

Curriculum Vitae

Ezra Shales, Ph.D. eshales@massart.edu
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Publications

Books

Holding Things Together (in process)

Revised editions and introductions to David Pye, *Nature and Art of Workmanship* (1968) and Pye, *Nature and Aesthetics of Design* (1964) (Bloomsbury Press, 2018)

The Shape of Craft (Reaktion Books, anticipated publication Winter 2017-2018)

Made in Newark: Cultivating Industrial Arts and Civic Identity in the Progressive Era (Rutgers University Press, 2010)

Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications

“Craft” in *Textile Terms: A Glossary*, ed. Reineke, Röhl, Kapustka and Weddigen (Edition Imorde, Berlin, 2016), 53-56

“Throwing the Potter’s Wheel (and Women) Back into Modernism: Reconsidering Edith Heath, Karen Karnes, and Toshiko Takaezu as Canonical Figures” in *Ceramics in America 2016* (Chipstone, 2017), 2-30

“Eva Zeisel Recontextualized, Again: Savoring Sentimental Historicism in *Tomorrow’s Classic Today*” *Journal of Modern Craft* vol. 8, no. 2 (November 2015): 155-166

“The Politics of ‘Ordinary Manufacture’ and the Perils of Self-Serve Craft,” *Nation Building: Craft and Contemporary American Culture* (Smithsonian American Art Museum, 2015), 204-221

“Mass Production as an Academic Imaginary,” *Journal of Modern Craft* vol. 6, no. 3 (November 2013): 267-274

“A ‘Little Journey’ to Empathize with (and Complicate) the Factory,” *Design & Culture* vol. 4, no. 2 (Summer 2012): 215-220

“Decadent Plumbers Porcelain: Craft and Modernity in Ceramic Sanitary Ware,” *Kunst Og Kultur* (Norwegian Journal of Art and Culture) vol. 94, no. 3 (Fall 2011): 218-229

“Corporate Craft: Constructing the Empire State Building,” *Journal of Modern Craft* vol. 4, no. 2 (July 2011): 119-145

“Toying with Design Reform: Henry Cole and Instructive Play for Children,” *Journal of Design History* vol. 22, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 3-27

“Decorative Arts” in *The Material Culture of American Life: An Encyclopedia*, Helen Sheumaker and Shirley Wajda, editors (ABC-Clio Press, 2007), 143-145

Exhibition Catalog Essays and Other Articles (Non-Peer Reviewed)

“The Mechanics of Kim Dickey’s Flowers,” in *Kim Dickey: Words are Leaves* (MCA Denver, 2016)

“Vitreous Landscapes: John Glick’s Art,” in *John Glick: A Legacy in Clay* (Cranbrook Art Museum, 2016)

“The Terror of Knowing What This World Is About,” in *Shari Mendelson* (Todd Merrill Studio, 2016)

- “Industrial Metabolisms: A Survey of Gerhard Hahn’s Sculpture,” in *Technophilia: Gerhard Hahn in der Henrichshütte* (Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Industriekultur, 2016)
- O Pioneers! Women Ceramic Artists, 1925-1960*, editor, organizer, and essayist (Alfred University, 2015)
- “Influence and Evolution: Fiber Sculpture...then and now,” brownrotta arts (2015)
- “Good from Hand,” in *Val Cushing* (Alfred University, 2015)
- “Appreciating the Hands that Manufacture: Factory Craftsmanship at Kohler Co.,” *Arts/Industry: Collaboration and Revelation* (Marquand Books and John Michael Kohler Art Center, 2014)
- “Adrian Saxe: A Working Class Pot is Something to Be,” *Thirty Objects, Thirty Insights* (Black Dog Books and Gardiner Museum, 2014)
- “Where What’s Done Comes Undone (Is a Museum),” online series, *Ceramics in the Expanded Field* (June 2013) [<http://www.ceramics-in-the-expanded-field.com/essays>]
Republished in *Studio Potter*, vol. 42, no. 2 (Summer-Fall 2014): 72-76
- “Civic Dimensions in Postwar American Ceramic Education,” in *William Daley: Ceramic Artist* (Schiffer, 2013)
- “Tools Fit for the External Hard Drive,” *Topographies of the Obsolete* (Bergen Academy of Art and Design, 2013), 20-25
- “Tools and the Enigma of Democratization,” Chipstone Foundation exhibition catalog *The Tool at Hand*, exhibition, Milwaukee Art Museum, 2013 [<http://toolathand.org>]
- “Tall Oaks Grow from Acorn Mush,” Portland Museum of Contemporary Craft’s “Object Focus: The Bowl,” 2013 [<http://objectfocusbowl.tumblr.com>]
- “Ceramics as Ethos or Discourse? Wayne Higby’s Contributions to Scholarship in American Ceramic Art,” in *Infinite Place: The Ceramic Art of Wayne Higby* (Arnoldsche, 2013)
- “The Paradoxes of the Everson’s Ceramic Nationals,” online catalog essay for the Museum of Contemporary Craft’s exhibition “Northwest Modern,” [<http://mocc.pnca.edu/exhibitions/2013/>]
- “Intervals on the Table,” *TableSpace* (Alfred University, 2012)
- “Metabolic Décor,” *Echo Chamber: Anders Ruhwald and Marie Torbensdatter Hermann* (Schein-Joseph Museum of Ceramic Art, 2012)
- “A Functioning Vessel: Sounds of Laughter, Shades of Earth” in *Shifting Paradigms in Contemporary Ceramics: The Garth Clark and Mark Del Vecchio Collection*, (Yale University Press and Museum of Fine Art Houston, 2012)
- “Teaching Ceramic Citizenship,” *Out of Clay: The Krevolin Collection of Pre-Contact Pottery*, with author Suzanne Staubach (Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art, 2012)
- “Museum as Medium-Specific Muse,” in *Thing Tang Trash: Upcycling in Contemporary Ceramics*, Bergen Academy of Art and Design and Permanent West Norway Museum of Decorative Art, October 2011
- “Distinguishing the Network from a Chamber of Combustion,” in *Conversations, Coincidences and Motivations* (Snyderman Galleries, 2010)
- “The Artistic Librarian,” *Fine Art Connoisseur* vol. 6, no. 4 (2009): 57-60
- “You in Between,” for eponymous exhibition by Anders Ruhwald, with authors Glenn Adamson and Louise Mazanti (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, UK, 2008)

- “Tools Are Like Songs,” *Studio Potter* vol. 36, no. 2 (Summer 2008): 23-6
- “Technophilic Craft,” *American Craft* vol. 68, no. 2 (April/May 2008): 78-80
- “Celadon Refraction,” in *EarthCloud/Wayne Higby*, with authors Helen Williams Drutt, Mary Drach McInnes (Arnoldsche, 2008)
- “Matter Out of Place: Notes on Experiential Learning in a Studio Foundation Program,” in *John Wood: On the Edge of Clear Meaning*, ed. Nathan Lyons, with authors David Levi Strauss and William Johnson (Steidl, 2008)
- “Insignificant Forms,” for *We Float in Space and Cannot Perceive the New Order*, (Miyako Yoshinaga Art Prospects, 2007)
- Wedgwood and Derby entries in *Vasemania*, ed. Stefanie Walker (Yale University Press and Bard Graduate Center, 2004)
- “Sonita Singwi,” *Sight Mapping*, Konsthallen-Bohuslans Museum, Uddevalla and Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, 2002
- Catalog essay, *Dan Walsh: Eighty Paintings*, Paula Cooper Gallery, 2001
- “The Horse Tales We Tell,” in *Horse Tales: American Images and Icons, 1800-2000*, with authors Susan Edwards and Deborah Bright (Katonah Museum of Art, 2001)
- “An Unprudish Moment,” *American Ceramics* vol. 13, no. 2 (1999): 28-33

