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EMPLOYMENT

1985-present

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Department of History of Art & Architecture,
College of Arts and Sciences and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

*Associate Professor, Late Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century European
Art (since 1995-96)*

Director of Graduate Admissions (since 2004-05)

EDUCATION

1976-1986

INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

New York, New York

Ph.D. February 1986

*Dissertation: "Le Peuple de Dieu: Old Testament Motifs of
Legislation, Prophecy and Exile in French Art between the
Empires"*

Advisor: Robert Rosenblum. Readers: Gert Schiff and Linda Nochlin.

M.A. June 1978

1972-1976

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, Middlebury, Vermont

B.A. May 1976

*Honors: cum laude; departmental high honors (Art); Middlebury College
Religion Department Award for Biblical Studies; and Phi Beta Kappa.*

BOOKS

Loss in French Romantic Art, Literature, and Politics. New York and
London: Routledge, 2022 (released September 30, 2021).

*Broken Tablets: The Cult of the Law in French Art from David to
Delacroix.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

REFEREED

JOURNAL

ARTICLES

"Resistance and Persistence: On the Fortunes and Reciprocal
International Influences of French Romanticism." *Studies in Romanticism*

57, no. 4 (Winter 2018): 505-38.

"John Ruskin, Philip Henry Gosse, William Dyce, and the Contemplation of Time at Mid-Century." *The British Art Journal* 18, no. 3 (Winter 2017/2018): 70-77.

"The Spectre of Invasion, from the French Revolution to the Channel Tunnel." *The British Art Journal* 18, no. 1 (2017): 3-11.

"L'Année terrible Viewed by John Tenniel." *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide* 15, no. 1 (Spring 2016).

<http://www.19thc-artworldwide.org/index.php/spring16/ribner-on-l-annee-terrible-viewed-by-john-tenniel>

"The London Sublime." *The British Art Journal* 16, no. 2 (Autumn 2015): 76-88.

"On a Repainting by Millet." *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide* 13, no. 1 (Spring 2014).

<http://www.19thcartworldwide.org/index.php/spring14/ribner-on-a-repainting-by-millet>

"John Martin's Twin Pursuits." *The British Art Journal* 11, no. 2 (2010/11): 36-42.

"The Thames and Sin in the Age of the Great Stink: Some Artistic and Literary Responses to a Victorian Environmental Crisis." *The British Art Journal* 1, no. 2 (Spring 2000): 38-46.

"Our English Coasts, 1852: William Holman Hunt and Invasion Fear at Midcentury." *Art Journal* 55, no.2 (Summer 1996): 45-54.

"Chassériau's Juvenilia: Some Early Works by an *enfant du siècle*." *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte* 57, no. 2 (1994): 219-38.

"Henri de Triqueti, Auguste Préault and the Glorification of Law under the July Monarchy," *The Art Bulletin* 70, no. 3 (Sept. 1988): 486-501.

"H.H. Richardson and the Hotel Brunswick," *Marsyas, Studies in the History of Art* 21 (1981-1982): 47-49.

**EXHIBITION
CATALOG ESSAY**

"The Poetics of Pollution." In *Turner Whistler Monet*, edited by Katharine Lochnan, John House, and Sylvie Patin, 51-63, with catalog entry on p. 112. Toronto: Art Gallery of Ontario, London: Tate Britain, and Paris:

Réunion des musées nationaux/Musée d'Orsay, 2004.

CHAPTERS IN
COLLECTED
CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS

“Théodore Chassériau and the Anti-Heroic Mode under the July Monarchy.” In *Chassériau (1819-1856). Un autre romantisme*, Actes du colloque organisé par le Musée du Louvre, le 16 mars 2002, edited by Stéphane Guégan and Louis-Antoine Prat, 11-38. Paris: La Documentation française / Musée du Louvre, 2002.

“Law and Justice in England and France: The View from Victorian London.” In *Law and the Image: The Authority of Art and the Aesthetics of Law*, edited by Costas Douzinas and Lynda Nead, 178-99. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

“Wandering in the Wilderness under Louis-Philippe.” In *Moving Forward, Holding Fast: The Dynamics of Nineteenth-Century French Culture*, edited by Barbara T. Cooper and Mary Donaldson-Evans, 131-50. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1997.

