

Rebecca Fenton
Curriculum vitae

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Education

- PhD African Art History (ABD, degree expected June 2018) – Indiana University, Bloomington
Minor Areas: African Studies, Modern and Contemporary Art
Dissertation: “Cloth as Conduit: Art, Fashion, and Commerce in Mande Diasporas,” advised by Patrick McNaughton
- MA Art History, 2013 – Indiana University, Bloomington
Thesis: “The Pursuit of Elegance: Congolese Self-Fashioning in Image and Action,” advised by Patrick McNaughton and Diane Pelrine
- BFA Studio Art, 2008 – Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
summa cum laude, departmental honors with distinction
Thesis: “Contributions/Souvenirs: Contemporary Art and Artists in Mali,” advised by dele jegede

Selected Awards and Grants

- 2017–2018 Smithsonian Institution Predoctoral Fellowship, National Museum of Natural History and Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
- 2016–2017 College of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship, IU
Theodore R. Bowie Graduate Fellowship, IU (fall)
- 2015–2016 Russell A. Havens Fellowship, Art History, IU
College Arts and Humanities Institute Graduate Research Travel Award, IU (spring)
Pre-Dissertation International Travel Grant, Office of the Vice President for International Affairs, IU (fall)
- 2014–2015 Roy Sieber Fellowship, Art History, IU (summer 2015)
- 2013–2014 College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship, IU
Louise McNutt Graduate Fellowship, IU (summer 2014)
- 2011–2013 Curatorial Graduate Assistantship, Art Museum, IU

Invited Lectures

- “African Art and Museum Imagination: Some Thoughts on Looking.” Miami University Art Museum, March 12, 2014
- “The Pursuit of Elegance: Congolese Self-Fashioning in Image and Action.” Art Institute of Chicago, September 6, 2013

Publications

- Exhibition review: *L’Afrique des Routes*, Musée du Quai Branly–Jacques Chirac, January 31–November 12, 2017, for *African Arts* (forthcoming 2018)
- Exhibition review: *Afriques Capitales*, La Villette and Gare Saint-Saveur, March 22–September 3, 2017, for *African Arts* (forthcoming 2018)
- ArtInsight* gallery guide, “African Textiles,” Indiana University Art Museum (forthcoming)

Conference and Symposium Presentations

- “Open and Closed: Aesthetics and Identities in Global West African Fashion.” Costume Institute of the African Diaspora biennial conference, London, May 4, 2018
- “At home in the market: fashion, identity, and reputation in West African cloth networks.” African Studies Association, Chicago, November 16–18, 2017
- “Movement, Meaning, and Networks of Cloth in West Africa and Beyond.” (Panel co-convenor)

- European Conference on African Studies, Basel, Switzerland, June 29, 2017
“Encoding Fashion in Post-Independence Bamako.” Lusophone Studies Association panel, African Studies Association, Indianapolis, November 21, 2014
“Exhibition as Intervention: Two Centuries of Black American Art.” Midwest Art History Society, St. Louis, Missouri, April 4, 2014
“Self-Made Men: Congolese Sapeurs, Performance, and Photography.” Symposium, 48th Annual Graduate Seminar, Art Institute of Chicago, April 12–13, 2013
“Strategies of Everyday Elegance: Approaching Dress in West Africa.” Symposium, Technologies of Experience, Indiana University, April 5–6, 2013
“Exhibiting Difference: African Objects in Nineteenth-Century Museums.” Symposium, Romanticism to Modernism: Nineteenth-Century Visual Culture, Miami University, February 25, 2011

Teaching

- Instructor of Record: Introduction to African Art, Indiana University, spring 2015
Instructor of Record: Renaissance to Modern Western Art, IU, summer 2014
Associate Instructor: Ancient to Medieval Western Art, IU, fall 2014
Teaching Assistant: Arts of Southeast Asia, Miami University, spring 2007

Other Professional Experience

- Indiana University Art Museum: Curatorial Assistant, summer 2013; Curatorial Graduate Assistant for the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas, academic terms 2011–2013
Joanna Burke Art Consultants, Inc., Los Angeles, California: Junior Art Consultant, 2009–2011
Freelance editing of academic theses, 2010–2011
Painted Tongue Studios, Oakland, California: Apprentice (letterpress and fine art printing), 2009
Antioch Education Abroad, Antioch College: Program Assistant for Arts & Culture in Mali, fall 2008

University Service

- Graduate student participant in Critical Area Studies in a Global Era workshop, 2015
Graduate Students in African Studies: President and Symposium Chair 2014–2015; Vice President and Symposium Chair, 2013–2014
Brown Bag Lecture Series Coordinator, Art History, 2013–2014
Workshop leader, “Teaching about Africa through Textiles,” for African Studies Program Summer Teachers’ Institute, 2013
Art History Association: Co-president and Symposium Co-chair, 2012–2013
Fine Arts Library Advisory Committee member, 2012–2013

Affiliations

- Arts Council of the African Studies Association
Mande Studies Association
West African Research Association/West African Research Center, Dakar

Languages

- French (highly proficient)
Bamanankan (intermediate)
Wolof (beginning)