

DENVA EDELLE GALLANT

Department of Art History
Rice University
Denva.Gallant@rice.edu

EDUCATION

- 2018 PhD, Harvard University, Dept. of History of Art and Architecture
Dissertation: “In the Footsteps of our Fathers: Morgan Library’s *Vitae patrum*, M.626” (Committee: Jeffrey Hamburger, Ioli Kalavrezou, Joanna Cannon)
- 2011 A.M., Harvard University, Dept. of History of Art and Architecture
- 2005 B.A., Sweet Briar College, Dept. of Art History and Italian Studies

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 Assistant Professor, Rice University, Dept. of Art History
- 2018 Assistant Professor, University of Delaware, Dept. of Art History

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, HONORS and RESIDENCIES

- 2024 Research Residency, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz
- 2023-2024 Mellon Diversity in Leadership, Invited Participant
- 2022 Millard Meiss Publication Grant for publication of *Illuminating the Vitae patrum: The Lives of the Desert Saints in Fourteenth-Century Italy* (Fall 2022)
- 2022 ICMA-Kress Research and Publication Grant for publication of *Illuminating the Vitae patrum: The Lives of the Desert Saints in Fourteenth-Century Italy*
- 2022 University of Delaware Department of Art History Grant for publication of *Illuminating the Vitae patrum: The Lives of the Desert Saints in Fourteenth-Century Italy*
- 2022-2023 Samuel H. Kress Foundation Rome Prize, American Academy in Rome
- 2022-2023 Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowship in the History of Art (declined)
- 2022 I Tatti Term Fellow, Villa I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies (declined)
- 2018 Vice-Provost for Diversity, Faculty Success Program, Funded Participant
- 2017-2018 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University Graduate School of Arts

and Sciences

- 2015-2017 Samuel H. Kress Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 2015 Graduate Visiting Fellowship, Villa I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies
- 2014 Arthur Kingsley Porter Fellowship, Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- 2013 Derek Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching of Undergraduate, Harvard University, Nominated
- 2012 Certificate of Excellence and Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University
- 2012 Bliss Symposium Award, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.
- 2011-2014 Richard and Susan Smith Fellow, Harvard University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Gallant, Denva. *Illuminating the Vitae patrum: The Lives of the Desert Saints in Fourteenth-Century Italy*. The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2024.

Articles

Journals, Peer Reviewed

Gallant, Denva and Amelia Hope-Jones, eds. "Introduction," Denva Gallant and Amelia Hope-Jones, eds. "Environmental Narratives and the Eremitic Turn." Special Issue, *Different Visions*, (Spring 2025), in progress.

Gallant, Denva, "In the Land of the Thebaid: Landscape, Place, and Ambulatio," Denva Gallant and Amelia Hope-Jones, eds. "Environmental Narratives and the Eremitic Turn." Special Issue, *Different Visions*, (Spring 2025), in progress.

Gallant, Denva, "The Monastic in the Dynastic: Images of Kingship in the Morgan Library's *Vitae patrum* (NY, P. Morgan Library, Ms. M.626)," *I Tatti Studies*, (Spring 2024), forthcoming.

Gallant, Denva, "Into the Desert: Demons, Spiritual Focus, and the Eremitic Idea in Pierpont Morgan Library MS. M.626," *Gesta* 60, no. 1 (Spring 2021): 101-119.

Book Chapters and Edited Volumes, Peer Reviewed

Gallant, Denva, "Racialized Soundscapes in the Cocharelli Codex," in *Tributes to Jeffrey Hamburger: Teaching Objects: Art and Learning from the Middle Ages*. Turnhout: Brepols, 2027, in progress.

Gallant, Denva, "Approaches to Alterity: Race and Racialization in Late Medieval Italian Art History," in *Ethnicity and Race in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East*, ed. Lamia Balafrej and Hannah Barker. London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2025, in progress.

Editorial Work

Denva Gallant and Amelia Hope-Jones, eds. "Environmental Narratives and the Eremitic Turn." Special Issue, *Different Visions*, (Spring 2025).

INVITED LECTURES

Gallant, Denva (2024). "Illustrating the *Vitae patrum*: The Rise of the Eremitic Ideal In Fourteenth-Century Italy," The Ferber Lecture, Art History Department at Binghamton University.

Gallant, Denva (2024). "Illuminating the Lives of the Desert Fathers: Morgan MS. M. 626 and the Rise of the Eremitic Ideal," McKim and Morgan Society Lecture, American Academy.

