

RACHEL KOUSSER
Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York
rkousser@gc.cuny.edu

EDUCATION

INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Ph.D., Art History, May 2001

Dissertation: "Sensual Power: A Warrior Aphrodite in Greek and Roman Sculpture" (advisers: Evelyn Harrison, Katherine Welch).

YALE UNIVERSITY

B.A., Classics and Art History (double major), May 1994: *Summa cum laude*

Latin Language Prize: 1991, 1994; Greek Language Prize: 1992, 1994

Senior Essay: "Death, Art, and Daily Life: An Essay in the Interpretation of Classical Athenian White-ground Lekythoi" (adviser: J. J. Pollitt). **Winner:** Mark Deitz Memorial Prize, Yale University, for original research by an undergraduate in the History of Art.

TEACHING POSITIONS

THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK, NY

Professor and Executive Officer, Ph.D. Program in Art History, June 2015-present

Member of the Doctoral Faculty, 2007-present (Art History), 2011-present (Classics)

BROOKLYN COLLEGE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK, NY

Professor, Art Department, 2014-present

Associate Professor with Tenure, Art Department, 2009-2014

Assistant Professor, Art Department, 2004-2009

FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE, LANCASTER, PA

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Classics, 2003-2004

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer, Department of Art History and Archaeology, 2001-2003

PUBLICATIONS

CURRENT PROJECT

Alexander at the End of the World.. Custom House/HarperCollins (forthcoming).

BOOKS

The Afterlives of Greek Sculpture: Interaction, Transformation, and Destruction. Cambridge University Press, 2017. **Winner:** Archaeological Institute of America Publication Subvention Award, 2015; **Shortlisted:** Runciman Book Award for a work on Greek history or culture, Anglo-Hellenic League.

Hellenistic and Roman Ideal Sculpture: The Allure of the Classical. Cambridge University Press, 2008 (hardback), 2014 (paperback).

BOOK CHAPTERS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES (Peer-Reviewed)

“The Mutilation of the Herms: Violence toward Sculptures in the Late Fifth Century B.C.” In Margaret M. Miles, ed., *Autopsy in Athens: Recent Archaeological Research on Athens and Attica*, Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2015, 76-84.

“A Sacred Landscape: The Creation, Maintenance, and Destruction of Religious Space in Roman Germany.” *Res: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 27/28 (2010): 120-139.

“Destruction and Memory on the Athenian Acropolis.” *The Art Bulletin* XCI.3 (2009): 263-282.

“Mythological Group Portraits in Antonine Rome: The Performance of Myth.” *American Journal of Archaeology* 111.4 (2007): 673-691.

“Creating the past: The Vénus de Milo and the Hellenistic Reception of Classical Greece.” *American Journal of Archaeology* 109.2 (2005): 227-50.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND CATALOGUE ESSAYS

“Mutilating goddesses: Aphrodite in Late Antique Aphrodisias.” In Julia Koch and Christina Jacobs, eds., *Prähistorische und antike Göttinnen*. Frauen-Forschung-Archäologie vol. 12 (2017), 119-134.

“Monument and Memory in Ancient Greece and Rome: A Comparative Perspective.” In Karl Galinsky and Kenneth Lapatin, eds., *Cultural Memories in the Roman Empire*. Los Angeles: Getty Publications, 2015, 33-48.

“Adapting Greek Art.” In Barbara Borg, ed., *Blackwell Companion to Roman Art*. Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Blackwell, 2015, 114-129.

“The Roman Reception of Greek Art and Architecture.” In Clemente Marconi, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Art and Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014, 374-394.

“The Female Nude in Classical Art: Between Voyeurism and Power.” In Christine Kondoleon and Phoebe Segal, eds. *Aphrodite and the Gods of Love*. exh. cat. Boston: Museum of Fine Arts, 2011, 149-166.

