

## Michael Zell

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### EDUCATION

Harvard University	Ph.D., Fine Arts	1986-94
University College London	Work toward Ph.D.	1984-86
McGill University	B.A., Honors Art History	1981-84
John Abbott Cégep	D.E.C., Commerce	1979-81

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

#### **Boston University**

*Associate Professor*, Department of History of Art & Architecture  
2002-present

*Assistant Professor*, Art History Department  
1996-2002

#### **Sonoma State University**

*Assistant Professor*, Department of Art  
1994-1996

### SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, and GRANTS

Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship, Boston University Center for the Humanities	2017-18
Faculty Award, Graduate Student History of Art & Architecture Association, Boston University	2015
Funding Award for Historians of Netherlandish Art Conference (co-applicant), Boston University Center for the Humanities	2014
Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship, Humanities Foundation Society of Fellows, Boston University	2009-10
Faculty Award, Graduate Student Art History Association, Boston University	2005
National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellowship	2003
Distinguished Teaching Award, Honors Program, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University	2002

Book Publication Grant, Samuel H. Kress Foundation	2001
Frank and Lynne Wisneski Award for Excellence in Teaching, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University	2001
Undergraduate Teaching Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University	2000
Appreciation Award, Graduate Student Art History Association, Boston University	2000
Junior Fellow, Humanities Foundation Society of Fellows, Boston University	1998-99
Canada Council Grant for Research in the Humanities & Social Sciences	1987
Commonwealth Scholarship, British Council	1984-86

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Rembrandt, Vermeer, and the Gift in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art* (Amsterdam University Press, publication in 2021)

*Reframing Rembrandt: Jews and the Christian Image in Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 2002

### Edited Volumes

*Ut Pictura Amor: The Reflexive Imagery of Love in Artistic Theory and Practice, 1500-1700*, co-edited with Walter Melion and Joanna Woodall. *Intersections: Interdisciplinary Studies in Early Modern Culture*. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2017

*Rethinking Rembrandt*, co-edited with Alan Chong. Zwolle, The Netherlands: Waanders, 2002

### Articles and Essays

“Against the Mirror: Rembrandt's 'Woman Bathing in a Stream' and the Poetics of Painting,” in progress

“The Mirror as Rival: Metsu, Mimesis, and Amor in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Genre Painting,” in *Ut Pictura Amor: The Reflexive Imagery of Love in Artistic Theory and Practice, 1500-1700*, edited by Walter Melion, Joanna Woodall, and Michael Zell. *Intersections: Interdisciplinary Studies in Early Modern Culture*, pp. 371-410. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2017

“Introduction,” co-written with Walter Melion and Joanna Woodall, in *Ut Pictura Amor: The Reflexive Imagery of Love in Artistic Theory and Practice, 1500-1700*, edited by Walter

Melion, Joanna Woodall, and Michael Zell. *Intersections: Interdisciplinary Studies in Early Modern Culture*. pp. 1-26. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2017

“Graphic Images: Rembrandt’s Printed Nudes,” in *The Naked Truth: Drawing from Nude Models in the Golden Age*, exhibition catalogue (Rembrandthuis Museum, Amsterdam, 2016), pp. 87-99 and 168-170 (also published in a Dutch edition, *Rembrandts naakte waarheid: Tekenen naar naaktmodellen in de gouden eeuw*)

“*Liefde baart kunst*: Vermeer’s Poetics of Painting,” *Simiolus* 35 (2011), pp. 142-164

“Rembrandt’s Gifts: A Case Study of Actor-Network-Theory,” *JHNA (Journal of Historians of Netherlandish Art)* 3:2 (Summer 2011)

“Landscape’s Pleasures: The Gifted Drawing in the Seventeenth Century,” in *In His Milieu: Essays on Netherlandish Art in Memory of John Michael Montias*, edited by Amy Golahny, Mia M. Mochizuki, and Lisa Vergara, pp. 483-494. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2006

“A Leisurely and Virtuous Pursuit: Amateur Artists, Rembrandt, and Landscape Representation in Seventeenth-Century Holland,” *Nederlands Kunsthistorisch Jaarboek* 54 (2003), pp. 335-368

“The Gift Among Friends: Rembrandt’s Art in the Network of His Patronal and Social Relations.” In *Rethinking Rembrandt*, edited by Alan Chong and Michael Zell, pp. 173-194. Zwolle, The Netherlands: Waanders, 2002

“Eduard Kolloff and the Historiographic Romance of Rembrandt and the Jews,” *Simiolus* 28 (2000-2001), pp. 181-197

“Encountering Difference: Rembrandt’s *Presentation in the Dark Manner*,” *Art History* 23, no. 4 (2000), pp. 496-521

## Reviews

“Reviews of Nicola Suthor, *Rembrandt’s Roughness* (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2018); Stephanie Shrader, ed., with contributions by Catherine Glynn, Yael Rice, and William W. Robinson, *Rembrandt and the Inspiration of India*, exh. cat. (The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, 2018.); and Larry Silver, *Rembrandt’s Holland* (London: Reaktion Books, 2018),” *HNA Reviews* (March, 2019)

“Review of *Rembrandt and the Aesthetics of Technique*,” *CAA.Reviews*, 2007

“Review of H. Perry Chapman, *Rembrandt’s Self-Portraits: A Study in Seventeenth-Century Identity* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990),” *RACAR* 17 (1990), pp. 83-86

## **Book in Progress**

*The Poetics of the Mirror and the Image of the Beloved in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Painting*

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PAPERS AND PUBLIC LECTURES**

*Historians of Netherlandish Art Conference*, Ghent, Belgium, May 26, 2018

“Rembrandt’s *Woman Bathing* of 1654: The Poetics of the Mirror and the Image of the Beloved in Dutch Painting”

*Seventeenth-Century Dutch Drawings at the Harvard Art Museums Study Day*, Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA, November 3, 2017

“Dutch Amateur Landscape Drawings”

*Renaissance Society of America Conference*, Chicago, March 31, 2017

“For the Love of Art, not Money: Vermeer and the Poetics of the Gift”

*Rembrandt and the Jews Symposium*, Yeshiva University Museum, Straus Center for Jewish History, New York, September 11, 2016

“Rembrandt, Menasseh ben Israel, and the Presentation in the Temple”

*The Dutch Golden Age Lecture Series*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, December 16, 2015

“Critical Fortunes of Rembrandt and Vermeer”

*Lovis Corinth Colloquium ‘Ut pictura amor’: The Reflexive Imagery of Love in Artistic Theory and Practice, 1400-1700*, Emory University, Atlanta, October 30, 2015

“The Mirror as Rival: Metsu, Mimesis, and Amor in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Genre Painting”

*Rembrandt and Religion: Jews, Christians, and the Bible in the Art of Rembrandt and His Circle*

“Rembrandt and Menasseh ben Israel,” Queen’s University, Kingston, Canada, October 29, 2014

*Renaissance Society of America Conference*, New York, March 26, 2014

“Graphic Images: Rembrandt’s Printed Nudes”

Tufts University, Department of Art and Art History, December 3, 2013

“Rembrandt and the Gift in Seventeenth-Century Holland”

*Rembrandthuis Museum*, Amsterdam, July 23, 2013

“Rembrandt’s Art as Gift”

*New Directions in the Study of Rembrandt and His Circle*, Queen’s University Study Center

at Herstmonceux Castle, England, July 20, 2013  
 “Actor-Network-Theory and Rembrandt’s Gifts”

*Council of Independent Colleges-Kress Seminar* “Dutch Art, Patrons, and Markets,”  
 High Museum of Art, Atlanta, June 27, 2013  
 “Rembrandt and Vermeer in the Mauritshuis”

*Rembrandt and His Circle*, Queen’s University Study Center at Herstmonceux Castle,  
 England, July 22, 2011  
 “Rembrandt’s *Woman Bathing* (1654): Aporia and the Limits of the  
 Iconographic Method”

*Rembrandt and His Circle*, Queen’s University Study Center at Herstmonceux Castle,  
 England, July 23, 2011  
 “Rembrandt and Landscape Drawing as an Amateur Practice”

*Disputing the Global: Art History’s Future*, Tufts University, October 29, 2010  
 Invited discussant

*Historians of Netherlandish Art Conference*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, May 25, 2010  
 “Rembrandt’s Gifts: A Case Study of Actor-Network-Theory”

*CAA Conference*, Chicago, February 12, 2010  
 “Vermeer’s Poetics of Painting”

*Expanding the Field of Rembrandt Studies*, Queen’s University Study Center at Herstmonceux  
 Castle, England, June 26, 2009  
 Presentation in the Panel “Patrons, Dealers, and the Marketplace”

*Musée d’Art et d’Histoire du Judaïsme*, Paris, France, June 3, 2007  
 “Rembrandt and the Jews: Looking Again”

*Dartmouth College*, Hanover, New Hampshire, April 22, 2006  
 “Rembrandt’s Printed Gifts”

*J. Paul Getty Museum*, Los Angeles, August 4, 2005  
 “Rembrandt’s Art as Gift”

*CAA Conference*, Seattle, February 20, 2004  
 “Profit or Pleasure? Drawing Landscapes in the Seventeenth Century”

*Mediators: Medium and Its Messages*, Boston University, March 8, 2003  
 “Graphemes”

*CAA Conference*, Philadelphia, February 22, 2002  
 “Rembrandt’s Portraits as Gifts”

*Sixteenth Century Studies Conference*, Denver, October 27, 2001

“Landscape, *Liefhebbers* and Amateurs in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art: A Leisurely Pursuit of Pleasure”

*Sixteenth Century Studies Conference*, Cleveland, November 2, 2000

“Encountering Difference: Rembrandt’s *Presentation in the Dark Manner*”

*Rethinking Rembrandt*, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, October 14, 2000

“The Gift Among Friends: Rembrandt’s Art in the Network of His Patronal and Social Relations”

*CAA Conference*, New York, February 26, 2000

“Eduard Kolloff and the Historiographic Romance of Rembrandt and the Jews”

*CAA Conference*, Boston, February 24, 1996

“The Old Testament Reformed: Rembrandt’s *Christ and the Woman of Samaria* of 1657-58”

## **SYMPOSIA ORGANIZATION and CURATORSHIP**

*Co-chair*, “The Affective and Hermeneutic Functions of the Self-Aware Picture,” *HNA Conference*, Amsterdam, June 2021

*Co-chair*, “Late Rembrandt in Review and in Context Panel,” *Renaissance Society of America Conference*, Boston, March 31, 2016

*Co-chair*, “‘Ut pictura amor’: The Reflexive Imagery of Love in Artistic Theory and Practice, 1500-1700, Emory University, Atlanta, October 29-31, 2015

*Liaison and Executive Committee Member*, Historians of Netherlandish Art and American Association of Netherlandic Studies Conference, Boston University, June 5-7, 2014

*Co-organizer*, symposium “Mediators: Medium and its Messages,” Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and Boston University, March 7-8, 2003

*Co-chair*, symposium *Rethinking Rembrandt*, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, October 14, 2000

*Co-curator*, “Lifeworld: Portrait and Landscape in Netherlandish Prints, 1550-1650,” Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, October 30, 1999 - January 23, 2000

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

*Member*, Board of Advisors, Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, 2019-ongoing. Three-year term.

## **PEER REVIEWER ACTIVITIES**

*The Art Bulletin*, 2019 (manuscript reviewer)

*Jewish Quarterly Review*, 2016 (manuscript reviewer)

MIT, 2015 (tenure reviewer)

National Humanities Center, 2012 (long-term fellowship reviewer)

Ashgate Press, 2012 (manuscript reviewer)

Oxford University Press, 2012 (manuscript reviewer)

*JHNA* (Journal of Historians of Netherlandish Art), 2010 (manuscript reviewer)

University of Chicago Press, 2004 (manuscript reviewer)

University of California Press, 2004 (manuscript reviewer)

## **SELECTED UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

*Acting Chair*, Department of History of Art & Architecture, Boston University, Spring 2020

*Associate Chair*, Department of History of Art & Architecture, Boston University, 2014-2017, 2010-2011, 2005-2009

*Executive Committee*, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2013-2016

*Classroom Renovation Committee*, Boston University, 2015-2016

*Chair, Latin American Search Committee*, Department of History of Art & Architecture, Boston University, 2012-2013

*Chair, Islamic Search Committee*, Department of History of Art & Architecture, Boston University, 2005

*Director of Graduate Admissions*, Department of History of Art & Architecture, Boston University, spring 2004

*Greek Search Committee*, Department of History of Art & Architecture, Boston University, 2003-2004

*Director of Museum Studies*, Department of History of Art & Architecture, Boston University, 2001-2002

*Humanities Curriculum Committee*, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, Fall 2001

*Director of Graduate Studies*, Department of History of Art & Architecture, Boston University, 1999-2000

*Renaissance Search Committee*, Department of History of Art & Architecture, Boston University, 1997-1998