

**K. L. H. Wells**  
**Curriculum Vitae, September 15, 2024**

Associate Professor, UWM Department of Art History  
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**EDUCATION**

- 2014      Ph.D., Art History, University of Southern California, Los Angeles  
Visual Studies Graduate Certificate
- 2009      M.A., Art History, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Certificate in Material Culture Studies
- 2005      B.A., Art History, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York  
*summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2020-present    Associate Professor of American Art and Architecture, Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (UWM)
- 2014-2020      Assistant Professor of American Art and Architecture, Department of Art History, UWM
- 2014      Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Craft, Department of Art History and Department of Craft & Material Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

- Forthcoming. *Uncanny Revivals: The Politics of Designing Early America*. Under contract with Yale University Press. Expected 2026.
- 2019      *Weaving Modernism: Postwar Tapestry between Paris and New York*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019.
- Winner of the 2020 SECAC Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research and Publication
  - Reviewed by Janis Jefferies, *Textile History* 52, no. 1-2 (2021): 225-226.
  - Reviewed by Erica Warren, *caa.reviews* (16 June 2021): [doi.org/10.3202/caa.reviews.2021.53](https://doi.org/10.3202/caa.reviews.2021.53)
  - Reviewed by Ann Coxon, *The Burlington Magazine* 162, no. 1411 (Oct 2020): 909-910.
  - Reviewed by Lorraine Karafel, *Journal of Design History* (May 2020): [doi.org/10.1093/jdh/epaa007](https://doi.org/10.1093/jdh/epaa007)
  - Reviewed by Emily Warner, *West 86<sup>th</sup>* 26, no. 2 (Fall-Winter 2019): 313-316.
  - Reviewed by Kat Buckley, *ARLIS/NA Reviews* (May 2019): <https://arlisna.org/publications/reviews/1747>

## Refereed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- Forthcoming. "Publishing the Index of American Design." Special issue of *Source*. Edited by Mary Okin and Erika Doss.
- Forthcoming. "Colonial Williamsburg: Materializing Jim Crow between North and South." In *Reading Southern Art*. Edited by Naomi Slipp and Rachel Stephens.
- 2022 "Indexing Whiteness to American Design." Contribution to "Commentaries: Seeing the Survey Anew: White Racial Formation in the History of American Art," ed. Kirsten Pai Buick. *American Art*, 36, no. 3 (Fall 2022): 10-14. doi.org/10.1086/722521
- 2021 "Reading Feminism in Modern Tapestry's Archive." *Archives of American Art Journal* 60, no. 1 (Spring 2021): 24-43. doi.org/10.1086/714300
- 2020 "The Uncanny Design of the Thorne Miniature Rooms." In *Interior Provocations: History, Theory, and Practice of Autonomous Interiors*, 11-29. Edited by Anca Lasc, et. al. New York: Routledge, 2020.
- 2019 "Laboring Under Globalization: Tapestries by Contemporary Artists." *Art Journal* 77, no. 4 (Winter 2018): 26-45. doi.org/10.1080/00043249.2018.1549874
- 2017 "The 'merely imitative mood': British Japonisme and Imperial Mimesis," *Nineteenth Century Studies* 27 (2013 [publ. 2017]): 143-166.
- 2017 "Display," *Textile Terms: A Glossary*, edited by Tristan Weddigen and Gerhard Wolf, final volume of *Textile Studies* (2017): 77-80.
- 2015 "Rockefeller's *Guernica* and the Collection of Modern Copies." *Journal of the History of Collections* 27, no. 2 (2015): 255-277. doi.org/10.1093/jhc/fhu029
- 2013 "Serpentine Sideboards, Hogarth's *Analysis*, and the Beautiful Self." *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 46, no. 3 (Spring 2013): 399-413. doi.org/10.1353/ecs.2013.0022
- 2009 "Curating the Cultural Landscape: Chipstone House as Historical Property." *The International Journal of the Inclusive Museum* 2, no. 2 (2009): 177-194. doi.org/10.18848/1835-2014/CGP/v02i02/44570

