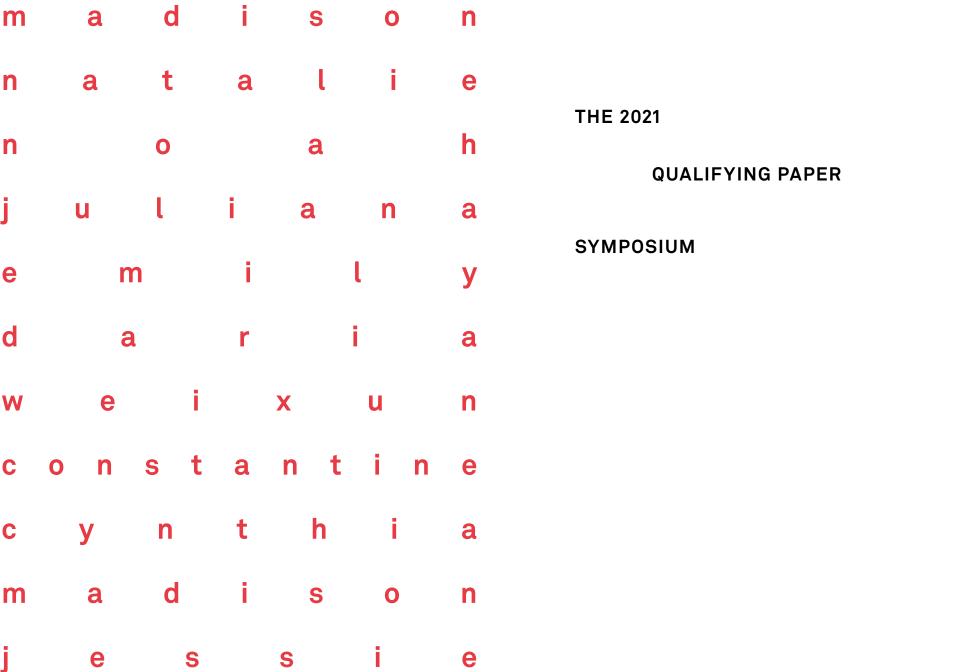
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d u o b a a y QUALIFYING PAPER symposium s ma ki s lo o e i x u u



This booklet is dedicated to BGC's very own

Keith Condon who has been both a friend to and touchstone for the class of 2021.







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INTRODUCTION

This booklet provides an enduring record of the Qualifying Papers produced by Bard Graduate Center's 2021 MA graduates. The QP, as we call it, is the capstone project and is required for all graduating students. As you will see, the topics are wide-ranging, innovative, and unusual. From an ancient Red Sea trading post, to Renaissance incense burners, to contemporary textile art, and from all corners of the globe, they embody the kind of curiosity and creativity that we like to cultivate in our students. The QP can take several forms: traditional essays, digital projects, and mock exhibitions designed using Google SketchUp. The projects typically begin as term papers in elective classes, take shape over the entire second year of the program, and must be completed while the students are enrolled in a full slate of classes with their own requirements. With the term paper as a starting point, the students work together with faculty to identify areas for broadening, expanding, and deepening their research, often undertaking some form of archival or object-based exploration. This year was especially challenging, with many students having to undertake research and writing in fully remote circumstances, requiring unique solutions for accessing sources. Needless to say, we, the faculty, are extremely proud of the work they have done, and hope you will find the abstracts and images below as impressive and edifying as we do.

Deborah L. Krohn Associate Professor and Chair of Academic Programs

Madison Clyburn

Perfumed Air and Scented Bodies: Materializing the Philosophy of Scent in Sixteenth-Century Padua





In sixteenth-century Italy, perfume masked the scent of foul-smelling air and was regularly used in preventative recipes against the plague as well as for a slew of other ailments, from masking bad breath to strengthening vision and increasing fertility. This Exhibition Qualifying Paper portrays the flourishing relationship between the classical past, current medical trends, and global networks of commerce and erudition that existed in sixteenth-century Padua through a series of bronze perfume burners, whose creation was informed by the academic study pomanders with plant- and animal-based perfumes, accessories for the body became therapeutic and capable of warding off and curing disease. Through surviving visual and textual evidence like portraits, perfume burners, garden plans, letters, medical materialities, and books of secrets, my investigation of the material culture of scent provides a new method for learning about the smells that permeated life in Padua and the Veneto. This exhibition, which takes a social and cultural perspective on sixteenth-century Italy, presents new scholarship on the intimate relationship between medical instruction, plant