“Paintings of Terrorized *parlementaires* for the Bourbon Conseil d'état.” In *The Play of Terror in Nineteenth-Century France*, edited by Allan H. Pasco and John T. Booker, 58-73. Newark: University of Delaware Press and London: Associated University Presses, 1997.

EXHIBITION AND
BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *Delacroix*, by Sébastien Allard and Côme Fabre, with contributions by Dominique de Font-Réaulx, Michèle Hannoosh, Mehdi Korchane, and Asher Miller. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2018, *caa.reviews*, May 2, 2019. [http://caareviews.org/reviews/3519 -.XMsxpBRKiUk](http://caareviews.org/reviews/3519-.XMsxpBRKiUk)

Review of *Courbet: Mapping Realism: Paintings from the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium and American Collections*, edited by Jeffrey Howe. Chestnut Hill, MA: McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, in association with the University of Chicago Press, 2013, *caa.reviews*, April 4, 2014. <http://www.caareviews.org/reviews/2226>

Review of *Degas and the Nude*, by George T.M. Shackelford and Xavier Rey, with contributions by Lucian Freud, Martin Gayford, and Anne Roquebert. Boston: MFA Publications, 2011, *caa.reviews*, August 16, 2012. <http://www.caareviews.org/reviews/1855#.YWskOi-B1pQ>

Review of *Picasso Looks at Degas*, by Elizabeth Cowling and Richard Kendall. Williamstown, MA: Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute and Barcelona: Museu Picasso, 2010, *caa.reviews* (January 6, 2011).

http://www.caareviews.org/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search_query=Picasso+Looks+at+Degas

Review of *James Tissot: Victorian Life/Modern Love*, by Nancy Rose Marshall and Malcolm Warner. New York and New Haven: American Federation of Arts and Yale Center for British Art, in association with Yale University Press, 1999, *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 29, Nos.3 and 4 (Spring-Summer 2001): 341-43.

Review of *The Glory of Van Gogh: An Anthropology of Admiration*, by Nathalie Heinich, translated by Paul Leduc Browne. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996, *American Historical Review* (Oct. 1997): 1178-79.

Review of *Building Paris: Architectural Institutions and the Transformation of the French Capital, 1830-1870*, by David Van Zanten. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994, *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 24, nos. 1 and 2 (Fall-Winter, 1995-96): 249-50.

Review of *Jacques-Louis David: Art in Metamorphosis*, by Dorothy Johnson. Princeton Series in Nineteenth-Century Art, Culture, and Society. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993, *American Historical Review* (December 1995): 1586.

Review of *As Befits a Legend: Building a Tomb for Napoleon, 1840-1861*, by Michael Paul Driskel. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1993, *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 23, nos. 3 and 4 (Spring-Summer, 1995): 539-40.

Review of *In the Theater of Criminal Justice: The Palais de Justice in Second Empire Paris*, by Katherine Fischer Taylor. Princeton Series in Nineteenth-Century Art, Culture, and Society. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993, *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 23, nos. 1 and 2 (Fall-Winter, 1994-95): 280-81.

Review of *Representing Belief: Religion, Art, and Society in Nineteenth-Century France*, by Michael Paul Driskel. University Park: Penn State University Press, 1992, *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 22, nos. 1 and 2 (Fall-Winter, 1993-94): 282-83.

Review of *Fictions of the French Revolution*, edited by Bernadette Fort. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1991; *The Twilight of the Goddesses: Women and Representation in the French Revolutionary Era*, by Madelyn Gutwirth. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992;

and *The Family Romance of the French Revolution*, by Lynn Hunt. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992, *Art Journal* 52, no. 3 (Fall 1993): 88-91.

"The Grand Prix de Rome at the National Academy of Design," review of *The Grand Prix de Rome, Paintings from the École des Beaux-Arts, 1797-1863*. National Academy of Design, New York City, *Arts Magazine* (March 1984): 124-25.

"Gregory Dru," review of *Tableau Portraits*. Soho Photo Gallery, New York City, *Arts Magazine* (March 1983): 17.

"Copenhagen's French Masterpieces," review of *Gauguin and Masterpieces from Ordrupgaard of Copenhagen*. Musée Marmottan Monet, Paris, *Arts Magazine* (December 1981): 156-57.

