promotional program, 2003-2005.
- Board Member, Underground Film Series. Served on selection committee, screened 16mm films, invited and organized programs with guest filmmakers, 2003-2012.
- Peer-elected departmental representative for Communication and Culture Graduate and Professional Student Organization. Attended weekly meetings, served on health care committee, and distributed weekly updates. 2004-2005.
- Editorial Intern for the journal *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*. 2004-2006.

AWARDS

- Content Advisor/Co-producer for Regional Emmy Award winning short film *What’s in a Picture: Portrait of Mrs. Chinnery*, 2014.
- Jack G. Shaheen Scholarship in Media Studies, 2008.
- Teaching Award, Communication and Culture, Indiana University, 2007.
- Travel Grant, Department of Communication and Culture, Indiana University, 2005 and 2006.
- Art History Department Student Representative at the Annual Graduate Student Seminar at the Art Institute of Chicago, 2001.
- Travel Grant, Women’s Studies Program at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2000.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Alliance of Museums
- Association of Academic Museums and Galleries
- Association of Midwest Museums
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies