

Richard A. Leson

Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Art History
College of Letters and Science
The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
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Formal Education

Doctor of Philosophy: The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (2007)
Master of Arts: The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (2002)
Bachelor of Arts: The University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA (1998)

Academic Positions Held

Fall 2008–present
Associate Professor: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WI (promoted Fall 2014)

Spring, Summer 2008
Visiting Assistant Professor: Northwestern University, IL

Publications and Creative Activities

In Progress

By the Splendor of her Distinguished Blood: The Life and Possessions of Jeanne of Flanders. Book-length microhistory and object-centered biography examines the material possessions and artistic patronage of the little-known baroness Jeanne of Flanders (b. ca. 1272–d. 1333), eldest daughter of Count Robert III of Flanders (d. 1322) and second wife of Enguerrand IV of Coucy (d. 1311). [In writing research stage]

Encounters: The Crusades in 50 Objects. Book co-authored with Cathleen Fleck, Elizabeth Lapina and Vardit Shotten-Hallel. Under contract with Routledge, expected date of publication 2022.

Under Review

“Epic Sensibilities in French Art of the Crusader Period.” Invited essay for exhibition catalog *Reconstructing a Masterpiece: The Chertsey Tiles and the Visual Culture of the Crusades*, ed. Amanda Luyster. Under contract with Harvey Miller, expected date of publication late 2022.

“Crusader Cups and Moveable Heirlooms.” Invited essay for *A Crusader’s Things and the Material Outremer: The Account-Inventory of Eudes of Nevers, 1266*, eds. Anne Lester and Laura Morreale. Expected date of publication 2022.

Articles in Refereed Journals

“The Coucy, the Boves, and Heraldry’s Coming of Age in the Resafa Cup.” *Revue française d’héraldique et de sigillographie - Études en ligne* (Mar. 2021): 1–28.

“‘With the Lady of Coucy’: Noble Communities and the Completion of the Psalter-Hours John Rylands MS Lat. 117.” *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* 96:2 (2020): 19–45.

“‘Partout la figure du lion’: Thomas of Marle and the Enduring Legacy of the Coucy Donjon Tympanum.” *Speculum* 93:1 (January 2018): 27–71.

“The Tomb of Robert of Cassel in Warneton.” *Peregrinations: Journal of Medieval Art and Architecture* Vol. IV, No. 4 (Autumn 2014): 128-151. Translated into the French by Francis De Simpel as “Reconstitution de la tombe de Robert de Cassel à Warneton,” in *Mémoires de la Société d’Histoire de Comines-Warneton et de la région* 46 (2016): 23–40.

“The Pathways of Salvation: Spatiality and Devotion in the Bute Psalter.” *Gesta* Vol. 53 2 (2014): 129–54.

“Heraldry and Identity in the Psalter-Hours of Jeanne of Flanders (Manchester, John Rylands Library, Ms. lat. 117).” *Studies in Iconography* Vol. 32 (2011): 155–98.

“Chivalry and Alterity: Saladin and The Remembrance of Crusade in a Walters *Histoire d’Outremer*.” *Journal of the Walters Art Museum* Vol. 68 (2010/2011): 87–96.

“The Psalter-Hours of Ghuiluys de Boisieux.” *Arte Medievale* (2006/1): 115–30.

Book Chapters

“Heraldry in the Frankish East” and “Picardy: The Impact of the Arms of Coucy”
Forthcoming in the *Brill Companion to Heraldry*, eds. Torsten Hiltmann and Nigel Ramsay.

“A Constellation of Crusade: The Resafa Heraldry Cup and the Aspirations of Raoul I, Lord of Coucy.” Invited submission for anthology *The Crusades and Visual Culture*, eds. Elizabeth Lapina, Laura Whatley, April Morris, and Susanna Throop (Ashgate, 2015), 75–90.

Annotated Bibliography

“[Art of the Crusader Period in the Levant](#).” Commissioned for *Oxford Bibliographies Online* (published May 24, 2017).

Co-edited Journal Issues

Negotiating Identity in Northern France and the Lowlands. Special issue of *Peregrinations: Journal of Medieval Art and Architecture*, Vol. IV, No. 4 (Autumn 2014), general ed. Sarah Blick. Co-editor with Elizabeth Moore Hunt.

A New Look at Old Things: Revisiting the Medieval Collections of the Walters Art Museum. Special issue of the *Journal of the Walters Art Museum* Vol.68 (2010/2011). Co-editor with Charles Dibble and Kathryn Gerry.

