

15th Material Culture Symposium
for Emerging Scholars



HAZARDOUS OBJECTS

Function, Materiality, and Context

Saturday, April 28, 2018

At The Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library

Keynote Author Talk

On April 27, 2018 at the University of Delaware

Free and open to the public

For more information, visit:

www.materialculture.udel.edu/



Welcome

Welcome to *Hazardous Objects: Function, Materiality, and Context*, the Fifteenth Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars.

Organized by an interdisciplinary graduate student committee at the University of Delaware and co-sponsored by the Center for Material Culture Studies and Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, the symposium provides graduate students and up-and-coming scholars with a venue for cross-disciplinary conversations related to the study of material culture. First held in 2003, this is the oldest conference in the country dedicated to encouraging young scholars in their material culture research.

This year's symposium explores the idea of hazards. Whether on display in a museum, embedded in the environment, materially constituted, or shaped by culture, hazards and responses to hazards are part of daily life. Our program includes twelve papers that approach this theme from the diverse disciplinary perspectives of Art History, American Studies, History, English, Conservation, and Visual Studies. We are pleased to welcome commentators Bridget Killian, Catherine Morrissey, Nalleli Guillen, and Mariana Di Giacomo to this conversation. Dr. Alison Matthews David, Associate Professor in the School of Fashion at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario will deliver the keynote address. Thank you all for being here today, and we hope you enjoy the program.

Please use **#hazardousobjects** to join the conversation online

PROGRAM

8:15am **Registration**

8:45am **Welcome**

Symposium Co-Chairs; Erica Lome, Kiersten Mounce,
Allison Robinson, Victoria Sunnergren
Sandy Isenstadt and Martin Brückner

Co-Directors; Center for Material Culture Studies,
University of Delaware

9:00am **Panel 1: Hazardous Archives**

Chair: Bridget Killian, M.A. Student, Department of
Art History, University of Delaware

Alirio Karina

*'You've Been Bewitched!': On Taking Hazardous Materials
Seriously*

Jaimie Luria

*Diné 'Iikááh: Mediating Materiality and Meaning of
Navajo Sand Painting Imagery*

Zoe Weldon-Yochim

*Neutrons and Nationalism: Bonnie Devine, Uranium Mining,
and the Canadian Shield*

10:20am **Break**

*Please join us in the Visitor Center Garden Café for light
refreshments.*

10:40am **Panel 2: Hazardous Environments**

Chair: Catherine Morrissey, Assistant Director, Center for
Historic Architecture & Design, University of Delaware

Anna Lacy

*Home Dangerous Home: Mapping Nineteenth-Century
Household Accidents*

Jessica Larson

Shaping Constraint: The Architecture and Design of ADX Florence

Sarah Pickman

*Objects at the Edge: Negotiating the Extreme Environment
Through Material Culture*

12:00pm **Lunch**

Please feel free to take this time to explore Winterthur's gardens and exhibition galleries. Current exhibitions include Dining by Design: Nature Displayed on the Dinner Table and Eye on the Iconic: Honus Wagner and Sports Memorabilia in the galleries, as well as the outdoor exhibition Follies: Architectural Whimsey in the Garden. Garden Tours and Introductory Tours of the house are available for attendees in the afternoon.

1:30pm **Keynote Address:**

Deadly Matters: Fashion Victims and Accessories to Crime

Introduction: Sandy Isenstadt, Associate Professor of Art History, University of Delaware

Speaker: Dr. Alison Matthews David, Associate Professor in the School of Fashion at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario

2:30pm **Break**

2:45pm **Panel 3: Hazardous Materials**

Chair: Mariana Di Giacomo, Doctoral Candidate, PhD Program in Preservation Studies, University of Delaware

Roksana Filipowska

Replicating Toxicity: The Conservation of Plastics in Art

Stephanie Lampkin

Caution Tags, Tyvek Suits, and Respirators: Preserving a Museum Collection of DDT Pesticide

Elodie Roy

Detonating Compositions: Investigating Shellac Beyond the Gramophone Disc

4:00pm **Break**

4:20pm **Panel 4: Hazardous Objects**

Chair: Nalleli Guillen, Doctoral Candidate, History of American Civilization Program, History Department, University of Delaware

Joseph Larnerd

Cut Glass's Dishonorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, 1916

Theresa McCulla

Hazard at Tea: Silver and Spice as Resistant Commodities

Michael Doss

Dangerous Safety: Kurt Vonnegut's War Objects

5:30pm **Closing Remarks**

BIOGRAPHIES

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Alison Matthews David is an Associate Professor in the School of Fashion, Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. She was awarded a doctorate in Art History from Stanford University and has published on a range of topics around the history of dress and textiles in the long nineteenth century, including camouflage during WWI, Victorian riding habits, “mad” hatters and mercury poisoning, and “chromophobia” in Oscar Wilde’s use of the green carnation. Along with Dr. Ben Barry, she is co-editor of a new peer-reviewed open-access journal called Fashion Studies, which launches in May 2018. Her most recent research project, Fashion Victims, looked at how clothing physically harmed the health of its makers and wearers by transmitting contagious disease, leaching chemical toxins, and causing accidents, including entanglement and fire. The book Fashion Victims was published by Bloomsbury in 2015 and took the form of a major, co-curated exhibition at the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto (June 2014-April 2018). Fashion Victims has been translated into Russian and Mandarin and she is writing a version for the tween market. Her forensic research led her to continue her literal historical sleuthing and her current book and exhibition project, Unravelling Crime, investigate the theme of crime and clothing as weapon, evidence, and disguise.