Gallant, Denva (2023). "The Medieval Book as Gateway: Contemplation, Meditation, and Image Making in the Lives of the Desert Fathers," *The Image of the Book: Representing the Codex, from Antiquity to the Present*. 16th Annual Lawrence J. Schoenberg Symposium on Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age, University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Gallant, Denva (2023). "Illustrating the *Vitae patrum*: The Rise of the Eremitic Ideal In Fourteenth-Century Italy," Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Firenze. Max-Planck-Institut für Kunstgeschichte.

Gallant, Denva (2022). "The Dynastic in the Monastic: Considering the Image of Robert of Anjou in Morgan MS. M.626," The Murray Seminars on Medieval and Renaissance Art, Birkbeck, University of London.

Gallant, Denva (2022). "Illustrating the *Vitae patrum*: The Rise of the Eremitic Ideal in Fourteenth-Century Italy," Richard and Mary Rouse History of the Book Lecture, UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies.

Gallant, Denva (2021). "Into the Desert: Demons, Spiritual Focus, and the Eremitic Ideal in Pierpont Morgan Library MS. M.626," Graduate Student Lecture Series, University of Delaware.

Gallant, Denva (2020). "Going in Eremo: Withdrawal and the Eremitic Ideal in NY, P. Morgan Library, MS. M.626." Research Seminar, Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max-Planck-Institut für Kunstgeschichte.

Gallant, Denva (2019). "Into the Desert: Demons, Spiritual Focus, and the Eremitic Ideal in Pierpont Morgan Library MS. M.626." Medieval-Renaissance Forum in the History of Art Department, Yale University.

Gallant, Denva (2019). "Making the Devil Visible: Images of Temptation in Morgan Library's MS. M.626." Comini Lecture, Southern Methodist University.

Gallant, Denva (2019). "Making the Devil Visible: Images of Temptation in Morgan Library's MS. M.626." Index Workshops in Medieval Art, Princeton University.

Gallant, Denva (2016). "The Dynastic in the Monastic: Images of Kingship in the Morgan Library's Vitae Patrum (NY, P. Morgan Library, Ms. M.626)" Giotto's O, Courtauld Institute, London.

PUBLIC LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

Gallant, Denva (2024). "In the Land of the Thebaid: Landscape, Place, and Ambulatio," 70th Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, March 2024.

Gallant, Denva (2023). "The Black Body as Site of Conversion: Race and Ethnicity in Late Medieval Italy," Race & Gender in the Global Middle Ages Working Group, December 2023.

Gallant, Denva (2023). "Race and Ethnicity in Medieval Art," Howard University Undergraduate Internship Program, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, Washington, D.C., October 27th.

Gallant, Denva (2023). "In the Land of the Thebaid: Woman as Exemplar," International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 2023.

Gallant, Denva (2023). "Imagining Trastevere's Medieval Past through Music and Art: Santa Maria in Trastevere and Santa Cecilia in Trastevere." With Drs. Elizabeth Elmi and Emily Hurt, American Academy in Rome, June 2023.

Gallant, Denva (2023). "In the Land of the Thebaid: Issues of Community in the Frescoes of the Augustinian Convent of Santa Marta in Siena," The 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2023.

Gallant, Denva (2022). "Forms of Vision and Withdrawal." With Dr. Tung-Hui-Hu. American Academy in Rome, December 2022.

Gallant, Denva (2022). "The Dynastic in the Monastic: Considering the Image of Robert of Anjou in Morgan MS. M.626," The 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2022.

Gallant, Denva (2020). "Going in Eremo: Withdrawal and the Eremitic Ideal in NY, P. Morgan Library, MS. M.626." Index Workshops in Medieval Art, Princeton University.

Gallant, Denva (2019). "In Search of the Desert: New Observations on the Late-Medieval Revival of the Eremitic Life." 54th International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2019.

Gallant, Denva (2018). "In the Land of the Thebaid: Woman as Exemplar." Renaissance Society of America.

Gallant, Denva (2017). "Succession, Tradition and Continuity: Charting Past to Present in the Morgan Library's *Vitae patrum* (NY, P. Morgan Library, M.626)" Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, Washington, D.C.