Reviews of Books and Exhibitions

- Exhibition review, “Black Mountain College,” *The Burlington Magazine* CLVIII (September 2016): 764-766.
- Book review of *Oral History in the Visual Arts*, Linda Sandino and Matthew Partington, editors, in *Journal of Modern Craft* vol. 8, no. 1 (April 2015): 105-108
- Book review of *Walter Crane: The Arts and Crafts, Painting, and Politics, 1875-1890* by Morna O’Neill and *Novel Craft: Victorian Domestic Handicraft & Nineteenth-Century Fiction* by Talia Schaffer in *West 86th: A Journal of Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture* vol. 19, no. 2 (Fall-Winter 2012): 325-328
- Exhibition review, *The Tomb of the Unknown Craftsman: Grayson Perry at the British Museum* in *Journal of Modern Craft* vol. 5, no. 2 (July 2012): 231-236
- Exhibition review, *Design Issues* vol. 22, no. 3 (Summer 2006): 66-69 of *SAFE: Design Takes on Risk* at the Museum of Modern Art
- Book review, *The Great Exhibitor: The Life and Work of Henry Cole* (2003) by Elizabeth Bonython and Anthony Burton, *Studies in the Decorative Arts* vol. 12, no. 1 (Fall 2004): 142-144

Curatorial Work

- “O Pioneers! Women Ceramic Artists, 1925-1960,” editor, organizer, and essayist, Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, Alfred University, September-November 2015
- “Pathmakers: Women in Modern Craft, Mid-Century and Today,” with Jennifer Scanlan, Museum of Arts and Design, New York City, April-October, 2015; National Museum of Women in the Arts, October, 2015-March, 2016
- “William Daley: Studio Components,” in collaboration with the Boston Society of Arts and Crafts exhibition “14 for 7,” Massachusetts College of Art and Design’s President’s Gallery, August 2-October 25, 2014
- “Echo Chamber: Anders Ruhwald and Marie Torbensdatter Hermann,” Schein-Joseph Museum of Ceramic Art, Alfred University, October-December 2011

- “Raw Goods,” with Anne Currier, Fosdick-Nelson Gallery, Alfred University,
January-February 2011
- “Horse Tales: American Images and Icons, 1800-2000,” with Susan Edwards, Katonah
Museum of Art, Katonah, NY, October-December 2001
- “Space for Rent,” non-profit contemporary art gallery, Brooklyn, NY 1996-1997

Academic Conferences and Museum Presentations

- “The Poetics and Politics of ‘Anonymous’ Contemporary Craft,” panel Chair, College
Art Association Annual Conference, 2018
- “Colonizing (After Black Mountain),” at “After Black Mountain College” symposium
co-sponsored by Northeastern University and the Institute of Contemporary Art,
Boston, in connection with the ICA’s exhibition “Leap Before You Look,”
October 2015
- “Molding History,” gallery lecture and tour of “Arlene Shechet: All at Once,” Institute of
Contemporary Art, Boston, July 2015
- “Reinvention and Manual Transmission: Reflections on Craft History from a Curator’s
and Critic’s Perspective,” Haystack 2015 Summer Conference, July 2015
- “The Ghost Potter: Tracing the Paradoxical Roles of the Hand and Labor in the
Production of Contemporary Tableware” in panel “Rethinking Labor,” College Art
Association annual conference, New York City, February 2015
- Symposium participant, *Making Ceramic Art: Objects and Meanings in Twentieth
Century Ceramics*, Yale University Art Gallery, October 2014
- “Digitizing Contemporary Ceramics,” Gardiner Museum, Toronto, April 2014
- “A Celebration of William Daley,” Philadelphia Museum of Art, April 2014
- “Other Types of Workmanship,” for conference “The Deskillling and Reskillling of
Artistic Production,” Concordia University, Montreal, November 2013
- “The *Fountain* of Youth and Modern Craftsmanship,” for conference “Mapping
Contemporary Craft Theories,” University of Göteborg, School of Art and
Handicraft, and Röhsska Museum of Decorative Arts, November 2013
- “Lathe Logic,” Yale University Art Gallery, July 2013
- “The Politics of ‘Ordinary Manufacture’ in the Post-Industrial State,” at conference
“Nation Building: Craft and Contemporary American Culture, Smithsonian American
Art Museum’s Renwick Gallery, November 2012
- “What is Contemporary About Craft?” Critical Craft Forum session, College
Art Association Annual Conference, 2012