PANELISTS

Michael Doss

PhD Student, Department of English, University of Delaware

Roksana Filipowska

PhD Candidate, Department of Art History with a Certificate in Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania

Alirio Karina

PhD Candidate, History of Consciousness (Critical Race and Ethnic Studies), University of California, Santa Cruz

Anna Lacy

PhD Candidate, History of American Civilization Program, Department of History, University of Delaware

Stephanie Lampkin

Museum Collections Manager, Science History Institute, Philadelphia, PA; PhD (2016), Department of History, University of Delaware

Joseph Larnerd

PhD Candidate, Department of Art and Art History, Stanford University

Jessica Larson

PhD Candidate, Department of Art History, City University of New York

Jaimie Luria

Museum Consultant, Jewish History Museum/Holocaust History Center, Tucson, Arizona; MA (2015), Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture

Theresa McCulla

Historian, American Brewing History Initiative, National Museum of American History; PhD (2017), Program in American Studies, Harvard University

Sarah Pickman

PhD Candidate, History of Science and Medicine Program, Department of History, Yale University

Elodie Roy

Lecturer, History and Theory of Culture Institute, Humboldt University, Berlin; PhD (2014) from the International Centre for Music Studies, School of Arts and Cultures, Newcastle University.

Zoe Weldon-Yochim

MA Student, Department of Art History, University of Delaware

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The continuing growth and success of this symposium would not be possible without the hard work, creativity, dedication, and generosity of many organizations and individuals. We wish to acknowledge the generous support of Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library and the following groups at the University of Delaware: the Center for Material Culture Studies, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture (WPAMC), the Museum Studies Program, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and the departments of History, Art History, English, and the Center for Historic Architecture and Design. This symposium is also partially funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Many people contributed their time and energy to this symposium, and we are grateful for their help. Sandy Isenstadt and Martin Brückner, our faculty advisors and Directors of the Center for Material Culture Studies, deserves special thanks for facilitating and promoting this symposium. The faculty vetting committee – Jennifer Van Horn (Art History) and Thomas Guiller (WPAMC) – read all of the proposals and narrowed the selection to those that were the most innovative, compelling, and appealing. We thank them for their work and the generous contribution of their time. We are grateful to

Jessica Venturi (English) for keeping our website accurate and up to date, and to Laura Schmidt for handling the financial end of things. We offer special thanks to Bridget Killian, Catherine Morrissey, Nalleli Guillen, and Mariana Di Giacomo for their comments. We thank Zara Anishanslin (History) for mediating the discussion with our keynote speaker. We also thank Lia Pignotti, an undergraduate student majoring in Visual Communications, for designing the program and promotional materials in collaboration with Professor Ashley John Pigford (Art).

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library deserves special thanks for generously donating the use of the Copeland Lecture Hall and waiving admission fees for all conference participants. We are grateful to the many Winterthur staff members who generously assisted us throughout the planning of the conference, especially Dennis Bisson and Kathy Young who assisted with technical aspects of the symposium and Lori Blevins-Myers who aided our facilities arrangements. We are particularly pleased to acknowledge the assistance of Chase Markee, Catharine Dann Roeber, Tom Guiler in the Office of Academic Programs, as well as Winterthur’s Executive Director, David P. Roselle. We would also like to welcome Director Elect Carol B. Cadou.

And finally, we would be remiss if we did not thank our fellow students who have given so freely of their time and energy to make this symposium a success. Thanks also to the fellows of the Winterthur Program who have volunteered to lead tours of Winterthur’s collection today. Thank you all for making this a truly interdisciplinary event.

Throughout the planning process we have felt a great debt to the previous co-chairs of this symposium. Our sincere thanks go to them for their vision and dedication.

Symposium Co-Chairs

- Erica Lome, American Civilization Program, Department of History
- Kiersten Mounce, Department of Art History
- Allison Robinson, The Winterthur Program in American Material Culture
- Victoria Sunnergren, Department of Art History



IMAGE CAPTIONS

- Front Cover: Original poster, Lia Pignotti. 2018
- Back Cover: Half skeletal/half fashionable male and female memento mori figurines, ca.1805-1810 (wax,cloth). Wellcome Collection. London.