Image 1: Francesco Montemezzano (Italian, 1540–1602), *Portrait of a Woman with a Squirrel*, 1565–1575. Oil on panel. 133.5 x 98 x 10.5 cm. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. Image 2: Attributed to Desiderio da Firenze (Italian, active between 1532–1545), Incense Burner, sixteenth century. Bronze. 37.5 cm. Northern Italian, probably Padua. Gift of George Blumenthal, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Advisor: Deborah Krohn Reader: Andrew Morrall

Natalie DeQuarto

"A Little World of Themselves": Women and the Cultivation of Fern Cases in the Nineteenth Century







In the nineteenth century, primarily middle- and upper-class women in the United States and Great Britain recreated miniature cases. While professional horticulturalists used the recently invented plant cases to ship specimens across the globe and raise commercial plants for sale, these encased gardens allowed women to intimately study and nurture specimens over time while remaining within their domestic spaces. In this work, I emphasize the understudied perspectives of female cultivators who typically dominate the literature surrounding their readers to imaginatively create and maintain fern cases to context of contemporary popular science books and horticultural magazine articles, as well as through illustrations and extant natural processes in domestic terms. Although the popularity of bring science and living plants into the home allowed women and venues in which science was studied and reflecting a uniquely

Image 1: Woman with a fern case. In Smythe, Judith. "My Fernery." The Home-maker: Window and Cottage Gardening 1, issue 1 (New York: October 1888), 77. Image 2: The Sydenham Case. In "The Wardian System of Plant Cases," Scientific American 32 (April 24, 1875): 263. Image 3: Andrew Brown, Wardian Case, 1860s. Metal, iron, paint, glass, cherrywood. 221 x 122 x 73.5 cm. Glasgow Museums Collection. Glasgow.

Advisor: Freyja Hartzell
Reader: Meredith Linn

Noah Dubay

Comfort and Convalescence: Fauteuils de Malade in Eighteenth-Century France







Fauteuils de malade, meaning "armchairs of the sick," were originally injury or illness. Hand-powered rolling chairs with cranks and reclining chairs for sleeping were in use in France since the late seventeenth century, as were a variety of other chair forms, including those for parturition, surgery, and electrotherapy. While traditional studies of eighteenth-century French furniture focus on attribution and style, the technical knowledge required by the craftsmen who built these complex chairs is often forgotten. Clients and artisans had very close and complicated relationships, and carpenters were attentive to the physical needs and abilities of their clients. Large, well-upholstered chairs typically translated as "comfort" or "convenience," providing not only relaxation and informality, but the alleviation of chronic pain or discomfort. Portraiture, prints, and pamphlets demonstrated how sitting in a fauteuil the right way could even further one's social advancement. Fauteuils de malade also reveal the gaps that remain between the study of material culture and the history of medicine. While treatises are useful for researching medical philosophy, they lack the physicality that material texts and provide alternate evidence for examining comfort, health, and the body. Bridging the disciplines of furniture studies, medical history, and material culture studies, this paper draws attention to the complex relationship between seat furniture period notions of chronic illness, disability, and convalescence.

Image 1: French, Fauteuil de malade, ca. 1720. Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris. Photo: © Musée des Arts Décoratifs / Jean Tholance. Image 2: François Bernard Lépicié, after Étienne Jeaurat, La Vieillesse, 1745. Wellcome Collection, London. Photo: © Wellcome Collection. Image 3: Anonymous, Roulette du Roy, ca. 1680–1710. Purchased with the support of the Decorative Art Fund/Rijksmuseum Fonds, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam Photo © Rijksmuseum

Advisor: Jeffrey Collins
Reader: Meredith Linn

Juliana Fagua Arias

Seafaring Treasures: Latin America and the Transpacific Trade







Image 1: Tapestry-woven cover, late seventeenth to early eighteenth century. Wool, silk, cotton, and linen interlocked and dovetailed tapestry. Made in Perú. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Image 2: Ming-Style Blue and White Jar with Bird on Cactus, ca. 1700. Tin-glazed earthenware. Made in Mexico. Hispanic Society of America, New York. Image 3: Nicolás Correa (Mexican, 1690–1700), The Wedding at Cana, 1696. Oil and mixed media on wood panel, inlaid with mother-of-pearl (nácar). Hispanic Society of America, New York.

