Kelly M. Ward

Curriculum Vitae

Art Historian in Fort Worth, Texas

Education

(2021) Master of Arts in Art History, Criticism, and Conservation

Louisiana State University School of Art

The Stylistic Development of Jean Despujols (1886-1965)

Supervised by LSU Art History Department Head Dr. Darius Spieth, this thesis is the first comprehensive scholarly analysis of the life and extant works by Jean Despujols. The French and later naturalized American painter, writer, poet, philosopher, and mystic was best known for his Neoclassical and French Academic style. This thesis briefly discusses the artist's beginnings as a young painter at the School of Fine Arts in Bordeaux and in Paris, his sketches in the trenches of the First World War, his time at the Villa Medicis after winning the distinguished Rome Prize, and his subsequent career as a painter, philosopher, and political writer. This text particularly emphasizes Despujols's time with his fellow Bordeaux School artists during the interwar years which included Jean Dupas, Raphaël Delorme, and Robert Pougheon; his nearly two-year journey through French Indochina; and the later years of his life when he worked as a well-known portrait painter for affluent families in Shreveport, Louisiana. Periods and subjects of art history embraced in this thesis include Mannerism, Art Deco, Neo-Rococo styles; Chinese landscape painting; and cross-cultural engagements between French, Southeast Asian, and American art.

(2018) Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations with a minor in Art History

Louisiana State University Manship School of Mass Communication

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Experience

The University of Texas at Arlington

(1/2025–) Adjunct Assistant Professor

Arlington, Texas / Remote

- Virtually teach Art Appreciation survey course and correspond and manage over 140 students of all degree paths each term using Canvas learning management system
- Grade multiple in-depth visual analysis essays per student as well as presentations on student visits to local galleries and museums

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

(7/2023–) Marketing and Communications Coordinator

- Manage social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Twitter/X) and online presence including writing, scheduling, and monitoring
- Participate in planning, development, and implementation of new media strategies
- Coordinate, design, and execute promotional email marketing and print collateral for museum programming
- Publish and ensure website content is accurate, accessible, and uploaded on schedule
- Monitor and report social media analytics, trends, and online usage statistics to measure results and determine strategies to optimize marketing initiatives and campaigns
- Work with museum photographer/videographer to develop visual digital content
- Maintain third-party online content and monitor for reviews, responses, and general information
- Act as an assistant to the Director of Communications to complete special projects and other duties as requested
- Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Sprout Social, Constant Contact, and some HTML

(1/2023–7/2023) Membership Assistant

- Supported the Senior Manager of Membership and Special Events with reports, membership activities, and special events for high-level members and donors
- Communicated with museum's members and donors in person and through email, phone, and correspondence to support tailored stewardship strategy
- Proficient in database management using Raiser's Edge and Siriusware softwares

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Experience

Texas Wesleyan University

(8/2023–12/2024) Adjunct Instructor for Visual Arts and Art History

Fort Worth, Texas

- Conducted engaging in-person lectures for 35 students in an intimate classroom setting for Introduction to Visual Arts and Art History survey course
- Prepared lectures and exams based on Pearson Education's *Prebles' Artforms* (12th Edition) by Patrick Frank
- Corresponded with students and handled administrative tasks using Canvas learning management system

Kimbell Art Museum

(9/2022–12/2022) Marketing and Public Relations Intern

Fort Worth, Texas

- Wrote long-form didactic texts for museum website news highlighting the permanent collection, events, and special exhibitions
- Drafted social media posts for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
- Organized and cataloged two year's worth of press mentions from national, international, and local publications
- Worked with local media and community members during the press preview for a special exhibition on 17th-century Spanish painter Bartolomé Esteban Murillo
- Contributed to the Kimbell's 50th anniversary press preview and festival
- Designed various museum collateral and signage on Adobe InDesign and Photoshop

Bossier Parish Community College

(1/2022–8/2023) Adjunct Instructor for Visual Arts and Art History

Bossier City, Louisiana / Remote

- Virtually taught Introduction to Visual Arts and Art History survey course and corresponded and managed over 90 art and design students each term
- Created detailed lectures, quizzes, and exams for online modules based on McGraw Hill's "Living with Art" (13th Edition) by Mark Getlein and Kelly Donahue-Wallace
- Graded term papers and student presentations on contemporary artists

Big Sun Studios Contemporary Art Gallery

(9/2021–7/2022) Gallery and Marketing Director

Shreveport, Louisiana

- Created business processes, website, and social media and marketing strategies for small start-up art gallery
- Initiated and managed social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) and digital marketing campaigns, including regular email newsletters
- Worked with gallery owner to execute grassroots public relations strategies and forge and steward lasting relationships with regional artists and community members
- Secured coverage of gallery through press releases and ongoing communication with traditional media outlets
- Managed facility, including gallery sales, artist contracts, exhibition receptions, and venue rentals