Book Reviews

Kay Davenport, *The Bar Books: Manuscripts Illuminated for Renaud de Bar, Bishop of Metz (13031316)*, *Manuscripta Illuminata* (MI 2) (Turnhout, Brepols, 2017), *Manuscript Studies: A Journal of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, University of Pennsylvania Libraries*, Vol.4, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 169–72.

Kathryn M. Rudy, *Postcards on Parchment: The Social Lives of Medieval Books* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015), *Manuscripta* 61.1 (2017): 141–46.

Kerstin Carlvant, *Manuscript Painting in Thirteenth-Century Flanders: Bruges, Ghent and the Circle of the Counts*. (London: Harvey Miller Publishers, 2012), in *The Medieval Review*, January 2014.

The Meanings of Nudity in Medieval Art, ed. Sherry Lindquist (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2012), in *Studies in Iconography* 35 (2014): 237–40.

Kings, Queens, and Courtiers: Art in Early Renaissance France, ed. Martha Wolff (Art Institute of Chicago, 2011), in *West* 86th No. 2 (Fall/Winter 2012): 337–40.

Holly Flora, *The Devout Belief of Imagination: The Paris Meditationes Vitae Christi and Female Franciscan Spirituality in Trecento Italy*, *Disciplina Monastica* 6 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2009), in *Franciscan Studies* Vol. 69 (2011): 509–11.

Tributes to Lucy Freeman Sandler: studies in illuminated manuscripts, eds. Kathryn A. Smith and Carol H. Krinsky (London: Harvey Miller, 2007), in *caa.reviews* (online), April 2010.

Catalog and Encyclopedia Entries, Scholarly Essays

“[Romancing Joseph](#)” (Genesis 39: 1-18). For the Visual Commentary on Scripture.

“French Psalter and Hours [John Rylands Ms. Latin 117].” Object entry commissioned for the catalog *Riches of the Rylands: The Special Collections of the University of Manchester Library* (Manchester: University Press, 2015), 54-55.

“Exodus” and “Book of Kings.” Entries commissioned for the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception Online* (De Gruyter, 2013, 2017).

“Un Best-Seller del Medioevo: La Weltchronik del Getty Museum.” *Alumina*, no. 21, 2008: 7-15.

“Armenian Gospel Book.” Object entry for Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery exhibition catalogue. Michelle Brown, ed., *In the Beginning: Bibles before the Year 1000* (Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 2006), no. 37, 276.

“Catalogue of the Exhibition.” Co-author of object entries for catalogue of Walters Art Museum exhibition. William Noel and Daniel Weiss, eds., *The Book of Kings: Art, War, and the Morgan Library’s Medieval Picture Bible* (London: Third Millennium, 2002), 144-205.

“David: A Model Medieval King.” *Bible Review*, vol. XVIII, no.5, Oct. 2002: 24-25.

Exhibitions Curated

The Old Testament in Medieval Manuscript Illumination. The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA, June-August, 2010.

The Decorated Letter. The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA, November, 2007-January, 2008.

For This is My Body: The Medieval Missal. The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD, November, 2006-January, 2007.

The Early History of the Bible: Transmission of Sacred Scripture from Biblical Times to the Age of Printing. The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD, January-May, 2005.

Fellowships and Curatorial Positions Held

Curatorial Visiting Scholar in Residence. Department of Manuscripts, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA, April–June, 2018.

UWM Center for 21st Century Studies Fellowship (2-course reduction for academic year 2017–2018, declined)

UW-Madison Institute for Research in the Humanities System Fellowship (2-course reduction for Spring 2014)

UWM Center for 21st Century Studies Fellowship (2-course reduction for academic year 2010–2011)

Graduate Intern. Department of Illuminated Manuscripts, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA, September 2006–May, 2007.

Zanvyl Krieger Curatorial Fellow. Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD, September 2003–June, 2006.

Robert and Nancy Hall Fellow. Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD, June–August 2002.

