

2019-2020 Lecture Series in History of Art and Architecture at Boston University presents:

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Wednesday, December 4th, 2019, 6 p.m. CAS 132

co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies at BU

Inheriting the Pacific:

Can Art History Think an Ocean?

The Pacific Ocean: frontier, boundary, haven, threat, lure. Across the early modern period, as colonial projects took root in the Americas and Asia, the Pacific became integral to global trade in art and commodities. Yet this geography was more than a site of transit. The Pacific fostered new habits of thinking about the limits of knowledge, cultural differences, and the alienability of objects, people, and their land. How this ocean once mattered—to those who called the ocean home or foreigners passing through—is not the reason it matters today. Or is it? With this question as anchor, this talk considers the ways colonial histories of the Pacific remain bound to current thinking about art and its global geographies.



Boston University Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies
Latin American Studies Program



History of Art & Architecture