

Curriculum Vitae

Bret Rothstein
Department of the History of Art
Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts, Rm. 132
Indiana University
1201 E. 7th Street
Bloomington, IN 47401
Tel: ++ 812 855 8510
Fax: ++ 812 855 7598
Electronic mail: brothste@indiana.edu

Education

- Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1998
- M.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1991
- B.A., Reed College, 1989

Academic Posts

- Associate Professor of the History of Art, Indiana University, Bloomington, 2007-
- Associate Professor of Art History, Rhode Island College, 2003-2007
- Assistant Professor of Art History, Rhode Island College, 1998-2003
- Participating Faculty, Film Studies Program, Rhode Island College, 1999-2007

Selected Awards

- New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Grant (\$21,000 to fund research and image costs for "The Shape of Difficulty," a book-length study of visual enigmatology), Indiana University 2011-2012
- New Frontiers Exploration Travel Fellowship, Indiana University 2010
- Summer Faculty Fellowship, Indiana University, 2008
- Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2006-2007
- Rhode Island College Faculty Research Grant, 1999-2000, 2001-2002, 2003-2004
- Rhode Island College Faculty Development Grant, 2001-2002
- University of California, Santa Barbara Dissertation Fellowship, 1997
- University of California, Santa Barbara GHRAP Dissertation Fellowship, 1996-1997
- Samuel H. Kress Foundation Travel Fellowship, 1996
- J. William Fulbright Fellowship, 1995-1996
- University of California, Santa Barbara Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Predoctoral Fellowship, 1995

Publications

- Book-Length Work in Print
 - Sight and Spirituality in Early Netherlandish Painting (Cambridge University Press, 2005)
 - Reviews
 - J.C. Smith, Historians of Netherlandish Art Review of Books, 23:1 (April 2006), pp. 12-13
 - A.J. Acres, caa.reviews (June 2006)
www.caareviews.org/reviews/851
 - J.O. Hand, Sehepunkte 6:6 (June 2006)
www.sehepunkte.de/2006/06/pdf/9293.pdf
Published simultaneously in Kunstform 7:6 (June 2006)
 - S. Lindquist, Renaissance Quarterly 59:2 (Summer 2006), pp. 583-585
 - M. Tokumitsu, Seventeenth Century News 65:1-2 (Spring-Summer 2007), pp. 50-52
hdl.handle.net/2249.1/5905
- Book-Length Work in Preparation
 - “The Shape of Difficulty: Notes on the Nature of Visual Challenges”
 - “Permissible Delectation of the Spirit: Early Netherlandish Pictures and the Art of Seeing Well”
- Articles, Essays in Print
 - “Pieter Bruegel Makes a Mess of Things,” in: H. Luttikhuisen, ed. The Humor and Wit of Pieter Bruegel the Elder (Grand Rapids: Calvin College, 2010), pp. 29-43
 - “Looking the Part: Ruminative Viewing and the Imagination of Community in the Early Modern Low Countries,” Art History 31:1 (2008), pp. 1-32
 - “Gender and the Configuration of Early Netherlandish Devotional Skill,” in: A.G. Pearson, ed. The Face of Gender: Portraiture and Constructions of Female Identity in Early Modern Europe (Ashgate, 2008), pp. 15-34
 - “Movable Feasts of Reason: Description, Intelligence, and the Excitation of Sight,” in C. Göttler, ed. Spirits Unseen: The Representation of Subtle Bodies in Early Modern European Culture (Intersections: Yearbook for Early Modern Studies, vol. 9) (Brill, 2008), pp. 47-70
 - “The Rule of Metaphor and the Play of the Viewer in the Hours of Mary of Burgundy,” in R.L. Falkenburg and W.S. Melion, eds. Image and Imagination of the Religious Self in Medieval and Early Modern Europe (Brepols, 2007), pp. 237-275