Research and Travel Grants

2020, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2012, 2010
UWM Arts and Humanities Faculty Travel Grant

2020
UWM Humanities Scholarly Activity Fund

2013
UWM Graduate Research Committee Award

2012, 2010
UWM Center for International Education Grant

2012
UWM Online Course Development Grant, 2012

2011

Samuel H. Kress Travel and Research Grant administered by International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)

2011

UWM Course development grant through Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Studies certificate program and the Center for International Education (UISFL) supported by the U.S. Department of Education in support of project “Islamic Art and Architecture of Medieval Spain (8th to 15th Centuries)”

2003

The Adolf Katzenellenbogen Memorial Travel Prize, The Johns Hopkins University

Invited Scholarly Presentations (2011–)

“Crusader Cups and Movable Objects.” For roundtable “[Crusading Things and the Material Outremer: The Account Inventory of Eudes of Nevers](#),” sponsored by the Medieval World Seminar (Johns Hopkins University), March 26, 2021.

“Heraldry of French Noblewomen in the Thirteenth Century: The Illuminated Prayer Book as Proving Ground.” For conference “Gothic Arts: An Interdisciplinary Symposium,” University of Pennsylvania, March 23, 2018.

“Additional Thoughts on the Patronage and Travels of the Resafa Heraldry Cup.” For conference “The Latin East in the Thirteenth Century: Institutions, Settlements, and Material Culture,” University of Haifa, February 1, 2018.

“Ritual and Future at Coucy-le-château: Thoughts on the Coucy Lion Legend and the ‘Table of Homage.’” For conference “Medieval Futures,” University of Chicago, April 29, 2017.

“‘They are painted in many great halls’: Extra-textual Incursions in the Illuminated *Histoire d’outremer*.” For the Ninth Quadrennial conference of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East, session “The Crusades in France and Occitania project,” Odense, Denmark, June 29, 2016.

“A Tournament of Prayer: The Psalter-Hours of Jeanne of Flanders and the *Roman du chatelain de Coucy*.” For the New College Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, session “Women and Manuscripts: Lineage and Family Identity in 13th and 14th c. France,” Sarasota, FL, March 14, 2016.

“Pious symmetries: Innovation and intentionality in the work of a late-thirteenth century manuscript atelier.” For conference “Beyond the Elite: From Texts to Societies in Medieval Culture,” Hebrew University of Jerusalem, February 22, 2015.

“Lest Some Discord Arise: The Resafa Heraldry Cup at the Siege of Acre.” For the Fortieth Annual Byzantine Studies Conference, session “Cultural Exchange in the Frankish Levant” (sponsored by the International Center of Medieval Art), Vancouver, Canada, November 6, 2014.

“Pathways to Salvation: Spatiality and Exegesis in the Bute Psalter.” For the First Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, session “Art and Devotion in the Medieval and Renaissance Periods,” St. Louis, MO, June 19, 2013.

Invited Respondent. The 2013 meeting of the American Historical Association, session “Medieval Culture and the Crusades: (Im)material Identities” (sponsored by the Haskins Society), New Orleans, LA, January 5, 2013.

“Constellations of Crusade and Kinship: the Resafa Chalice and the Coucy Crusader Mythos.” For the International Medieval Conference, session “Crusades and Visual Culture,” Leeds, UK, July 10, 2012.

Scholarly Presentations (2011–)

“The Resafa Cup.” For the 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, session “Encounters During the Period of Crusades: History through Objects,” May 10, 2021.

“Remembering Enguerrand of Coucy: Jeanne of Flanders’ Memorial Campaigns at Longpont and Laon.” For conference “[‘Remarkable Women’: Female patronage of religious institutions, 1300-1550](#),” sponsored by the Courtauld Institute of Art, January 29, 2021.

“The Testament of Jean of Ville and the Completion of the Psalter-Hours of Jeanne of Flanders.” For conference “Gender, Memory and Documentary Culture, 900-1200,” sponsored by the John Rylands Research Institute and the Haskins Society, Manchester, UK, June 29, 2019.

“Questions of Style and Provenance in Yates Thompson 12: Re-examining the Iconographic and Stylistic Evidence.” For the International Medieval Conference, session “MS. Yates Thompson 12 and the Development of Crusading Historiography: Text and Iconography,” sponsored by Programma Giovani Ricercatori ‘Rita Levi Montalcini’ (Ministero dell’Università e della Ricerca, Italy); Università degli Studi di Milano, Leeds, UK, July 4, 2017.

“ “Partout la figure du lion”: The Enduring Legacy of the Coucy donjon Tympanum.” For the 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, session “Other Animals and Humans

in Medieval Art” (sponsored by the International Center of Medieval Art), Western Michigan University, May 8, 2014.

