

Linda Merrill

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Education

University of London (University College), England. Ph.D. History of Art, 1985.

Dissertation: "The Diffusion of Aesthetic Taste: Whistler and the Popularization of Aestheticism, 1875–1881." Advisor: William H. T. Vaughan.

Marshall Scholarship, 1981–84, awarded by the Marshall Plan Commemoration Commission of Great Britain for postgraduate study.

Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. A.B., 1981. Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with Highest Honors in English, 1981.

Professional Experience

Emory University, Atlanta

Lecturer & Director of Undergraduate Studies, Art History Department, 2013
Instructor, Art History Department, 2008–13 and spring 2002

National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of the Chairman

Humanities Administrator, November 2006–April 2007 (temporary appointment).

High Museum of Art, Atlanta

Margaret and Terry Stent Curator of American Art, 1998–2000.

Exhibitions and installations include:

- *After Whistler: The Artist & His Influence on American Painting*, November 22, 2003, to February 8, 2004; The Detroit Institute of Arts (as *American Attitude: Whistler & and Followers*), March 6 to May 30, 2004
- *John Twachtman: An American Impressionist*, February 2000, venue curator for exhibition organized by Judy Larsen (catalogue by Lisa Peters)
- *Circa 1900*, February 2000, works from the High Museum and loans from local collections illustrating the range of styles current in America at the turn of the twentieth century.
- *Robert Henri & Eulabee Dix* (focus exhibition), June 1999.

Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Curator of American Art, 1997–98; Associate Curator of American Art, 1990–97; Assistant Curator of American Art, 1985–90.

Exhibitions and installations include:

- *Winged Figures by Abbott H. Thayer*, June 1999.
- *Whistler Prints: Whistler and the Hadens*, July 1999; *Whistler and the Leylands*, July 1998.
- *Art for Art's Sake*, July 1997. Paintings by Whistler, Tryon, Thayer, and Dewing, illustrating the tenets of Aestheticism.
- *Choice Spirits: Paintings by Thomas Dewing and Dwight Tryon*, February 1996
- *Whistler & Japan*, May 1995. Whistler paintings, pastels, prints, and drawings from the 1860s and '70s, with Japanese works illustrating critical influences on the evolution of the artist's style; the first major exhibition at the Freer to combine works of American and East Asian art. With Ann Yonemura, Curator of Japanese Art.
- *American Paintings*, May 1993. Reinstallation of works from the permanent collection, reviving the spirit of the original installation with four prominent galleries devoted to paintings by Whistler, Thayer, Tryon, and Dewing; additional displays of works by Melchers, Sargent, Homer, and Metcalf.
- *Charles Lang Freer and the Freer Gallery of Art*. May 1993. Didactic display explaining the museum founder's collecting philosophy and recounting the history of the museum, with Asian ceramics and a Whistler painting arranged according to unpublished autochromes by A. L. Coburn in 1909.
- *Acquired Taste: American Paintings in the Freer Collection*, February 1987.
- *Arrangement in Yellow and Gold: Paintings by James McNeill Whistler*, February 1986

Major projects include:

- *Freer Gallery Reinstallation, 1988–93*.
- *Peacock Room Conservation and Reinstallation, 1989–93*.
- *Peacock Room Porcelain campaign, 1989–93*.
- *Whistler Correspondence Project, 1993–2006*.

Hood College, Frederick, Maryland, Department of Art History

Visiting Assistant Professor, 1991, 1985–86.

Publications

Books

Editor, with Lee Glazer. ***Palaces of Art: Whistler and the Art Worlds of Aestheticism***. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Scholarly Press, 2013 (forthcoming). Publication of papers presented in the inaugural symposium of the Lunder Consortium for Whistler Studies, October 2011.

Editor, with Lee Glazer, Margaret F. MacDonald, and Nigel Thorp. ***James McNeill Whistler in Context***. Freer Gallery of Art Occasional Papers, New Series, Vol. 2. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 2008. Publication of papers presented at the Whistler Centenary Symposium held at the University of Glasgow, 2003.

Editor and primary author. ***After Whistler: The Artist & His Influence on American Painting***. Exhibition catalogue, with contributions by Lacey Taylor Jordan, Marc Simpson, Robyn Asleson, John Siewert, Sylvia Yount, and Lee Glazer. New Haven: Yale University Press and the High Museum of Art, 2003.

The Peacock Room: A Cultural Biography. Washington, D.C.: Freer Gallery of Art and Yale University Press, 1998. Awarded Historians of British Art Book Prize for the best book in English on British art and architecture in the nineteenth century, 2000.

With Kindest Regards: The Correspondence of Charles Lang Freer and James McNeill Whistler, 1890–1903. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995.

Freer: A Legacy of Art, with Thomas Lawton. Washington, D.C.: Freer Gallery of Art, in association with Harry N. Abrams, 1993.