- “The Problem with Looking at Pieter Bruegel’s Elck,” Art History 26:2 (2003), pp. 143-173
 - “Vision, Cognition, and Self-Reflection in Rogier van der Weyden’s Bladelin Triptych,” Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte 64:1 (2001), pp. 37-55
 - “On Devotion as Social Ornament in Jan van Eyck’s Rolin Virgin and Child,” Dutch Crossing 24:1 (2000), pp. 96-132
 - “Seeing Things,” in: Stephen Fisher: Chimeras (Seattle, WA: Frye Art Museum, 2000), pp. 1-5
 - “Vision and Devotion in Jan van Eyck’s Virgin and Child with Canon Joris van der Paele,” Word & Image 15:3 (1999), pp. 262-276
- Articles, Essays in Preparation
 - “Visual Difficulty as a Cultural System,” (under review)
 - “The Shape of Difficulty: Notes on a Later Sixteenth-Century Mechanical Puzzle” (under review)
 - “Distraction, Diversion, and Visual Skill in the Early Modern Low Countries” (under review)
 - “On Empathy as a Type of Early Netherlandish Visual Wit”
 - Book Reviews: caa.reviews (forthcoming), Dutch Crossing, Kunstform/Sehepunkte, Ons geestelijk erf, Renaissance Quarterly, Seventeenth Century News, and Sixteenth Century Journal
 - Shorter pieces in Cubism for Fun (Nederlandse Kubus Club)

Selected Lectures & Sessions

- “On Empathy as a Type of Early Netherlandish Visual Wit,” invited presentation to be given at the Lovis Corinth Research Symposium, “Ab historia proprie figurativa: Visual Images as Exegetical Instruments, 1400-1600,” Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2012
- “How to Make a Mess of Things in the Sixteenth-Century Low Countries,” presented at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, October 2010
- “On Naturalism as a Constraint in Early Netherlandish Painting,” presented in the workshop “Dutch Art and the 'Reality Effect': Where Are We Now?” Historians of Netherlandish Art, Amsterdam, 2010
- “Fusion, Confusion, Vision, Cognition,” College Art Association, Chicago, IL, 2010
- “Ouwehoeren: Distraction, Attention, and Visual Processing in the Early Modern Low Countries,” invited presentation at the colloquium “Vision and Visibilities in Early Modern Dutch Art” at the Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia, 2009
- “Gender and the Configuration of Early Netherlandish Devotional Skill,” College Art Association, Atlanta, GA, 2005

- “The Contours of Burgundian Visual Wit ca. 1475,” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Toronto, Ontario, 2004
- “The Rule of Metaphor and the Play of the Viewer in Early Netherlandish Devotional Painting,” invited presentation at the Lovis Corinth Research Symposium, “Image and Imagination of the Religious Self in Medieval and Early Modern Europe,” Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2003
- “The Problem with Looking at Pieter Bruegel's Elck,” College Art Association, Chicago, IL, 2001
- “On Physical Brutality as the Constitution of Society in Gerard David's Justice of Cambyses,” invited presentation at the workshop “The Ideology of Burgundy: Fashioning National Identity in the Literary, Political, and Historical Vernacular,” Groningen, The Netherlands, 2000
- Session Co-chair (with Andrea Pearson), “New Directions in the Study of Devotional Art in Northern Europe, 1300-1600,” College Art Association, New York, NY, 2000
- “Navigating the Ebb and Flow of Visual Culture,” invited faculty presentation at annual division meeting, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Rhode Island College, 1999
- “Vision and Devotion in Jan van Eyck's Bruges Virgin and Child,” South-Central Renaissance Conference, Savannah, GA, 1999
- “The Image of Devotion in Early Flemish Painting,” College Art Association, Toronto, Canada, 1998
- “Complexity and Contradiction as Aesthetic Criteria in Early Flemish Painting,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, 1997
- “Reading patrons, reading books in early Flemish painting,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, 1994
- “Mnemotechnics and the Search for a Fifteenth-Century Painting Theory,” presented in the workshop “Re-Creating a Fifteenth-Century Painting Theory for Northern Europe: Who Needs It?” Historians Of Netherlandish Art, Boston, MA, 1993