"An Exhibition of Drawings by Chassériau at the Louvre," review of *Revoir Chassériau*. Musée du Louvre, Paris, *Arts Magazine* (April 1981): 148-49.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Legacies of Loss: From Disenchantment to Transcendence," 45th Annual Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium, Florida State University and the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL, October 31-November 2, 2019.

"The Art of Medicine," Tristar Clinical Medicine Conference, Beaver Creek, CO, January 22-25, 2018.

"Learning to See," Tristar Clinical Medicine Conference, Beaver Creek, CO, January 23-26, 2017.

"Cross-Channel Intervention during the Terrible Year," *Interventionist Art Symposium*, sponsored by the Art History Association, SUNY at New Paltz, April 14, 2011.

"The London Sublime," in *Open Eyes and Open Mind: The Art History of Robert Rosenblum: A Symposium in Honor of the 50th Anniversary of Robert Rosenblum's Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University*, New York University, New York City, October 13-14, 2006.

"Imagining Purity in the Age of the Great Stink," in the symposium *Turner, Whistler, Monet – Aesthetics, Pollution and the City*, Tate Britain, London, April 15-16, 2005.

"Danger across the Water: Painting, Pollution and Prostitution in Nineteenth-Century London and Paris," in the symposium *Impressionism and the Aesthetics of Pollution*, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, June 18-19, 2004.

"Three Concepts of Time from the Autumn of Natural Theology," in the symposium *Pre-Raphaelitism and Science*, Tate Britain, London, March 19, 2004.

"Théodore Chassériau and the Anti-Heroic Mode under the July Monarchy," in the symposium *Théodore Chassériau (1819-1856): Un autre romantisme*, Musée du Louvre, Paris, March 16, 2002.

"Issues in Nineteenth-Century Religious Art," in the panel discussion *Picturing Piety: Encounters between Religion and Art*, The Jewish Museum, New York City, December 2, 2001.

Panel discussant in *Channel Crossings: Britain, France and the Tradition of Artistic Exchange*, Annual Meeting of the College Art Association, Chicago, March 1, 2001.

"Ruskin and Baudelaire: Perpendicular Lives," Annual Meeting of the College Art Association, New York City, February 24, 2000.

"A French Lesson': The Siege of Paris and the Commune Viewed from London," 24th Annual Meeting of the Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, October 22-25, 1998.

"The Autumn of Natural Theology," in the conference *Science and the Visual Imagination in the Nineteenth Century*, The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, May 29-30, 1998.

"Victorian Water: Images of Purity and Filth from the Age of the Great Stink," Annual Meeting of the College Art Association, New York City, February 15, 1997.

"Symmetrical Shams: French Laws Viewed from England," *The Art of Justice: Aesthetics, Images, Laws*, a conference sponsored by the Tate Gallery and the Departments of Art History and of Law, Birkbeck College, University of London, Tate Gallery, London, February 16-17, 1996.

"Wandering in the Wilderness under Louis-Philippe," 21st Annual Meeting of the Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies,

University of Delaware, Wilmington, DE, October 19-22, 1995.

"*Our English Coasts, 1852: William Holman Hunt and Invasion Fear at Mid-Century*," Pre-Raphaelite Symposium, Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE, September 22-23, 1995.

"Providence, Virtue, and the Legislator: A Posthumous Dialogue between Bossuet and Fénelon," 18th Annual Conference of the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Fordham University, New York City, October 6-9, 1994.

"By the Waters of Babylon: Patriotism and Exile under the July Monarchy," 20th Annual Meeting of the Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara, October 20-23, 1994.

"Paintings of Terrorized *parlementaires* for the Bourbon Conseil d'état," 19th Annual Meeting of the Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, October 29, 1993.

"Louis de Fontanes and Benjamin West's *Moses Receiving the Laws*," 17th Annual Conference of the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, October 2, 1993.

"Chassériau's Juvenilia: Some Early Works by an *enfant du siècle*," Annual Meeting of the College Art Association, Seattle, February 4, 1993.

"An Assembly of Mutes: Napoleon's Silencing of the Corps législatif," 18th Annual Meeting of the Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies, State University of New York at Binghamton, October 24, 1992.

"Broken Tablets: French Images of Moses and the Law, 1789-1848," 16th Annual Meeting of the Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies, The University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, October 12, 1990.

"The Theme of Legislation in the Decoration of the Palais-Bourbon Library by Delacroix," Annual Meeting of the College Art Association, Los Angeles, February 1985.