The Princess and the Peacocks; or, The Story of the Room, with Sarah Ridley. Illustrated by Tennessee Dixon. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, in association with the Freer Gallery of Art, 1993.

A Pot of Paint: Aesthetics on Trial in Whistler v. Ruskin. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992; reprint 1993.

An Ideal Country: Paintings by Dwight William Tryon in the Freer Gallery of Art. Washington, D.C.: Freer Gallery of Art in association with The University Press of New England, 1990.

Articles, Essays, Catalogue Entries

“Enlisting Aestheticism: Beauty, Valor, and the Great War,” in *Palaces of Art: Whistler and the Art Worlds of Aestheticism*, ed. Lee Glazer and Linda Merrill (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Scholarly Press, 2013), in press.

“John Singer Sargent,” in *The Lunder Collection: A Gift of Art to Colby College* (Waterville, ME: Colby College Museum of Art, 2013).

Catalogue entries, *Celebrating the American Spirit: Masterworks from Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art*, ed. Christopher B. Crosman, Emily D. Shapiro, and Don Bacigalupi (Bentonville, AR: Crystal Bridges Museum, in association with Hudson Hills Press, 2011).

“Seeing is Believing: Whistler’s elaborate Peacock Room defies easy description,” *The Wall Street Journal*, September 15–16, 2007.

“The Soul of Refinement: Whistler and American Tonalism,” and “James McNeill Whistler, *Seascape*” (cat. entry), in Spanierman Gallery, *The Poetic Vision: American Tonalism* (New York, 2005).

“Dwight William Tryon, *The First Leaves*” (cat. entry), in *Masterworks of American Paintings and Sculpture in the Smith College Museum of Art* (New York, 1999).

“James McNeill Whistler and Japan,” with Ann Yonemura, *American Art Review*, June/July 1995.

“Whistler and the ‘Lange Lijzen,’” *The Burlington Magazine*, October 1994.

“Conspiring against Whistler,” *Tate: The Art Magazine*, October 1994.

“Whistler’s Peacock Room Revisited,” *The Magazine Antiques*, June 1993.

Encyclopedia Articles

“Charles Augustus Howell” and “Frederick Richards Leyland,” *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (London, 2006).

“Christina Spartali,” *Dictionary of Artists’ Models* (London, 2001).

“Charles Lang Freer,” *The American National Biography* (New York, 2000).

“James McNeill Whistler.” *Encyclopedia of Interior Design* (London, 1997).

“James McNeill Whistler.” *The Eighteen Nineties: An Encyclopedia of British Literature, Art and Culture*, edited by George A. Cevalco (New York, 1993).

Symposium & Conference Papers

“Enlisting Aestheticism: Beauty, Valor, and the Great War.” Freer Gallery of Art. *Palaces of Art: Whistler and the Art Worlds of Aestheticism*, a symposium, October 27–28, 2011.
<http://www.asia.si.edu/events/lunderSymposium.asp>

“*House by the Railroad: Progress & Nostalgia in American Art*,” keynote address. Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. “Picturing America,” NEH School Collaboration Project, March 19, 2011.

“Capturing Aestheticism through Photography: Caffin, Coburn, and Freer.” Freer Gallery of Art. *A Deeper Look at Surface Beauty*, an online interactive colloquium. May 12, 2010.
<http://www.smithsonianconference.org/surfacebeauty/>

“‘An Aestheticism of Our Own’: Oscar Wilde in Cincinnati.” Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio. *Tenth Annual Arts & Crafts Conference*, University of Minnesota. June 2008.

“Whistler and the City of Light.” Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Symposium in conjunction with the exhibition *Americans in Paris, 1860–1900*. November 2006.

“Whistler and Tonalism.” Dahesh Museum, New York City. *American Tonalism*, a symposium. November 2005.

“Trials and Tribulations: Whistler in 1878.” The Art Institute of Chicago. Alan McNab Memorial Lecture. June 1998. Keynote address, *New Light on James McNeill Whistler*, a symposium.

“Competing Connoisseurs: Collecting Contemporary American Art at the Turn of the Century.” New York University, New York City. *Radical Departures: Aspects of the Modern in American Painting, 1876-1939*, a conference. May 1998.

“Genius on the Wings of Ambition: Whistler in 1864.” National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C. Symposium in conjunction with the exhibitions *James McNeill Whistler* (National Gallery of Art) and *In Pursuit of the Butterfly: Portraits of James McNeill Whistler* (National Portrait Gallery). June 1995.

“Patterns of Patronage: Leyland, Freer, and the Medici.” Tate Gallery, London. *International Whistler Symposium*. December 1994.

“Charles Lang Freer and James McNeill Whistler.” Bowdoin College, Maine. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Lecture. February 1993.

“Truth and Consequences: The History and Conservation of Whistler’s Peacock Room.” Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. Mellon Program in the History of Art Objects. March 1993.

“Burne-Jones and the Beguiling of History.” The Midwest Victorian Studies Association, Chicago. April 1898.