## Invited Essays

- 2024 "Looming Large: Presentations of textile art in Washington, DC; New York; and Chicago." *Artforum* 63, no. 1 (September 2024): 138-145.
- 2020 "Cuttoli's Postwar Legacy: Pictorialism in the Age of Abstraction." In *Marie Cuttoli: The Modern Thread from Miró to Man Ray*. Philadelphia and New Haven: The Barnes Foundation and Yale University Press, 2020.
- 2019 "Die Tapisseriekunst der Nachkriegszeit und der Vormarsch der modernistischen Abstraktion [Postwar Tapestry and the Rise of Modernist Abstraction]." In *Die Fäden der Moderne: Matisse, Lurçat, Miró und die Französischen Gobelins* [*The Fabric of Modernity: Matisse, Lurçat, Miró and French Tapestry*], 91-97. Munich: Kunsthalle der Hypo-Kulturstiftung and Hirmer Verlag GmbH, 2019.
- 2019 "Feeling the Process: KG's Tapestries as Participatory Politics." In *Some Kind of Duty*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, January 17-March 31, 2019.
- 2014 "Counter Text." In *Where Words Are Not Enough*, VCU Craft & Material Studies MFA Candidacy Exhibition, ArtSpace Gallery, Richmond, 25 April-18 May 2014.

- 2013 “Artistes contre Liciers: La Renaissance de la Tapisserie Française [Artists vs. Weavers. The French Tapestry Revival].” In *Decorum* (Paris: Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and Skira Flammarion, 2013), 55-59.

## Reviews

- 2024 Review of *Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890-1980*, Milwaukee Art Museum, 24 March-23 July 2023. *Venue* 2, no. 1 (2024): 207-210.
- 2020 Review of Zoë Ryan, ed., *In a Cloud, in a Wall, in a Chair: Six Modernists in Mexico at Midcentury* (Chicago and New Haven: Art Institute of Chicago and Yale University Press, 2019). *Woman’s Art Journal* 41, no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2020): 59-60.
- 2020 Review of Louisa Elderton and Rebecca Morrill, eds., *Vitamin T: Threads and Textiles in Contemporary Art* (London and New York: Phaidon, 2019). *Burlington Contemporary* (22 January 2020): <http://contemporary.burlington.org.uk/reviews/reviews/textiles-in-contemporary-art>
- 2019 Review of Katherine Manthorne, ed., *California Mexicana: Missions to Murals, 1820-1930* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2017). *Public Art Dialogue* 9 (2019): 123-126.
- 2017 Review of Jenni Sorkin, *Live Form: Women, Ceramics, and Community* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). *caa.reviews*, December 4, 2017, [doi.org/10.3202/caa.reviews.2017.181](https://doi.org/10.3202/caa.reviews.2017.181)
- 2017 Review of Timothy Erwin, *Textual Vision: Augustan Design and the Invention of Eighteenth-Century British Culture* (Bucknell, 2015). *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 29, no. 3 (Spring 2017): 508-510.
- 2014 Review of *Decorum*, Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 11 October 2013-9 February 2014. *Journal of Modern Craft* 7, no. 3 (November 2014): 329-333.

## Online Publications

- 2020 “Colonial Williamsburg from World Peace to World War,” Rockefeller Archive Center Research Reports, posted 17 January 2020. <https://rockarch.issuelab.org/resource/colonial-williamsburg-from-world-peace-to-world-war.html>
- 2020 “A Personal Canon: K. L. H. Wells on Five Influential Texts,” Yale University Press blog, posted 11 February 2020. <https://yalebooks.yale.edu/2020/02/11/a-personal-canon-k-l-h-wells-on-five-influential-texts/>
- 2019 “Modernism’s Other Tapestry,” Yale University Press blog, posted 8 April 2019. <http://blog.yalebooks.com/2019/04/08/modernisms-other-tapestry/>
- 2014 “Jaydan Moore and Olivia Valentine in Conversation with K.L.H. Wells,” *Journal of Modern Craft* blog, posted 25 August 2014. <http://journalofmoderncraft.com>
- 2013 “Flânerie: Strolling Amongst Aestheticized Selves of the Romantic Period.” Gallery Exhibit, *Romantic Circles*, posted Summer 2013. <http://www.rc.umd.edu>

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS

### External

- 2023 Wolfsonian Fellowship, Florida International University, Miami

2022	Summer Stipend, National Endowment for the Humanities
2022	International Research Travel Grant for US-Based Scholars, Terra Foundation for American Art
2021	Short-Term Research Fellowship, New York Public Library
2021	Short-Term Fellowship, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library
2020	The SECAC Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research and Publication, for <i>Weaving Modernism: Postwar Modernism between Paris and New York</i> (see PUBLICATIONS above)
2019	Research Stipend, Rockefeller Archive Center
2018	International Publication Grant, Terra Foundation for American Art
2017	Publication Grant, Pasold Research Fund
2017	Publication Grant, Society for the Preservation of American Modernists
2016	Research Fellowship, Bard Graduate Center for Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture, New York
2014-2015	Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (declined)
2012	Harmon Chadbourn Rorison Fellowship, Institut Français d'Amérique University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill,
2011-2012	Swiss National Science Foundation Research Fellowship, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Zürich, Switzerland