“The Tomb Effigy of Jeanne of Flanders, Abbess of Saint-Sauvoir-sous-Laon.” For the Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, session “Nuns and Authority,” St. Louis, MO, March 22, 2012.

“Wife, Widow, and Abbess: Contextualizing the Seal of Jeanne of Flanders.” For the 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, session “Medieval Coins and Seals as Cultural Agents (1),” Western Michigan University, May 13, 2011.

Roundtables, Sessions, and Symposia Organized

“Encounters During the Period of Crusades: History through Objects.” Session co-organized with Cathleen Fleck for the 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 10, 2021.

“Periodization and Visual Culture in the Early Modern Convent.” Session co-organized with Tanya Tiffany for the 25th Annual Attending to Early Modern Women Conference, Milwaukee, WI, June 19, 2015.

“Heraldry in Medieval Manuscript Illumination.” Session organized for the 41st Annual Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies, St. Louis, MO, October 17–18, 2014

“New Approaches to the Morgan Crusader Bible.” Session co-organized with Cathleen Fleck for the 41st Annual Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies, St. Louis, MO, October 17–18, 2014.

“Technique, Technology, and Process.” Session co-organized with Danielle Joyner for conference “Medieval Art History after the Interdisciplinary Turn,” University of Notre Dame, March 28–29, 2014.

“Lions of Flanders: Material Culture and Identity in the Flemish Low Countries.” Session co-organized with Elizabeth Moore Hunt for the 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 9–12, 2013.

“Revisiting the Medieval Collections at the Walters Art Museum.” Symposium co-organized with Kathryn Gerry, held jointly at the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD, and the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, May 21, 2010, July 12, 2010.

“Picturing Crusade: Remembrance and Negotiation.” Session co-organized with Lisa J. Mahoney for the 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 15, 2010.

“Luxury Devotional Books and Their Female Owners.” Session co-organized with Thomas Kren for the 2009 College Art Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, February 28, 2009.

Media and Public Appearances

“[What’s with all the Lion Statues, Milwaukee?](#)” WUWM 89.7 (Milwaukee NPR). With Sarah Schaefer, hosted by Maayan Silver, March 12, 2021.

“Notre Dame, Paris.” Sponsored by the Milwaukee Art Museum Fine Arts Society. With Lawrence Kuiper, October 24, 2019.

“Notre Dame in Context.” International Focus (UW-Milwaukee Institute of World Affairs). With Lawrence Kuiper, April 18, 2019.

“The Many Lives of a Medieval Prayer Book.” Sponsored by the Milwaukee Art Museum Fine Arts Society, March 28, 2019.

“A Medieval Tomb Portrait.” Milwaukee Art Museum Salon Talk, November 10, 2016.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Courses Taught

ArtHist 101: Ancient to Medieval Art and Architecture

ArtHist 324: Early Christian and Byzantine Art *

ArtHist 325: Early Medieval Art in the West

ArtHist 327: Caliphs, Emirs, and Kings: Art and Architecture of Medieval Spain *

ArtHist 425: The Age of Pilgrimage and Crusade: Romanesque Art and Architecture *

ArtHist 426: The Age of the Great Cathedrals: Gothic Art and Architecture *

*In person and online

Graduate Courses Taught

ArtHist 720: The Margins of Medieval Art

ArtHist 720: Medieval Narrative Arts

ArtHist 720: Relics and Reliquaries of the Middle Ages

ArtHist 720: Women and the Book

UWM Honors College Courses Taught

ArtHist 327: Art and Architecture of Islamic Spain

ArtHist 381: "Heaven on Earth": Origins of the French Gothic

Direction of Graduate Student Research

Invited Committee Member, Ph.D. Thesis (completed, with year of defense)

2019

Elisa J. Karbin (UWM, English): "The Auspices." (Advisor: Rebecca Dunham)

2018

Elizabeth Woodward (University of Chicago, Art History): "The *Roman de la Poire*: Constructing courtliness and "courtly" art in Gothic France." (Advisor: Aden Kumler)

2013

Colleen Abel (UWM, English): "The Relief of the Unreal Life: Poems." (Advisor: Kimberly Blaeser)

Director, M.A. Thesis (completed with year of defense)

2021

Emmaleigh Huston, "Power through Patronage: Examining Margaret of Navarre's Political Influence through Sicily's Cathedral of Monreale"

2019

Natachia Attewell, "The Saint Eustace Trade Window at Chartres Cathedral"

Olivia Lonetti, "*La Question des Sauvages*: The *Bal des Sauvages* and *Le Combat des Hommes Sauvages et Chevaliers* Tapestries at Saumur"

Rebecca Kidd-Roepke, "Visions of Sainly Motherhood"

2017

Marianna Cecere, "Newberry Library MS 53: Unlocking the Secrets of a Late Medieval Book of Hours."