From 1565 to 1815, the Manila Galleons traversed the Pacific Ocean from Manila to Acapulco, supplying the Spanish American colonies with Asian luxury goods, and the Asian continent with Latin American commodities like silver, cacao, and cochineal. The introduction of Chinese porcelains and silks, Indian cottons, Japanese lacquerware, and other precious commodities changed how the inhabitants of the Spanish American colonies ate and dressed, decorated their homes, furnished their churches, and interacted in the public sphere. To meet the demands of the Asian shapes and designs for the local market, creating hybrid This Exhibition Qualifying Paper, Seafaring Treasures: Latin America and the Transpacific Trade, reconsiders the importance of the Manila Galleon trade through an examination of the material culture that was born out of it: the commodities that arrived from Asia as well as the Asian-inspired luxuries created in Latin America. The exhibition examines how these objects transformed the public, religious, and domestic spheres in the Spanish American colonies, and foregrounds the role of often overlooked subjects—craftsmen, merchants, and sailors—who both enabled and capitalized on the commercial exchange between Asia and Latin America. Unlike the transatlantic trade, which mainly enriched the Spanish crown and European distributors, the transpacific trade benefited mostly Asian populace from the bottom-up. The enduring impact of the early modern trade between Asia and Latin America can still be particularly in Peruvian cuisine; and persistent definitions of

Advisor: Deborah Krohn

Reader: Natalia DiPietrantonio

Emily Isakson

Imitating the Flower: Nineteenth-Century Artificial Plants and Gendered Botanical Education





Image 1: Mintorn & Son (manufacturer), Wax flower making kit, 1850–1860. Box of japanned metal, with wax, paper and wood flower making materials. 23 x 21 x 16 cm. London. Image courtesy of the Victoria & Albert Museum. Image 2: Blaschka, Leopold and Rudolf, Glass water lily, n.d. Glass. Photo by Hillel Burger. in Davis, William A..., Schultes, Richard Evans., Burger, Hillel. *The Glass Flowers at Harvard* (New York; E.P. Dutton Inc. 1982). 40–41.

Molding flowers out of wax, a popular pastime for middle- to upperclass women in the nineteenth century, resulted in flowers of
remarkable beauty and accuracy, which could be displayed in the
home or given as gifts. This paper explores nineteenth-century
wax flower making within Victorian homes in England and in the
United States, examining this activity not merely as a hobby
but as an educational pursuit for women who crafted them.
While women generally did not attend formal finishing schools or
colleges, some women utilized making artificial flowers as a way
to learn about botany and plant anatomy. In this paper I compare
the construction and instruction involved in domestic wax flower
making with that of other botanically accurate artificial flowers,
namely the glass flowers made by Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka
for the male botany students of Harvard University. I use flowermaking guidebooks and examples of artificial flowers in wax,
tissue paper, and glass to demonstrate this.

Advisor: Freyja Hartzell Reader: Jennifer Mass

Daria Murphy

Tonsorial Transformations: Women's *Sokuhatsu* in Nineteenth-Century Meiji Japan (1868–1912)





Image 1: Toyohara Chikanobu, "束髮美人競" [Comparison of Beautiful Women in Sokuhatsu], 1887. Three woodblock prints. 37.5 x 74.6 cm. The Freer Sackler Gallery of Art, Smithsonian, Washington, D.C. Image 2: Adachi Ginko, "大日本婦人束髮図解"[A Pictorial Explanation of Sokuhatsu for Great Japan], 1885. Three wood-block prints. Each 35.6 x 24.3 cm. The University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Open Collections, "Dai Hihon fujin sokuhatsu zukai."

Between 1885 and 1887, the tonsorial landscape of Meiji-era Japan (1868–1912) dramatically shifted: middle- to upper- class urban which were lacquered in hair oils and ornamented with combs. pins, and bodkins, to Western-influenced sokuhatsu styles consisting of braids, buns, and the occasional hair accessory or hat. Sokuhatsu was created in 1885 by the Women's Sokuhatsu Society—founded by educated young Japanese men—as a means to eliminate "disadvantageous customs" like kimono and women from urban centers began to wear sokuhatsu styles, the original connotations of sokuhatsu as a contributor to modernization became less pronounced. This project examines written materials—newspaper articles and a pamphlet—and visual sources—instructional sokuhatsu prints that were distributed by the Women's Sokuhatsu Society—to trace the dissemination of sokuhatsu from the Society to urban and elite transformation in Japan was met with complex opinions and anxieties regarding nationhood and identity. Women's hairstyles in Japan, whether traditional or modern, have not been included in the broader scholarly discussion of the Meiji Period and are This study draws from material culture studies, art history, and Japanese population.