### Internal

2024, 2022	Research Assistance Fund, UWM
2018-2019	Research Growth Initiative Award, UWM
2017-2018	Center for 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Studies Fellow, UWM
2017	Office of Research Publication Grant, UWM
2017, 2016	Arts & Humanities Research Travel Grant, UWM
2016	Online Course Development Fund, UWM
2013-2014	Russell Endowed Dissertation Fellowship, University of Southern California (USC)
2013	Visual Studies Graduate Certificate Summer Funding, USC
2013, 2012	Art History Department Graduate Travel Award, USC
2013, 2011	Graduate Student Government Travel Award, USC
2011, 2010	Visual Studies Graduate Certificate Summer Funding, USC
2010	College Conference Attendance Award, USC
2009-2014	Dornsife College Doctoral Fellowship, USC
2007-2008	James Watrous/Chipstone Fellowship in Material Culture, University of Wisconsin, Madison

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Talks

2025	“Women of the French Tapestry Revival: Artists, Dealers, Weavers,” Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA
2023	“America’s Colonial Revival during the Rise of Fascism,” fellows talk at The Wolfsonian, Miami Beach, FL
2023	“Women in the WPA,” Warehouse Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI

- 2022 “When Tapestries Became Modern Art,” panelist for Picasso and Applied Arts symposium, Museo Picasso Málaga, Spain
- 2021 “Winterthur’s Uncanny Design,” fellows talk at the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, Wilmington, DE
- 2019 “Making Modern Tapestries,” Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Charlotte, NC
- 2019 “Weaving Modernism: From Dissertation to Book,” Department of Art and Art History, Stanford University
- 2019 “Weaving Modernism,” Visual Studies Research Institute, USC
- 2019 “American Abstraction from O’Keeffe to Noland,” Milwaukee Art Museum Docents’ Lecture
- 2018 “Josephine Baker, Jazz, and the Resistance,” *Music and Mystery* event for Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Tripoli Shrine Center
- 2018 “Art History and Music,” gallery talk at Milwaukee Art Museum
- 2017 Panelist, *Trans: Across, Beyond, Through*, Benchspace Gallery & Workshop, The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design, Asheville, NC
- 2017 “Frank Lloyd Wright: Buildings for the Prairie,” gallery talk at Milwaukee Art Museum
- 2017 “A Conversation with Jeffrey Gibson,” Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, Milwaukee
- 2016 “Weaving Modernism: Postwar Tapestry between Paris and New York,” fellows talk at Bard Graduate Center, New York
- 2016 “The History of Modern Design,” Hardy Gallery, Ephraim, WI
- 2014 “Transatlantic Tapestry: Postwar Art between Paris and New York,” UWM
- 2013 “Contemporary Tapestry: Globalization, Digitization, and the Value of Artistic Labor,” Aktuelle Forschung zur Kunst der Neuzeit, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Zürich
- 2012 “Tapestries and Tableaux in the Twentieth Century,” An Iconology of the Textile in Art and Architecture: Review of a Project at the Art History Institute of the University of Zurich, Bard Graduate Center
- 2011 “The Tapestry of Modernism,” Aktuelle Forschung zur Kunst der Neuzeit, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Zürich

### **Panels**

- 2023 Chair, *Unbuckling the Rust Belt*, Midwest Art History Society Conference, Milwaukee
- 2020 Chair, *Exploring Fascism in American Art*, College Art Association, Chicago
- 2018 Chair, *Warp, Weft, World: Postwar Textiles as Transcultural Form*, College Art Association, Los Angeles
- 2017 Respondent, Newberry Library Seminar on American Art and Visual Culture, Chicago
- 2017 Chair, *Modernism’s Craft Discourse*, College Art Association, New York
- 2013 Co-Chair, *Tapestry and Reproduction*, College Art Association, New York

### **Conference Papers**

- 2024 “Publishing the Index of American Design,” College Art Association, Chicago

- 2022 “The Uncanny Design of White National Identity: Colonial Williamsburg and the Index of American Design,” *American Art and the Political Imagination* symposium, Courtauld Institute of Art, London [online]
- 2021 “Inventing Digital Humanities through the Index of American Design,” Association of Historians of American Art, Washington, DC [online]
- 2019 “Building Colonial Williamsburg during the Rise of Fascism,” Material Culture Caucus, American Studies Association, Honolulu
- 2019 “Uncanny History: Colonial Revivalism during the Rise of Fascism,” American Comparative Literature Association, Washington DC
- 2019 “Boetti, Noland, and the Politics of Artistic Outsourcing,” World History Association sponsored session, American Historical Association, Chicago
- 2018 “The Uncanny Design of the Thorne Miniature Rooms,” Newberry Seminar in American Art & Visual Culture, Chicago
- 2018 “Medium Specificity from Tapestry Reform to Greenberg,” Association for Art History, London
- 2018 “Designing a way out of the Depression through Thorne’s Miniature Rooms,” *Interiors without Architecture*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Interior Provocations Symposium, Pratt Institute, New York
- 2017 “Weaving Abstraction for the World: Postwar Tapestry and International Modernism,” SECAC, Columbus
- 2016 “Le Corbusier’s *Muralnomad* at Chandigarh,” The Western Society for French History, Cedar Rapids
- 2016 “Marketing Modernism in Postwar America: The Print Renaissance, the Tapestry Revival, and the Craft of Reproduction,” Association of Historians of American Art, Fort Worth
- 2016 “Warming Up Cold War Modernism: The Decorative Function of Modern Art in Postwar America,” Midwest Art History Society, Chicago
- 2015 “How to See the Materiality of Contemporary Art,” *Material Evidence, Visual Knowledge* symposium, Visual Studies Research Institute, USC.
- 2014 “How Paris Stole the Idea of Modern Tapestry,” Society for French Historical Studies, Montreal
- 2014 “The Logic of Revival and the Limits of Nostalgia,” Association for Art History, London
- 2012 “Greenberg’s Tapestries: Revising Medium Specificity and Revisiting Its Discontents,” Bay Area Graduate Symposium in Art History, Film, and Media organized by Stanford University, San Francisco
- 2011 “The Work of Tapestry in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction,” *The Life of the Object* symposium, Material Culture Program, UW-Madison
- 2010 “Serpentine Sideboards, Hogarth’s *Analysis*, and the Beautiful Self,” Mid-Atlantic American Studies Association, Philadelphia
- 2009 “Curating the Cultural Landscape: Chipstone House as Historical Property,” Second International Conference on the Inclusive Museum, University of Queensland, Brisbane
- 2009 “Mimicry and the Mikado: Japanese People-as-Exhibitions,” National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations, New Orleans

## **Campus Talks**

- 2023 “Aestheticizing Politics through Colonial Revival Design,” Art History Research Colloquium, UWM
- 2018 “Uncanny Revivals,” Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies, UWM
- 2014 “The Photographic Tapestry from Man Ray to Macuga,” Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2011 “Inventing the Tapestry Revival in Postwar France,” Aktuelle Forschung zur Kunst der Neuzeit, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Zürich

## **TEACHING**

### **Undergraduate Courses Taught**

Renaissance to Modern Art and Architecture  
Introduction to American Art  
American Art: Colonial Period to 1870  
American Art: 1870 to the Present  
American Folk Art  
History of Modern Design  
American Architecture  
Frank Lloyd Wright  
Colloquium in Method and Theory

### **Graduate Courses Taught**

Japonisme: Japan and America in Artistic Encounter  
Revival! Visualizing the American Past

### **Direction of Graduate Student Research**

#### *Director, Art History MA Theses*

- 2024 Mirel Crumb, “The Progressive Legacy of the Federal Art Projects in Max Arthur Cohn’s Serigraphs”
- 2024 Chloe Joy, “Getting It All Together: Jean Ray Laury and the Art Quilt Movement”
- 2023 Sydney Ion, “Aestheticization as Erasure: An Ecocritical Examination of Three Etchings from the ‘Thames Set’”
- 2021 Michael Lahti, “Sara Rahbar, the Native Informant, and the War on Terror”
- 2019 Kelsey Kuehn, “Finding Art in Architecture: Examining the Architectural Theory and Practice of Denise Scott Brown” (Co-Director: Jennifer Johung)
- 2015 Cortney Anderson, “*Lydia at a Tapestry Frame*: Art Embroidery and the Rise of Craft”
- 2015 Stacey Schmiesing, “Sardanapalus and Gender: Examining the Works of Byron and Delacroix”

#### *Director, Art History MA Exhibition Theses*

- 2020 Heather Sheets Hanlon, “Claim, Consume, Curate”
- 2016 Jacqueline Murphy, “Colorscapes: Marko Spalatin 1970-2001”
- 2016 Nick Pipho, “‘Comic Cuts’: The Satirical Prints of Warrington Colescott”

*Reader, PhD Dissertations*

- 2018 Kenneth Dahlin, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Organic Aesthetics in Historic Context,"  
School of Architecture and Urban Planning

*Reader, Art History MA Theses*

- 2024 Haley Steines, "Reassembled and Reimagined: A Photographic Study of Princess Alexandra's Photocollage Album"
- 2023 Mary Beth Drabiszczak, "The Reemergence of American Pastels"
- 2021 Danielle Lynne Paswaters, "The Interdisciplinary Work of Senga Nengudi: How Abjection in Art Can Lead to DEAI in Exhibition Spaces"
- 2019 Jeremy Schrupp, "Adolf Wissel's Kahlenberg Portraits: A Monographic Study Concerning German Regionalism, 1933-1945"
- 2019 Olivia Lonetti, "La Question des Sauvages: Examining the Inspiration, Motivation and Circumstance of the *Bal des Sauvages* and *Le Combat des Hommes Sauvages et Chevaliers* Tapestries"

*Reader, Art History MA Exhibition Theses*

- 2018 Kelsey Soya, "Humor and Quiet Resistance: The Graphic Work of Wilhelm Hopfner"
- 2018 Selena Erdman, "Fluid Lines: Tracing Ryakuga-Shiki in Japan and France"
- 2016 Kathleen Tousignant, "Tara Bogart: Modern Hair Studies"
- 2015 Marin Kniskern, "Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski: Political Struggle and Metaphor"

*Committee Member, MFA Committees*

- 2021 Nicolas Umbs, Photography
- 2020 Amber Van Galder, Sculpture

**Courses Taught at Virginia Commonwealth University**

Craft Since 1945

History and Theory of Craft

**SERVICE**

**Service to the Profession**

- 2024 Reading Group Co-Lead, Association of Historians of American Art
- 2023 Journal Referee, *Archives of American Art*
- 2023 Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities
- 2022 Referee for faculty promotion, University of Wyoming
- 2021-2023 Symposium Liaison, Association of Historians of American Art
- 2021-2022 Selection Committee, Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art
- 2020 Manuscript Reviewer, Princeton University Press
- 2019 Reviewer, Graduate Student Grant Writing Workshop, Visual Studies Research Institute, USC
- 2018-2019 Journal Referee, *West 86<sup>th</sup>*
- 2016 Journal Referee, *Textile: Cloth and Culture*
- 2015-2017 Director at Large, American Arts Society, Milwaukee Art Museum



2015            Journal Referee, *Art Journal*

**Service to UWM**

2023-2025    Senate Subcommittee on the Evaluation of Administrators  
2023-2024    Guest Curator, *What the Folk?* Emile H. Mathis Art Gallery, Spring 2024  
2023-2024    Internship Coordinator, Department of Art History  
2022-2025    Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Art History  
2022-2025    Faculty Senate  
2022-2024    Chair, Friends of Art History Lecture  
2022-2023    Arts and Humanities Divisional Committee  
2020-2021    C21 Advisory Committee  
2019-present Graduate Faculty, Department of Art & Design, College of Arts and Architecture  
2019-2021    Principal Investigator, C21 Collaboratory, #ArtInHigherEd  
2019          Co-curator, *Water & Work*, Emile H. Mathis Art Gallery, Fall 2019  
2018-2021    Curriculum and Instruction Committee, Department of Art History  
2018-2019    Chair, Friends of Art History Lecture  
2017-2018    Admissions and Fellowships Committee, Department of Art History  
2016-2020    Co-chair, Art History Research Colloquium  
2015-2021    Academic Planning and Governance Committee, College of Letters and  
                 Science (Appointed 2015-2018 term, Elected 2018-2021 term)  
2014-Present Foreign Language Examiner, French and German translation exams,  
                 Department of Art History  
2014-2016    Admissions and Fellowships Committee, Department of Art History  
2014-2015    Curriculum and Instruction Committee, Department of Art History  
2014-2015    Search Committee, VAP in Modern Art, Department of Art History

**Professional Affiliations**

American Studies Association  
Association of Historians of American Art  
College Art Association  
Midwest Art History Society