- “Materiality Meets Liquidity in the Museum,” for “Geschichte und Zukunft der Kunst- Und Designmuseen” (History and Future of Art and Design Museums), Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, January 2012
- “The Porcelain Cup, Conscripted and Discharged,” Society for the History of Technology 2011 Annual Meeting, Cleveland, November 2011
- “Museum as Muse,” for conference “Making or Unmaking? The Contexts of Contemporary Ceramics,” Bergen Academy of Art and Design and Permanent West Norway Museum of Decorative Art, October 2011
- “Overthrown: Contemporary Ceramics,” Denver Art Museum, September 2011
- “Made in Newark,” Renwick Gallery, National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, July 2011
- “*Modern Craftsmanship* in the Empire State Building and Lewis Hine’s Photographs,” College Art Association Annual Conference, 2011
- “Anonymous Craftsmen in the Empire State,” California College of the Arts, October 2010
- “The Historiographic Understanding of Craft and Design,” Design and Craft: A History of Convergences and Divergences, 7th Conference of the International Committee of Design History and Design Studies, Brussels, Belgium, September 2010
- “Craft’s Social Life,” Norwegian Research Council Project “Assigning Cultural Value” (www.k-verdi.no), Bergen Academy of Art and Design (Kunsthøgskolen i Bergen), June 2010
- “Key Texts in Twentieth-Century Ceramics Criticism,” session chair and presenter, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts annual conference, Philadelphia, April 2010
- “Design and the Rhetoric of Democratization,” session chair, College Art Association Annual Conference, 2010
- “Craft’s Social Life,” Cranbrook Academy of Art, February 2010
- “reMaking and reThinking Practices: Disciplinary Research in a Polymorphous World,” Rhode Island School of Design, November 2009
- “The Social Life of Craft,” University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 2009
- “Ceramic Readymades Before and Beyond Duchamp,” Röhsska Museum of Decorative Arts, Göteborg, Sweden, March 2009
- “Contemporary Discourses in Ceramics,” University of Göteborg, School of Art and Handicraft, Sweden, March 2009
- “Contemporary Discourses in Ceramics,” Kunsthøgskolen i Bergen, Norway, March 2009
- “Toying with Design Reform,” North American Victorian Studies Association annual conference, Yale University, November 2008
- “John Wood Symposium: On the Edge of Clear Meaning,” Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, October 2008
- “Framing the Fireplace,” Mid-Atlantic Popular American Culture Association annual conference, Niagara Falls, October 2008
- “Contemporary Discourses in Ceramics,” School of Design, Taideteollinen Korkeakoulu, University of Helsinki, September 2008
- “Craft-Based Design or Design-Based Craft?” University of Helsinki “Crafticulation” conference, September 2008