Advisor: Michele Majer Reader: François Louis

Weixun Qu

The Afterlife of Lacquer Panels: Transforming Chinese Luxuries into French Furniture







Image 1: Bernard II van Risenburgh, Corner cabinet (encoignure) (one of a pair), ca. 1745–49. Oak veneered with ebony and Coromandel lacquer, cherry wood, and purplewood; gilt-bronze mounts; brocatelle marble top. 91.1 x 86.0 x 66.4 cm. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Image 2: Coromandel screen, Qing dynasty, Kangxi reign, 1672, Black lacquer on wood core with carved and pigment and gold filled (kuanca) decoration. 216.5 x 50.1 x 606.5 cm. Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian, Washington, D.C. Image 3: Bernard II van Risenburgh, Commode, ca. 1740–45., Oak veneered with panels of Chinese Coromandel lacquer and European black-lacquered veneer; gilt-bronze mounts; brêche d'Alep marble top. 86.4 x 160 x 64.1 cm. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

This study focuses on the transmission and transformation of Chinese lacquer panels in France, as well as their integration into local visual and material culture in the eighteenth century. It aims to develop new interpretations of eighteenth-century ideas of luxury, consumption, and taste, both in China and in France. This paper challenges the conventional understanding of *chinoiserie* as a superficial European response to China's material culture by exploring the pleasure and cultural illegibility embodied in such "hybrid" artworks. Writing against the backdrop of the histories of ornament, this paper pays particular attention to how French craftsmen, by adapting techniques like japanning and bronze mounting, absorbed Chinese lacquer fragments into their own products, in particular, domestic furniture. This study will also add nuance to the artistic interactions between China and France in the early modern period.

Advisor: Jeffrey Collins Reader: François Louis

Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff

The Lives of Berenike: A Port City and Its People



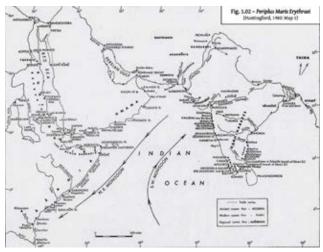


Image 1: Ptolemaic-era Petroglyph of an elephant from rock outcropping at al-Kanaïs. Photo by Steven E. Sidebotham, in Steven E. Sidebotham, in Steven E. Sidebotham, Berenike and the Ancient Maritime Spice Route (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011). Image 2: G. W. B. Huntingford, Map of Settlements Mentioned in the Periplus Maris Erythraei, in G. W. B. Huntingford (tr.), The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, by an Unknown Author (London: The Hakluyt Society, 1980).

This Exhibition Qualifying Paper looks at Berenike, a Ptolemaic and Roman port on the Red Sea Coast of Egypt which was occupied evidence, separated by centuries, illustrate distinct phases of Berenike's occupation and together reveal the city's unique position in Eastern Hemisphere trade networks: an elephant's molar, a collar from the grave of a domesticated monkey, and a group of fragments of camel girths. There were several phases of Berenike's occupation, reflected by each object. The environment, objects, people, and animals around Berenike all represent interdependent actors in the city's life. The molar reflects the port's role at its foundation as a state-sponsored landing point for captured war elephants. The collar dates to the period shortly after Roman occupation, when the mastery of the monsoon winds allowed trade with India and East Africa, including trade in monkeys, as revealed by the city's pet cemetery. The fragments their material show the influence of the people of its Eastern Desert (whose involvement with the city peaked in those years) and through their form show the area's connection to the wider Indian Ocean. The city's position and the resources, creatures, and regions this position granted access to are what allowed the poor Red Sea littoral for roughly eight hundred years.

Advisor: Deborah Krohn Reader: Caspar Meyer

Cynthia Volk

Dehua Porcelain Figures of Budai: Models of Adaptivity in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century China and Europe





While transcultural exchanges between China and Europe during goods from the East, they also featured an element of diplomatic reciprocity unusual for the colonial period. European maritime nations recognized China as a world power, and China viewed Europe as a source of valuable scientific technology and wealth in the form of silver gleaned from trade. The complexities of cultural transmission between East and West can be observed group of Chinese white porcelain figures of the Buddhist deity in Fujian province. Venerated in China and desired as emblems of exotica in Europe, I contend that the Dehua models' medium of monochromatic porcelain and reliable presentation of Budai's identifying features—a fleshy, ample belly and broad, grinning laughter—created an ideal platform on which both Chinese and Europeans enacted anxiety and optimism while reveals important commonalities alongside the more commonly reported cultural gaps. By the end of the eighteenth century, as a result of both discrete events and cultural interchange, a quasisecularized fat-bellied, laughing figure emerged as a fascinating powers coming to grips with a new global reality.