Evan McAllister, "The Crusader Church at Abu Ghosh: Frescoes, Rituals, and Armed Pilgrimage."

Abby R. Armstrong, "Jeanne de Flandre and the Patronage of the Chapel of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary in Laon Cathedral."

2014

Audrey Jacobs, "The Heraldic Casket of St. Louis in the Louvre."

2013

Anne O'Connor, "An Early Reliquary Sarcophagus in the University of Wisconsin"

Milwaukee Collection.”

2012

Maria C. Blas-Pérez: “Reassembling Margaret of Croy (Chicago, Newberry Library Ms. 56).”

Steven Torzok: “Exegesis in the Margins of the Cloisters Apocalypse.” (Second reader
Tanya Tiffany, Art History)

2011

Gabrielle Gold: “The Redemption of the Bear in Medieval Art.” (Second reader Tanya
Tiffany, Art History)

2010

Sarah K. Rothmann: “The Marquette Hours: Production and Devotion.”

Erika Petterson: “Scipio Africanus as a Narrative Figure in Early 17th Century Flanders:
Identification and Analysis of Two Tapestries in the UWM Art Collection.”

Director, UWM Art History M.A. Thesis Exhibition (completed with year of defense)

2015

Marin Kniskern, “Alfred Wierusz-Kowalski: Political Struggle and Metaphor.”

Laura J.L. Sims, “Reflections on a Collection: Revisiting the UWM Icons Fifty Years
Later.”

2011

Shannon Diener: “Unifying the Haggadah: Revisiting its Creation.”

2009

Diana Jaskierney: “Entry into the Sacred: Russian and Ukrainian Religious Icons.”

Service and Outreach Activities

Reader: Academic Press

Brill

J. Paul Getty Museum

Palgrave Macmillan

Penn State University Press

University of Chicago Press

Reviewer: Grant Proposal

American Council of Learned Societies

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Consultative services

Content consultant (author of “page descriptions”). [The Morgan Library’s online exhibition of the Morgan Picture Bible](#) (Ms. M. 638), May 2008–

External Professional Service

2020–23

Secretary (Elected) International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)

2015–18

International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA) Publications Committee

2010–13

International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA) Programs and Lectures Committee

Internal Committee Service (University, elected)

2019–22

UWM Faculty Senate

2015–18

UWM Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee, (Chair, 2017–2018)

Internal Committee Service (appointed)

2016–18

UWM Search and Screen Committee (Dean of College of Letters and Sciences)

2015–17

UWM Anthropology Museum Studies Certificate Advisory Committee

2016

UWM College of Letters & Sciences Degree Requirements Subcommittee

2012–14, 2015–16

UWM Faculty Senate

2014–16

UWM Honors College Advisory Committee

Internal Service (Department)

2014, 2016, 2017

Interim Chair

2019–21

Director of Graduate Studies

2015–18

Director of Undergraduate Studies

2019–21

Chair, Admissions and Fellowships Committee
2015-21
Co-chair, Curriculum and Instruction Committee
2015-18
Assessment Coordinator
2014-17
Internship Coordinator
2012-16
Reader on M.A. French Exams (2012-present)
2008-
Reader on M.A. German Exams (2008-present)
2010-14
Gallery Committee
2008-14
Technology Committee
2008-14
Library Liaison (2008-14)

Professional Memberships

College Art Association (CAA)
International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)
Medieval Academy of America (MAA)
Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East (SSCLE)
Société française d'héraldique et de sigillographie (SFHS)
Phi Beta Kappa, Mary Washington College (1998)

Community Service

Vice-President at Large, American Federation of Teachers, Wisconsin (2015-2017)
President, American Federation of Teachers Local 3535, UWM Faculty and Academic Staff Union (2014-16)
Educational Presentations, AIA-Milwaukee Society/Milwaukee Public Museum Annual Archaeology Fairs (2012, 2013)
Invited Judge, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) Art History Foundations Capstone Event (2012, 2013, 2015)

Languages

German: read and speak conversationally
French: read and speak with some proficiency

Spanish: read

Latin: read and translate

References available upon request