“Hellenistic and Roman Art, 221 BC-AD 337.” In Joseph Roisman and Ian Worthington, eds. *Blackwell Companion to Ancient Macedonia*. Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Blackwell, 2010, 522-542.

“Augustan Aphrodites: The Allure of Greek Art in Roman Visual Culture.” In Sadie Pickup and Amy Smith, eds., *Brill's Companion to Aphrodite*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2010, 287-306.

“Conquest and Desire: Roman *Victoria* in Public and Provincial Sculpture.” In Sheila Dillon and Katherine Welch, eds., *Representations of War in Ancient Rome*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006, 218-243.

“From Conquest to Civilization: The Rhetoric of Imperialism in the Early Principate.” In Jean-Jacques Aubert and Zsuzsanna Várhelyi, eds. *A Tall Order: Writing the Social History of the Roman World. Essays in Honor of William Harris*. Saur Verlag, *Beiträge zur Altertumskunde*, Band 216, 2005, 183-200.

“The World of Aphrodite in Late Fifth Century Vase Painting.” In Clemente Marconi, ed., *Greek Vases: Images, Contexts, and Controversies*. New York: Columbia Studies in the Classical Tradition, 2004, 97-112.

HONORS AND AWARDS (selected)

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (2011-12)

Getty Research Institute Senior Fellowship (2011)

Center for Hellenic Studies Non-Residential Fellowship (2010-11)

Center for the Advanced Study of the Visual Arts, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellowship (2010)

Whiting Foundation Fellowship for Outstanding Teaching in the Humanities (2007-08)

Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Berlin (2006)

PSC-CUNY Research Award, CUNY Research Foundation (2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014)

Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Fellowship, Mainz (2002, 2003)

TALKS (selected)

INVITED LECTURES

"The Remarkable Career of the Aphrodite Anadyomene."
North Carolina Museum of Art, 2018.

"Of Elephants and Kings: The Materiality of Power in Hellenistic Macedonia."
Bard Graduate Center, 2018.

“The Red and the Black: Materiality in Hellenistic Sculpture.”
Greek and Roman Seminar, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 2017.

“Sculptures and Ritual in Ancient Greece.”
Rehak Symposium, University of Kansas, 2017.

“*Ek tou Melanthos Lithou*: The Materiality of Dark Stone Sculptures in Ptolemaic Egypt.”
University of Pennsylvania, 2016.

“The Afterlives of Sculptures in Ancient Greece.”
Julius Fund Lecture in Ancient Art History, Case Western Reserve University, 2015.

“*Damnatio Memoriae* in Hellenistic Athens.”

Institute of Fine Arts, Symposium in Honor of Evelyn Harrison, 2014.

“The Use and Abuse of Images in Ancient Greece.”
Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, University of California at Los Angeles, 2012.

“Aphrodite and the Female Nude.”
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2011.

“The Aesthetics and Facture of “Voodoo Dolls” in Classical Athens.”
Department of Art History, University of California at Berkeley, 2011.

“The Living Image: Ancient and Modern Approaches to Iconoclasm.”
Center for the Advanced Study of the Visual Arts, 2010.

“Monument and Memory in Ptolemaic Alexandria.”
Classics colloquium, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 2009.

“Inventing the Past in Pergamon and Alexandria.”
Columbia University Classical Seminar, 2008.

“Augustan Aphrodites: The Allure of Greek Art in Roman Visual Culture.”
University of Reading, 2008.

“The Parthenon as Palimpsest: Destruction and Memory on the Athenian Acropolis.”
Columbia University, 2007.

“The Allure of the Classical: The Vénus de Milo and the Hellenistic Invention of Classical Art.”
Daniel H. Silberberg Lecture, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 2005.

"Emulation and Appropriation in the Forum of Trajan."
University of Washington, 2004.

“Aphrodite in the Baths: *Humanitas* and *Otium* in Roman Asia Minor.”
Tulane University, 2003.

"The World of Aphrodite in Late Fifth Century Vase Painting."
Columbia University, 2002.