Public Lectures

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, November 10, 2012. “Whistler and the Performance of Art.”

American Art Society, Cincinnati, May 4, 2010. “Aestheticism Abroad.”

Hermitage Foundation, Norfolk, Va., February 8, 2010. “Art and Money; or, the Story of the Peacock Room.”

The Detroit Institute of Arts, October 2009. “The Blue Room: Whistler’s Peacock Room in Detroit.”

The Detroit Institute of Arts, February/March 2004. “What’s in a Name? Whistler and His Influence on American Art.” In conjunction with the exhibition *After Whistler: The Artist’s Influence on American Painting* (titled *American Attitude* in Detroit).

High Museum of Art, Atlanta, October 2003. “The Whistler Lectures” (a series of four).

Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT, November 2001. “After Whistler: The Artist’s Influence in America,” the 2001 Samuel Thorne Memorial Lecture.

Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, Conn., March 2000. “Whistler and America.”

Taft Museum, Cincinnati, January 2000. “The Voice of the Aesthete: Whistler versus Wilde.” In conjunction with the exhibition *The Etchings and Drypoints of James McNeill Whistler from Syracuse*

University Art Collection.

Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., October 1998. "Peacocks with a Past." To celebrate the publication of *The Peacock Room: A Cultural Biography*.

Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida at Gainesville, February 1998. "Whistler's Peacock Room: An Essay in Aestheticism."

Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., November 1997, and The Art Seminar Group, Baltimore, February 1998. "The Dilettante Stalks Abroad': Whistler versus Wilde."

The Mark Twain House, Hartford, Conn. March 1995. "At Home with the Peacock Room: Artistic Houses in London and Detroit."

The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C., June 1993. "The Gentle Art of Patronage: Charles Lang Freer and James McNeill Whistler." In conjunction with the exhibition *Augustus Vincent Tack: Landscape of the Spirit*.

Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., May 1993, repeated June 1993. "Art and Money; or, The Story of the Peacock Room." To celebrate the reopening of the museum after a three-year renovation.

Phoenix Art Museum, March 1993. "Trial and Error: The Story of *Whistler v. Ruskin*." In conjunction with the exhibition *The Art of Seeing: John Ruskin and the Victorian Eye*.

Symposia Organized

Frames of Reference: Whistler & American Art. High Museum of Art, in conjunction with the exhibition *After Whistler: The Artist and His Influence on American Painting*, November 15, 2003.

Aesthetic Value in the Gilded Age. Freer Gallery of Art, with the National Museum of American Art, in conjunction with the exhibition *The Art of Thomas Dewing: Beauty Reconfigured*, September 28, 1996.

Whistler: Works in Progress. Freer Gallery of Art, with the Centre for Whistler Studies, University of Glasgow, in conjunction with the exhibitions *Whistler & Japan* (Freer Gallery) and *James McNeill Whistler* (National Gallery of Art), June 1, 1995.

Exhibition Catalogues Edited

American Encounters: Genre Painting and Everyday Life, by Peter John Brownlee and others. University of Washington Press, 2013.

Rising Up: Hale Woodruff's Murals at Talladega College, by Stephanie Mayer Heydt, with contributions by Renée Ater, David C. Driskell, and Juliette S. Smith. Atlanta: High Museum of Art, 2012.

Cecilia Beaux, American Figure Painter, by Sylvia Yount, with essays by Kevin Sharp, Nina Auerbach, and Mark Bockrath, awarded the William Fischelis Book Award by the Victorian Society of America. Atlanta: High Museum of Art and University of California Press, 2007.

Andrew Wyeth: Memory & Magic, by Anne Knutson, with contributions by John Wilmerding, Kathleen Foster, Michael Taylor, and Christopher Crossman. New York: Rizzoli, 2005.

Current & Recent Appointments

Senior Fellow, Lunder Consortium for Whistler Studies, a scholarly collaboration of the Freer and Sackler Galleries, the Colby College Museum of Art, and the University of Glasgow, 2012–present.

Consultant, Film Odyssey, Washington, D.C. *Butterfly: The Art and Life of James McNeill Whistler*, a 60-minute television documentary for PBS broadcast, together with a Web site and associated outreach efforts, in development. <http://www.odysseymedia.org/productions/whistler/film/>

International Scholarly Advisory Board, Freer Gallery of Art, for *The Story of the Beautiful: Whistler, Freer, and Their Points of Contact*, an interactive Web resource, 2009–10. Funded by the Terra Foundation for American Art. <http://www.peacockroom.wayne.edu/>

Advisory Board, Friends of the Charles Lang Freer House, Detroit Mich.,

Honorary Research fellow, Centre for Whistler Studies, University of Glasgow. 1993–2007.
Contributing editor and member of the Editorial Board, *The Correspondence of James McNeill Whistler, 1855–1903*. On-line centenary edition (2003–2007), <http://www.whistler.arts.gla.ac.uk>