"H.H. Richardson and the Hotel Brunswick," Meeting of the New York Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, New York University, New York City, May 1979.

INVITED PUBLIC
LECTURES

“Discovery of the Self” and “Modernity’s Mirrors,” in the series *Turning Inward: Self-portraits across Time*. The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, February 25 and March 3, 2020; repeated February 27 and March 5, 2020.

“Learning to See,” a three-part lecture series, The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, July 9, 16, and 23, 2019.

“In the Wake of Toulouse-Lautrec,” in the series *The Stars of Paris*. The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, May 15, 2019.

“Painters at Home in the Bauhaus,” in the series *The Bauhaus Movement*. The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, February 26, 2019; repeated February 28, 2019.

“Earth and Forest: Millet and the Painters of Barbizon” and “Post-Impressionism: The Impressionist Legacy Transformed,” in the series *A New Look at Impressionism*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, October 3, 2018 and December 5, 2018.

“Rothko’s Contemporaries and His Legacy,” in the series *Mark Rothko*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, April 24, 2018; repeated April 26, 2018.

“Women in the Sister Arts: The Long Nineteenth Century,” in the series *She Persisted*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, February 27, 2018; repeated March 1, 2018.

“Rodin and Beyond,” in the series *Rodin, A Survey*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, October 25, 2017.

“Matisse’s Legacy,” in the series *Henri Matisse: Art and Life*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, May 10, 2017.

“A New Century,” in the series *Picasso*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, February 2; repeated February 4, 2016.

“Contemporaries of Rembrandt and Vermeer,” in the series *The Dutch Golden Age*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, December 2, 2015.

“Painting beyond Pollock,” a four-session course. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, October 27, November 3, 10, and 17, 2015; repeated October 29, November 5 and 19, and December 3, 2015.

“John Singleton Copley and Benjamin West: Trans-Atlantic Sensations,” in the series *Expats: Artists in America and England*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, July 14, 2015.

“Picasso’s Spanishness,” in the series *Spanish Art and Culture*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, November 5, 2014.

“The Art Scene” and “Degas and His Circle,” in the series *Paris: Capital of the 19th Century in Art and Culture*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, October 26 and November 2, 2011.

“A Rebirth of the Arts,” “The High Renaissance and its Aftermath,” “A Reinvigoration of Body and Spirit,” and “Toward the Italian Present,” in the series *Italy from the Renaissance to Today: Artists and Ideas*; “Venetian Traits and Treasures,” in the series *Viewing Venice*; and “Stagecraft and Passion in Italian Art,” in the program of lectures and musical performance, *Italy on Stage*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, March 11, March 12, March 15, April 8, April 15 and April 29, 2009.

“The Spanishness of Spanish Art,” “Imperial Decline, Artistic Glory” and “A Golden Age and its Legacies,” in the series *The Arts and Cultures of Spain 1550-1650*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, March 26, April 2, and April 9, 2008.

“Modern and Contemporary Art,” five sessions of the course *Collection Training: Modern and Contemporary Art* in the Gallery Instructor Program, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, March 6 – April 3, 2008.

“The Age of Napoleon: The Arts of Europe, 1774-1870,” a twelve-hour lecture series, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, September 26-December 5, 2007. A three-hour version was presented November 1- December 6, 2007.

“Post-Impressionism to Contemporary Art,” a twelve-hour lecture series, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, October 4-November 29, 2006. A nine-hour version, on art since 1900, was presented November 2-December 14, 2006.

“A Fresh Look at Modern Art,” a three-hour lecture series, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, January 31 and February 7, 2006; repeated February 2 and February 9, 2006.

“Monet’s Art,” a three-hour lecture series, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, October 13, 20, and 27; repeated November 7, 1998.

“Picasso: Metamorphosis and Magic,” a three-hour lecture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, September 30; repeated October 18, 1997.

FELLOWSHIPS

Senior Research Fellowship, The Humanities Foundation, Boston University, 2006-07

Visiting Fellowship, Yale Center for British Art, Yale University, New Haven, CT, January 2003

AWARDS

College Prize for Excellence in Student Advising, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, May 13, 2006.

Teaching Award, Honors Program, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, Spring 2004

VOLONTEERING

BU Today article (August 28, 2019) on Jonathan Ribner ‘s volunteer lecturing at an assisted living residence: [“Never Too Old To Learn”](#)