Image 1: Figure of Budai Heshang, Maitreya, Qing Dynasty, seventeenth to eighteenth century. Glazed white porcelain, Dehua, Fujian province. 17.1 cm. The Friedsam Collection, Bequest of Michael Friedsam, 1931. Metropolitan Museum, New York. Image 2: A famille rose Budai-form tureen and cover, one of a pair, ca. 1800. Enameled porcelain, Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province. 32.5 cm. Royal Trust Collection. London.

Advisor: Jeffrey Collins
Reader: Ivan Gaskell

Madison Jane Williams

Science in the Study and Authentication of Catholic Relics







Image 1: Relics of Saint Odilia, still from "Documentaire de Opening van het Reliekschrijn Sint-Odilia," 2016. Video. 07:45. Haspengouw TV, Belgium, https://www.haspengouw.tv/Documentaires.html. Image 2: Reliquary shrine of Saint Odilia, 1292. Oak and paint, Huy, France. Photograph by Jean-Luc Elias for KIK-IRPA, 1995, Brussels, Belgium. © KIK-IRPA, Brussels (Belgium). Image 3: Vernon Miller, Positive and negative of the Shroud of Turin, 1978. Photograph. Turin, Italy. © Vernon Miller, 1978.

How does the Catholic Church authenticate relics and what is the role of cultural heritage science in the investigation of these provenance, myths, miracles, and expert consultations, seek to prove the divinity of relics. The Catholic Church claims to utilize science in this process, however modern science requires peer review and reproducibility to legitimize experimental findings, which is counter to the Church's mandate of secrecy during all expert consultations related to relic authenticity. Still, relics have bread sack of Saint Francis of Assisi dating to the thirteenth century; and the bones in the wooden reliquary shrine of Saint Odilia of Cologne. These three case studies offer lessons on how of the scientists responsible for the most publicized study in 1978 the scientists' results. More recent scientific investigations into the relics of Saints Odilia and Francis demonstrate that fruitful cooperation between cultural heritage scientists and the Catholic objects were not related to the foundational myths of Christianity, allowed more scientific transparency and created lower stakes benefit from scientists' findings. Cultural heritage science serves to uncover information about the materiality and secular history of relics, but science alone cannot authenticate religious

Advisor: Jennifer Mass Reader: Ittai Weinryb

Jessie Mordine Young

On Anne Wilson and Winding the Warp: Embodied and Tacit Knowledge in Contemporary Textile Art







Image 1: Anne Wilson, Wind-Up: Walking the Warp (Walking Chicago), January 20–25, 2008. Video still of recorded performance (yarn, stainless steel). 06:08. Film by Joroen Nelemans, https://www.annewilsonartist.com/. Image 2: Anne Wilson and Jose Andres Ramirez, 76 Cross (Walking New York), September 19–December 14, 2014. Photograph of live performance. https://www.annewilsonartist.com/. Image 3: Anne Wilson, Rewinds, (KMA), 2010. Installation, glass. Photograph of Anne Wilson, Susan Snodgrass, Chris Molinski, Glenn Adamson, Jenni Sorkin, Julia Bryan-Wilson, Philis Alvic, and Laura Y Liu. Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, Tennessee. https://www.annewilsonartist.com/.

Weaving is fundamentally an experiential process based on tactile and corporeal engagement with thread and loom. When examining textiles in a gallery or museum, embodied and tacit knowledge privileged, intimate access to the artwork. Contemporary artist Anne Wilson (b.1949) confirms these ideas in a series of walking" performances implement textile processes that reveal the tactile and corporeal components of weaving. Rather than relying on the textile itself to convey these processes, Wilson's not even result in a finished textile. In some of the most innovative works, she mimics processes that demonstrate the imperative steps of weaving without ever engaging with a loom or thread. In her works Rewinds, Sampler, and To..., for example, she explores how flameworking glass can mimic the techniques of bobbin understand how the viewer can be introduced to textile language and textile thought without a textile present at all, resulting in the transference of textile knowledge.

Advisor: Michele Majer Reader: Hadley Jensen

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On behalf of the graduating master's students of 2021, we would like to thank our family, friends, and partners for supporting us throughout our Qualifying Paper process.

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—Emily Isakson and Madison Jane Williams

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