"Representing Female Desire: Portraits of Roman Couples as Mars and Venus."
Harvard University, 2001.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Chryselephantine Couches from Macedonia and the Materiality of Power."
Archaeological Institute of America, 2019.

"Alexander the Great, the Burning of Persepolis, and the Destruction of Cultural Heritage."
Archaeological Institute of America, 2018.

“Representing Royal Power: A Dark Stone Queen from Ptolemaic Egypt.”
Archaeological Institute of America, 2016.

“The Mutilation of the Herms: Violence toward Images in the Late Fifth Century B.C.”
Archaeological Institute of America, 2014.

“The Recycling and Restoration of Funerary Monuments in Late Classical Athens.”
College Art Association, 2013.

“Hellenistic *Damnatio Memoriae*: Recarved Ruler Portraits from Ptolemaic Egypt.”
Archaeological Institute of America, 2013.

“Memories of Greece, Souvenirs of Egypt: The Visual Culture of Expatriates in Hellenistic Alexandria.” College Art Association, 2009.

“Colossal Power: Scale as Metaphor in Hellenistic Ruler Portraits.”
TAG-New York, 2008.

“Destroying Sacred Space: Iconoclasm in Roman Germany.”
Archaeological Institute of America, 2007.

“Representing Sensual Power: A Classical Statue of Aphrodite in Corinth.”
Archaeological Institute of America, 2006.

“The Classical Female Viewer Looks at Marriage: Reading the Eretria Painter's Epinetron.”
Archaeological Institute of America, 2003.

“The Victory of Love: A New Interpretation of the Aphrodite of Melos in its Original Context.”
Archaeological Institute of America, 2002.

“Constructing a Roman Imperial Identity: Victoria on Public and Private Monuments.”
College Art Association, 2001.

“Representing Female Desire: Portraits of Roman Couples as Mars and Venus.”
Archaeological Institute of America, 2001.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Academic Review Committee Member. CUNY Graduate Center (2016-present).

Executive, Admissions, and Fellowships Committee Member. Ph.D. Program in Art History, CUNY Graduate Center (2015-present).

Executive Committee Member. Ph.D. Program in Classics, CUNY Graduate Center (2013-2015).

Co-Leader. Columbia University Center for the Ancient Mediterranean tour of southern Greece, 2015; tour of western Turkey, 2008.

Appointments Committee Member. Art department, Brooklyn College (2014-2015).

Co-Organizer. "The Afterlives of Monuments. Re-use and Transformation in the Ancient World." Archaeological Institute of America Colloquium Session, 2013.

Board Member, Program Co-chair, Nominations Chair. Archaeological Institute of America, New York Society. (2007-2010)

Co-Organizer "The Ancient Art of Empire: New Approaches to Classical Culture." College Art Association Session, 2003.

Co-Organizer. "Visual Vocabularies in the Ancient Mediterranean." Columbia University, Center for the Ancient Mediterranean, 2002.

Participant. American Numismatic Society Graduate Seminar (1998)
Participated in summer seminar on numismatic methodology and scholarship.

Participant. American Academy of Rome Classical Summer School (1997)
Participated in intensive six-week course in Roman monuments and topography.

Research Assistant. Archive, Samothrace excavations (1996-1998)
Edited sixth edition of guide to Samothrace, compiled bibliography for guide, assisted in archival work.

Excavation Team Member. Samothrace excavations (1995, 1996)
Supervised excavations, recorded and analyzed field data, examined and compiled written reports on sculptural and architectural material from Samothrace excavations.

Museum Intern. Yale University Art Gallery (1992-1994)
Catalogued Yale's collection of Roman glass from Dura-Europos. Verified measurements and descriptions, researched parallel artworks, wrote new labels for glass on display.

LANGUAGES

Ancient **Greek** and **Latin** (reading knowledge)

French, German, Spanish, and Italian (fluent speaking and reading knowledge)