Gallant, Denva (2015). "Moving into the Renaissance: Late Medieval Panel Paintings as Precursor" Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Gallant, Denva (2014). "Bible Stories in the MFA Collection: Illustrations or Interpretations?" Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rice University, Assistant Professor

Undergraduate Seminars and Graduate Seminars (3 credit hours):

HART 337/577, "Medieval Manuscripts"

Undergraduate Lectures (3 credit hours):

HART 330, "Early Medieval Art"

University of Delaware, Assistant Professor

Graduate Seminars (3 credit hours):

ARTH 606, “Narrative in the Age of Giotto” Fall 2020

ARTH606-406, “The Medieval Book” Spring 2020, Spring 2022

ARTH606-406, “Narrative in the Age of Giotto” Fall 2018, Fall 2020

Undergraduate Lectures (3 Credit Hours):

ARTH 209, “Early Medieval Art,” Fall 2021

ARTH 158, “Rulers’ Images,” Fall 2021

ARTH 210, “Later Medieval Art” Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020

ARTH 153, “Introduction to Art History: From Caves to Cathedrals” Fall 2019

Harvard University, Teaching Fellow

Undergraduate Seminars:

“Sophomore Excursion: Amsterdam”

“Bible Stories: Narrative Strategies in High Medieval Art”

“The Imperial Arts of the Inca and the Aztec”

“Decline and Fall? Antiquity and its Legacy”

“The Illuminated Manuscript”

STUDENT MENTORING

Dissertation Advising (Rice University)

Eilis Livia Coughlin, “The Bible of Naples (Paris, BnF, Ms. français 9561): Female Power, Piety, and Patronage in Fourteenth-Century Angevin Naples” advisor

Dissertation Advising (University of Delaware)

Caitlin Hutchinson, “The Multivocality of the Cross of the Scriptures: Claiming Victory, Kingship, and Territory in Early Medieval Ireland,” committee member

Emily Shartrand, “Sexual Warfare in the Margins of Two Late Thirteenth-Century Franco-Flemish Arthurian Manuscripts,” committee member

Christine Bachman, “Outside the Pages: Making and Meaning of Early Medieval Book Covers,” committee member

Field Examinations (University of Delaware)

Erin Hein, PhD candidate, University of Delaware, minor exam committee member

Christine Bachman, PhD, major field exam committee member

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

International

Member, Leadership team, Medieval Environmental Histories reading group, an international community of scholars engaged in research on environmental histories of the medieval period, 2023- present.

Member, Publications Committee, International Center of Medieval Art, 2020-2022.

Sessions Co-Organizer, “Naples and Beyond: World-Wide Cultural Networks,” ICMA

Sponsored Session, The 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2022. International Center of Medieval Art Sponsored Session.

Moderator, “Movement and Materials Within and Beyond Naples (1265 – 1458 CE),” The 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May, 2022. International Center of Medieval Art Sponsored Session.

Respondent, “New Approaches to the Art and Architecture of Angevin and Aragonese Naples (1265-1458)” The 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 9 – 14, 2022. Sponsored by the Student Committee of the International Center of Medieval Art.

Session Organizer, “In Search of the Desert: New Observations on the Late-Medieval Revival of the Eremitic Life.” The 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, 2019.

National

Moderator, “Archetypes: Amazons, caryatids, and snakes,” 2023 Feminist Art History Conference at American University

Member, Executive Council. Delaware Valley Medieval Association, 2018-2019.

Member, Working Group. Environmental Histories of Medieval Places, Eras, and Narratives, 2023-present.

University Service

Rice University

Associate, McMurtry College (2024-present)

University of Delaware

Faculty Senator, University Faculty Senate, University of Delaware, Spring 2022.

Faculty Senator, Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate, University of Delaware, 2019-2021.

Host, Write on Site, University of Delaware, 2019-2022.

Departmental Service

Department of Art History, Rice University

Member, Graduate Committee, 2024-present.

Member, Exams Committee, 2023.

Department of Art History, University of Delaware

Member, Admission’s Committee, 2022.

Member, Curriculum Committee, 2020-2021.

Member, Curatorial Track PhD Committee, 2020.

Language Exam Reader (Latin, Italian, German), 2019-Present.

Advisor, Lecture Series, 2019-2020.

Advisor, Graduate Student Symposium, 2019-2020.

Co-Instructor, Dissertation Proposal Workshop, 2018.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Lecturer, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, 2013-2014
Guest Lecturer, Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Cloisters, New York, NY, 2006

LANGUAGES

Italian, Fluent
Latin, Reading proficiency
German, Reading proficiency
French, Reading proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Italian Art Society
Medieval Academy of America
International Center of Medieval Art
College Art Association

IN THE MEDIA

2024 “[Denva Gallant’s new book illuminates intersection of visual culture and spirituality in medieval Italy](#),” Rice News, January 26
2022 “[Naples and Beyond: World-Wide Cultural Networks](#),” ICMA Newsletter, Summer.
2022 “[Is Weird Medieval Guys The Best Account on Twitter?](#),” AAR Magazine, Oct. 31st.
2022 “[When in Rome](#),” UD Daily, June 22nd.
2020 “[UD Art History at Home | Professor Gallant](#),” University of Delaware, May 2020.