Louisiana State University School of Art

(8/2018–5/2020) Art History Teaching Assistant

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- Awarded competitive, tuition-waiving graduate assistantship to work in art history department while pursuing full-time art history master’s degree
- Assisted with Intro to Art and Honors Art courses; graded essays and term papers, proctored exams, and communicated with over 500 students per semester
- Conducted research on artworks using archives, special collections, and secondary sources on behalf of the Head of the Art History Department

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Experience

LSU Museum of Art

(1/2019–1/2020) Art Collections Intern

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- Worked directly with art objects in the museum collection (glass, metals, prints, jewelry, paintings, Chinese jade, ceramics, and other media)
- Assisted Head Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Curator, and Preparator with exhibitions, including loans such as condition reporting, object cleaning, preparing wall texts, helping with installation and deinstallation support
- Catalogued and updated collection records using PastPerfect database system; organized artwork information on museum website and matched with PastPerfect data
- Researched all objects in the museum's permanent collection and organized hard copy files

Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge

(4/2017–11/2018) Visual Arts Intern

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- Assisted artists at exhibitions and receptions, providing support throughout the exhibition run and during installation and deinstallation
- Supported Visual Arts Curator with art sales
- Worked with artists and patrons at monthly Arts Market and oversaw booth rentals
- Provided administrative support by greeting visitors and managing reception desk

Harris, DeVille & Associates

(10/2015–1/2018) Public Relations Intern

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- Initiated, curated and managed social media content for firm's Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts
- Transcribed legislative committee videos; categorized and tracked over 1,000 legislative bills per session
- Created media lists and professional biographies for public officials and clients
- Executed general courier and office assistant duties

Other Professional Contributions

Amon Carter Museum of American Art

(5/2025–) Exhibition Host

Fort Worth, Texas

- Research American photographer Richard Avedon's “In the American West” series and accompanying archival materials such as essays, travel diaries, and interviews
- Enthusiastically welcome visitors at the special exhibition *Richard Avedon at the Carter* and encourage dialogue and interest in the artist, photographs featured, and relevant museum history

The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc.

(5/2025–) Public Relations Chair

- Gather information on external and internal endeavors of over 2,000 female volunteers to draft press releases
- Communicate with and steward relationships with local and national media contacts and organize media lists
- Act as a liaison between press and the Junior League Communications Council and Board of Directors
- Actively participate in trainings that strengthen and teach leadership and administrative skills and diversity practices
- Serve the Fort Worth and Tarrant County community through volunteering and raising funds at Christmas in Cowtown Holiday Gift Market and Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo

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Other Professional Contributions

The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc.

(5/2024–5/2025) Provisional Member

- Devoted 50 volunteer hours at the Tarrant Area Food Bank, Tarrant County Diaper Bank, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 2025 Charles Schwab Golf Challenge, and serving youth at elementary schools in Fort Worth
- Actively participated in trainings that strengthen and teach leadership and administrative skills and diversity practices

Leadership Fort Worth

(1/2025–6/2025) LeadingEdge Cohort Graduate

- Participated in a 56-hour leadership training program with 35 other emerging professionals in Fort Worth to learn and hone personal strengths, management and conflict resolution skills, how to lead and serve on local and national boards, and act as active community trustees

Art This Week

(11/2024, 4/2025, ongoing) Exhibition Interviewer

Fort Worth, Texas

- Research and conduct interviews with curators and artists on local museum exhibitions
- Studied *Dutch Art in a Global Age: Masterpieces from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston* and *Modern Art and Politics in Germany 1910–1945: Masterworks from the Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin* exhibition catalogues and researched seventeenth-century Dutch art and trade German art and history of the twentieth-century, respectively
- Conducted interviews with Curator George Shackelford for each exhibition hosted at the Kimbell Art Museum
  - **Click here** to watch the *Dutch Art in a Global Age* interview
  - **Click here** to watch the *Modern Art and Politics in Germany* interview

Sons of the American Revolution

(08/2022) Presenter

Shreveport, Louisiana

- Presented thesis research titled “French Neoclassical Artist Jean Despujols”

LSU Museum of Art

(10/2017) Exhibition Contributor

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- Conducted research and wrote didactic wall text for Surrealism exhibition during LSU course "History of Prints"
- Led docent tours to lower level art history students and museum visitors

Languages

- Fluent in Portuguese
- Excellent reading knowledge of Spanish; proficient in written and verbal Spanish
- Some proficiency in French