

Art History End-of-Year Celebration 2026

MAY 5TH, 2026

RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

15 SEMINARY PLACE, ACADEMIC BUILDING WEST

6TH FLOOR SEMINAR RM 6051



About the Art History Department's logo: the sun mosaic comes from the floor of Voorhees Hall, just inside the front door. Voorhees Hall was once Rutgers College's library. When it was built at the end of the nineteenth century, the architects included the sun mosaic as a reference to the college's motto, *Sol Iustitiae et Occidentem Illustra*, meaning "Sun of Justice, Shine also upon the West." This motto was a reference to the phrase on the seal of Utrecht University in the Netherlands, which reads *Sol Iustitiae Illustra Nos*, or "Sun of Justice, Shine Upon Us."



Upon arrival, please help yourself to lunch from the buffet

WELCOME

Professor Carla Yanni

Department Chair

Bachelor's Degrees and Undergraduate Awards

**Professor Jenevieve Delossantos Undergraduate
Program Director**

Master's Degrees and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees

**Professor Deniz Türker
Graduate Program Director**

Concluding Remarks

Professor Carla Yanni

For an online version of this program, scan here:



Graduates with a Bachelor's Degree
Majoring in Art History

NAMITA CHADHA

ARIEL DURYEE

LAILA FRIEDMAN

RIJUL JAIN

JACK LEHAN

RACHEL PIAZZA

SOPHIA REICH

LENA SKAGERLIND

BEBE SMITH

ARI TATUM

DEVAN YEE

Certificate in Architectural Studies

Rijul Jain

Bzdak Endowed Award for Travel to Italy

Fiona Uray

This annual award was established by Michael J. and Meredith Arms Bzdak (both of whom hold PhD's from our department) in 2006 to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students interested in studying in-person in Italy. The purpose of the travel award is to acquaint students with the rich early Christian and Renaissance art of Milan, as well as the city as a contemporary capital of design, style, and fashion. In exceptional cases, study to Rome may be funded through this award.

Patrick J. Quigley Memorial Scholarship

Jean Day

Cynthia Sitarz

This endowed scholarship was established by friends, colleagues, and business partners in memory of Patrick J. Quigley Rutgers College, '82, a victim of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, to provide financial assistance to students enrolled at Rutgers. Based on merit and need, the scholarship provides financial assistance in the senior year to two majors in Art History who are pursuing a college degree while working to support themselves.

The Liu Shiming Art Foundation Award for Undergraduate Art History

Majors

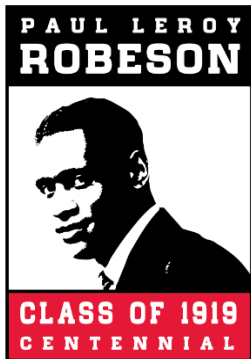
Jack Lehan

This award was created to honor and remember the works of Liu Shiming, revered 20th-century Chinese sculptor, with the goal of fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of Asian art forms in their global context. The recipient must be an outstanding student and a Rutgers Art History major.

Robeson Scholars

Undergraduate Honors in Art History

Undergraduates who complete departmental honors are known as Robeson Scholars. In 1919, scholar, athlete, singer, actor, and activist Paul Robeson graduated from Rutgers.



Ariel Duryee: Thresholds of Community: An Exploration of Milan's Historical "Case di Ringhiere" Courtyards and their Socio-spatial Potential in the Twenty-First Century (advisor: Deniz Türker)

Laila Friedman: Knights and Heraldry in a Jewish Context: An Examination of Four Folios of the Rothschild Pentateuch (advisors: Gary Rendsburg & Laura Weigert)

Jack Lehan: Open-Air Schools: Comparing the United States and European Approaches to Hygienic School Architecture Between 1900 and 1940 (advisor: Carla Yanni)

Rachel Piazza: A Liminal Space: Representations of Female Agency in the Bacchic Frieze of the Villa of the Mysteries (advisor: Erik Thunø)

Bebe Smith: François Auguste Biard and the Black Figure in Proclamation of the Abolition of Slavery in the French Colonies, 27 April 1848 (advisor: Jenevieve Delossantos)

Ari Tatum: Lady Su Hui and Women of Ming and Qing China (advisor: Tamara Sears)

Master's in Art History

Nicholas Sherbakov: *REBUILDING HISTORY: SOVIET POLITICAL POSTERS UNDER PERESTROIKA*

Master's in Art History with a concentration in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies

Irene Nguyen: *TAKING ROOT: THE VIETNAMESE HERITAGE GARDEN AND THE PRESERVATION OF DIASPORIC IDENTITY IN SAN JOSE*

Olivia Vroom: *REFRAMING AMERICAN ART: INDIGENOUS HERITAGE AND THE DIKER COLLECTION*

Max Malik McDonald: *NAGPRA'S 2024 REGULATIONS: HISTORY AND CONTEXT*

Audrey Gray: *THE METRO IN PARISIAN FOLKLORE: A HISTORY OF PARIS'S GUIMARD METRO ENTRANCES FROM MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE TO HERITAGE*

Winner of the Master's Student Merit and Achievement Award, School of Arts and Sciences, 2026

Doctor of Philosophy in Art History

Sophie Ong

TO HANG AND TO HOLD:

PENDANT JEWELS AND THE INTERACTIVE BODY IN THE LATE MIDDLE AGES

Advised by Laura Weigert

Isabella Weiss

VIBRANT SURFACES:

LANDSCAPE, MEADOWS, AND MEDIA IN LATE MEDIEVAL VALOIS COURTS

Advised by Laura Weigert

WINNER OF THE 2026 HARVEY WATERMAN MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE FROM THE SCHOOL OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES