

Rachel E. Stephens

rachel@ua.edu

EDUCATION:

- Ph.D. 2010 **University of Iowa, Iowa City, Art History**
Dissertation: "America's Portraitist: Ralph E.W. Earl and the Imaging of the Jacksonian Era"
Advisor: Dr. Joni Kinsey
Major Field: American Art, Minor Field: 18th and 19th c. European Art
- M.A. 2004 **Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, Art History**
Thesis: "Madame de Pompadour and the Visual Arts: Exploring Power, Identity and the *Femme Savante*"
- B.A. 2002 **The University of the South, Sewanee, TN**
Major: Art History, Minor: Political Science

EMPLOYMENT:

- Fall 2013 – present **Assistant Professor of Art History – The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa**
Courses taught: *Southern Architecture, American Painting and Sculpture, American Architecture, Art of the American South, 19th-century Art, Graduate Seminars: The Civil War and American Art, Theory and Methodologies, Slavery and American Art*
- 2009 – 2013 **Assistant Professor of Art History – Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA**
Courses taught: *Modern Art 1850-1950, Contemporary Art, American Art, Art of the American South, American Modernism, Louisiana Art and Architecture, Race and Gender in American Art, Art Appreciation* (lecture and online format), *Senior Practicum, Survey I: Ancient to Medieval Art*

RECENT FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS:

- 2016 **NEH Summer Institute participant, "Visual Culture of the Civil War and Its Aftermath"**
- 2015 **CARSCA Research Grant- The University of Alabama**
- 2015 **UA President's Faculty Research Award for Arts and Sciences- Humanities**
- 2015 **(finalist) Fulbright-Terra Foundation Award in American Art History**
- 2014 **Educator of the Year, Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society**
- 2014 **Research Grants Council Award, The University of Alabama**
- 2013 **Visiting Scholar – American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts**

PUBLICATIONS:

- 2017 *Selling Andrew Jackson: Ralph E. W. Earl and the Politics of Portraiture*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, forthcoming fall 2017.

- 2017 "Making a Display': Adelmia Acklen's Tennessee Family Portraits" *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (forthcoming Spring 2017).
- 2015 "An Interview with Derek Larson," *SECAC Review* XVI: 5 (2015): 641-44.
- 2015 "Exhibition Review of *Purchased Lives* and *To Be Sold*," *Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art* (Fall 2015).
- 2014 "Portraits of Early Tennesseans by Ralph E.W. Earl: A Case Study in Southern Art" *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* LXXIII:3 (November 2014): 178-208.
- 2008 "The Cyclorama of the Battle of Shiloh: A Biased Commemoration" *Montage* 2:1
- 2008 "Grant Wood's Lithographs: An Artistic Culmination" in *A Democratic Age in Printmaking: Realism and Regionalism, 1935-1944*. Winnetka, IL: Prints America, 2008.

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES:

2017 College Art Association, New York, NY

Paper: "From Invisible Slave to Comforting Mammy: The Evolution of Nursemaid Imagery in Nineteenth-Century American Art"

2016 Hope College, Arts and Humanities Symposium, "Am I not Human? Racial Identities in Modern America"

Invited guest lecture: Aunt Chloe to Aunt Jemima: The Static Image of the African American Housemaid

2016 Nineteenth-Century Studies Association, Lincoln, NE

Paper: "Abolition and Justification in Slavery Photography: Two Case Studies"

2016 College Art Association, Washington D.C.

Paper: "From the Wounds of Slavery to the Wounds of War: Visual Culture in Support of the American Civil War"

2015 Southeastern College Art Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

Paper: "Subtle Abolitionism in Thomas Waterman Wood's African American Paintings"

Chair: American Art Open Sessions

2015 Digitorium, Digital Humanities Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL

Paper: "Digital Humanities Curation in the American Art History Classroom"

Chair: "Approaches in Digital Pedagogy"

2015 College Art Association, New York, NY

Paper: "The New South, Jim Crow and Architectural Manipulation in the Negro Building at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition"

2014 Southeastern College Art Conference, Sarasota, FL

American Art Open Sessions: Panel Chairperson

2013 Southeastern College Art Conference, Greensboro, NC

American Art Open Sessions: Panel Chairperson

2012 Southeastern College Art Conference, Durham, NC

American Art Open Sessions: Panel Chairperson

2012 Louisiana Studies Conference, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA

Paper: "The Bayou School: Landscape Painting in Reconstruction New Orleans"

2012 Auburn University Montgomery Southern Studies Conference

Paper: "Race Relations and African American Arts at the Southern World's Fairs"

2011 Southeastern College Art Conference, Savannah, GA

Paper: "Investigating the New South via the Tennessee Centennial Exposition: Reflections on the Negro Building"

2011 American Studies Association/ Pop Culture Association, Regional Conference, New Orleans, LA

Panel chairperson: "The Appropriation of Art Sources in Popular Culture"

2011 "The South" Liberal Arts Conference, Auburn University Montgomery

Paper: "Cultural Expansion: Early American Art Museums in the South"

2010 Center for Historic American Visual Culture Symposium, American Antiquarian Society "Historical Prints – Fact and Fiction"

Paper: "Jackson in Print: Politics, Competition, and Propaganda in Presidential Printmaking"

2010 Southeastern College Art Conference, Richmond, VA

Paper: "Repeated Imagery: Ralph E.W. Earl's Jackson Portrait Copies"

2010 Art Institute of Chicago, Graduate Student Seminar

Paper: "Ralph E.W. Earl: A Case Study in Jacksonian Culture"

2009 Southeastern College Art Conference, Mobile, AL

Paper: "Ralph E.W. Earl's 'Striking Likenesses': An Examination of Early Portraiture in Tennessee"

2009 Frick Museum, Center for Collecting in America Symposium, "The Artist as Collector"

Paper: "Early American Portraits in Ralph E.W. Earl's 'Nashville Museum'"

2008 Southeastern College Art Conference, New Orleans, LA

Panel Chairperson: "American Art: Challenges to the Mainstream"

2008 Tennessee Historical Society, Brown Bag Lunch invited guest speaker

Paper: "Ralph E.W. Earl and Early Tennessee Culture"

2008 “The Art of Persuasion,” Indiana University Art History Graduate Student Symposium

Paper: “Ralph E.W. Earl and the Myth of Jacksonian Portraiture”

2007 Jacobsen Forum, Graduate Student Conference, University of Iowa

Paper: “Small-Scale Spectacle: Civil War Chromos and their Monumental Inspiration”

2007 “In the Cross-hairs: Intersections of Art and War,” University of Iowa Art History Graduate Student Symposium

Paper: “The Cyclorama of the Battle of Shiloh: A Biased Commemoration.”

2004 Vanderbilt Graduate Student Symposium

Paper: “The Cultural Influence of Madame de Pompadour”

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2014-present

Editor-in-chief, *SECAC Review*

2012

Visiting Curator of American Art – New Orleans Museum of Art

Curated “The Bayou School: Nineteenth-Century Louisiana Landscapes”

2012-2013

Board Member – Southeastern College Art Conference, Louisiana Representative

2009

Summer Fellow – Louisiana State Museum

*Co-curated educational exhibit, *Degas in New Orleans**

2006

Editorial Contributor – *Montage*, the online journal of the University of Iowa Art History Society

2003

Docent – Traveler’s Rest Plantation, Nashville, TN

2002-2004

Research Assistant – Vanderbilt University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

College Art Association

Southeastern College Art Conference

Association of Historians of American Art

19th-century Studies Association