

Nancy Austin, Ph.D.

Interdisciplinary Historian of 19th c. Art and Design, Cultural Institutions, Educational Reform, and Women

Contact

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Education

Ph. D. 2009 Brown University, Department of the History of Art & Architecture

- “Towards a Genealogy of Culture at the Rhode Island School of Design, 1876-1896.”

M.A. Brown University, Department of the History of Art & Architecture

- “Naming the Landscape: Leisure Travel and the Demise of the Salon in France.”

B.A. Clark University, Chemistry and Mathematics (*double major*)

Teaching

Rhode Island School of Design, 1991-1999, 2003, 2008-2009

History of Industrial Design; Topics in Design History seminars; Undergraduate Advanced Design Studio on Interactive Appliances; Graduate Studio Seminars in Design History and Theory; Graduate Studio Thesis Advisor and Critic; Business & Professional Practice for graduating seniors; Guest Critic in Graphic Design and Architecture Studios.

Yale University, 1999-2001

History of Industrial Design; Thesis Critic, School of Architecture.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1985-1991

Modern Art; Modern Architecture; Modernism, Mass Culture, and the Avant-Garde; Aesthetic Theories; Advised 140 theses in the Humanities and 6 IQP - interdisciplinary theses in Technology & Culture Recognized for Student Advising, 1989,90,91.

Brown University, 1980-1983

Head Teaching Assistant for Art History Survey, 1983; Teaching Assistant for Art History Survey, 1980-82; Undergraduate Academic Advisor for Art Department, 1982-3.

Papers

“How to make \$1000: William Strickland, Margaret Fuller and the Panic of 1837,” *The Providence Athenaeum* (August 24, 2011).

Invited Session Respondent on “The Centennial of the Triangle Fire,” *National Council on Public History Annual Meeting* (April 8, 2011). [ncph.org]

“The Utopian Promise of 19th c. Design Schools for Women,” *A Trade School/OurGoods collaboration at the Whitney Museum of Art* (March 25, 2011). [tradeschool.ourgoods.org]

“Friendship at the Shack,” Lunch talk at the *American Academy in Rome* (February 23, 2011).

“Historic Signage as an Issue in Historic Preservation,” *Providence Preservation Society* (December 4, 2010).

“First Wave Feminism and the Ecology of Culture in Antebellum Rhode Island,” *First Annual Feminist Art History Conference, American University* (November 5, 2010). [austinalchemy.com/firstwavefeminism]

“Margaret Fuller in Rhode Island and the Greene Street School,” with Robert O. Jones, *The Providence Athenaeum* (October 1-3, 2010). This public program and companion walking tour was the RI contribution to the international bicentennial celebration of first-wave feminist, Margaret Fuller (1810-1850).

“Tommaso Cuccioni’s colossal Coliseum Photograph of 1859 in Context.” Guest-curated exhibition at *The Providence Athenaeum Rare Book Room*, with public lecture series and walking tour. (September 3, 8, 16, 23, 2010)

“Women and Social Entrepreneurship in American Design Education, 1848 – Now,” *International IDSA [Industrial Designers’ Society of America] Conference* (September 2009).

“Appliances as Performance Peripherals in the New Age of Cloud Computing,” *Yale University Material Culture Lecture Series* (December 4, 2008).

“Albert J. Jones: The New York Times’ Sculpture Critic in Italy, 1860-1876,” *City & the Book IV: Florence and the Americans*, Florence, Italy (October 12, 2008). [See TLS February 27, 2009: 15.]

“From Libraries to Museums: Print vs. Visual Culture in 19th c. Providence,” *The Providence Athenaeum* (September 26, 2008).

“The RISD Hybrid: Design and the Language of ‘Art’ at the Rhode Island School of Design, 1876-96,”
Winterthur Biennial Conference on “Rethinking Design” (2004).

Celebrity Guide for *Providence Gallery Night* (2004-present).

“‘What a beginning is worth’: The Women’s Centennial Committee of Rhode Island & the Founding of RISD, 1875-77.” *The American Seminar, John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization, Brown University* (2002).

“Founding Notions of Design at RISD,” *Founders Day Forum for RISD’s 125th Anniversary* (2002).

“Industrialization and the Language of Art and Design,” *College Art Association* (2001).

“Innovations in 19thc Concrete,” *John Earley Conference, Washington, D.C.* (2001).

“The Jones Bequest and the Meaning of a Museum in 1890s Providence,” *The Rhode Island Round Table, John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization, Brown University* (2000).

“Rhode Island Mills,” *Victorian Society’s Nineteenth Century Summer School* (1998).

“Early American Female Designers: Betsey Metcalf, Sophia Woodhouse, and Mary Dixon Kies,” *College Art Association Annual Conference -Women’s Caucus* (1996).

“The Mass-Produced Pen and Images of Writing in 19th c. America,” *American Antiquarian Society Seminar in American Art History* (1995).

“Traditions of Exposed Concrete in American Architecture,” *National Building Museum, Washington, D.C.* (1994).

Session Chair - “Tracing Usable Legacies: The Production of Art in Modern Consumer Societies,” *College Art Association Annual Conference* (1994).

“Educating American Designers for Industry, 1854-1903,” *American Antiquarian Society Conference on Education and the Commerce of Art in 19thc. America* (1993). Re-presented at the *Aldrich Roundtable on Business and Technology, Rhode Island Historical Society* (1997).

“The Rhetoric of Brutal Sincerity,” *International Association of Philosophy and Literature* (1992).

“The Nautical Analogy Revisited: Concrete Ships and 20thc. Architecture,” *Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference* (1992).

“Consumption Communities in the 1990s,” *College Art Association Annual Conference - Design Forum* (1992).

“Modernism on the Move: Constructing New Brutalism, 1953-59,” *Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference* (1991).

“Naming the Landscape: Leisure Travel and the Demise of the Salon,” *International Association of Philosophy and Literature Symposium on Art and Change* (May 1991).

Publications

[book review] “Andrew Saint, *Architect and Engineer: a Study in Sibling Rivalry*,” in *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (December 2009): 581-582.

“Off-Road: The GPS Guide to Cultural Tourism in New Haven's Yale Hospital, Oak Street Connector and Historic Orchard Street Synagogue Area. An Art Installation by Nancy Austin,” *The Cultural Heritage Artists Project of the Orchard Street Shul* (2009): 64-65.

[book review] “Kristina Wilson, *Livable Modernism*,” in *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (June 2006): 315-316.

[Three chapters in] *Infinite Radius: founding the Rhode Island School of Design*, ed. Andrew Martinez and Dawn Barrett. (2009): 171-242.

“Educating American Designers for Industry, 1853-1903,” in *The Cultivation of American Artists: Education and the Commerce of Art in 19th-century America*, ed. Diana Korzenik. (American Antiquarian Society, 1997): 187-206.

[book review] “Tower Block: Modern Public Housing in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland,” in *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (December 1995): 495-496.

“Naming the Landscape: Leisure Travel and the Demise of the Salon,” in *Transformations: The Languages of Personhood and Culture after Theory*, ed. Christie McDonald. (Penn State Press, 1994): 35-60.

[exhibition review] “Survivors: Trees of Bergen-Belsen.” *Views* (1993): 17-18.

“Charles Voysey” and “Miss Laurence Alma Tadema,” in *The Eighteen Nineties: An Encyclopedia of British Literature, Art, and Culture*, ed. George Cevasco. (Garland Press, 1993): 11-12, 653-654.

“New Content/New Form: Project-oriented Learning in the Introduction to Art History Course,” *FATE in Review - Foundations in Art: Theory and Education* (1992).

“Metaphor and Fact at Mid-Century: Manet and Contemporary History Painting.” and “Arabs on Voyage,” in *Edouard Manet and the Execution of Maximilian*, ed. Kermit Champa. (1981).

Internet Publications (2010 on)

[“The Rhode Island Art Association & the Ecology of Culture in Pre-Civil War Rhode Island,”](#) *Ecology of Culture dot Blogspot dot com* (September 2010).

[“Founding the American Academy in Rome,”](#) *AARome Blog* (May 24, 2010). [sofarome.wordpress.com]

[“Tracing the AAR’s First Twenty Years: The Villa Aurora,”](#) *AARome blog* (March 16, 2010).

[“Locative Media and the Possibility of Place,”](#) *Monthly Design Review* (February 2010).

Site Specific Art Installations (2008 on)

[Off-Road](#) (2009). An installation on historic synagogues, urban renewal and religious tolerance in America as part of the Orchard Street Shul Cultural Heritage Artists Project, New Haven, CT (Fall/Winter 2009-2010).

[AustinOffRoad.blogspot.com]

[Footnotes](#) (2008). A collaboration with Brooklyn-based artist Caroline Woolard for the juried show, Cryptic Providence. Austin exhibited an iteration of this project at the RISD, Museum of Art (2009).

[EcologyOfCultureRI.blogspot.com]