- “Crafting a Civic Utopia in Newark, New Jersey,” College Art Association Annual Conference, 2008
- “Towards a Class-Conscious Theory of Craft,” Nova Scotia College of Art and Design’s “NeoCraft” conference, Halifax, Canada, November 2007
- “The Practical Value of Pluralist Ceramic History,” International Society for Ceramics Art Education Exchange conference, University College for the Creative Arts at Farnham, Surrey, September 2007
- “Framing and Reframing Industrial Design,” Bergren Forum, Alfred University, September 2007
- “Teaching Prototypes and Pluralist Processes,” panel chair and presenter, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts annual conference, Louisville, Kentucky, March 2007
- “Sanitary Ware and Modernity,” Copenhagen Kunstindustrimuseet, and Guldagergaard, International Ceramic Research Center, Skaelskør, Denmark, August 2006
- “Ceramic Art and Technology circa 1915: Charles Fergus Binns and the Alfred Experiment in Context,” American Art Pottery Association Conference, April 2006
- “John Cotton Dana’s Advertisements for a Modern Museum,” Newark Museum, February 2006
- “The 1909 Hudson-Fulton Catalogues: Codifying Americana in Typography,” College Art Association Annual Conference, 2005
- “Arts and Crafts Influences and Progressive Politics at the Newark Museum and Newark Library, Circa 1900-1920,” Winterthur Museum symposium, Delaware, October 2004
- “Branding the American Museum circa 1900-1920: Fashioning a Graphic Identity for the Metropolitan Museum of Art,” 13th Annual Symposium on the Decorative Arts sponsored by the Masters Program in the History of Decorative Art, Cooper-Hewitt and Parsons, April 2004

Employment and Teaching Experience

- Professor*, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, August 2015-Present
- Associate Professor*, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, August 2012-2015
- Associate Professor*, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, August 2011-August 2012
- Assistant Professor*, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, August 2005-July 2011
- Visiting Lecturer*, Norwegian Research Council Project, “Assigning Cultural Value” (www.k-verdi.no), Kunsthøgskolen i Bergen, Norway, June 2010-November 2011
- Visiting Lecturer*, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, July 2010
- Visiting Assistant Professor*, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, August 2004-July 2005
- Teaching Assistant*, Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture, September 2003-May 2004
- Adjunct Faculty*, Parsons The New School for Design, September 2002-May 2004
- Director of Education*, The Katonah Museum of Art, 1999-2001
- Museum Educator, Director of Gallery/Studio Program*, Brooklyn Museum, 1997-1998

Fellowships and Prizes

Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art Fellowship, 2016
MassArt Foundation Faculty Fellow Award, May 2013
New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Authors Award for *Made in Newark*:
Cultivating Industrial Arts and Civic Identity in the Progressive Era, October 2011
Joseph Kruson Award for Excellence in Teaching, Alfred University, April 2010
Alfred University Service Learning Grant, April 2010
Emerging Scholars Award, Nineteenth-Century Studies Association, March 2010
Professional Development Grant, Alfred University, May 2009
Society for the Preservation of American Modernists, 2009
Windgate Foundation Publication Grant, 2009
National Endowment for the Humanities, Alfred University, 2008
National Endowment for the Humanities, Alfred University, 2007
Craft Research Fund, Center for Craft, Creativity, and Design, 2007
Fellowship for International Faculty Development, Alfred University, 2007
Ph.D. Research and Travel Grant, Bard Graduate Center, 2004
Fellowship, Victorian Summer School, London, UK, 2004
Fellowship, Victorian Summer School, Newport, RI, 2003
Connecticut Ceramic Circle Award, 2003

Languages

Reading proficiency in French, German, Italian and Spanish

Professional Service as a Scholar, Critic, and Educator

External examiner for Ceramics, Rhode Island School of Design, 2014, 2015
External examiner for Glass and Ceramics Division, Royal College of Art, 2012-2015
External examiner of Ph.D. candidate, Royal College of Art, 2012
Vice-President of Design Studies Forum (CAA affiliate), 2010-2013 (3 year term)
Juror for the Pew Charitable Trust Foundation
Nominator for the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Awards
Juror for the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design
External evaluator of Ph.D. candidate, Kunsthøgskolen i Bergen, 2009-11
External evaluator for tenure review, Parsons The New School for Design, 2009

Associations and Memberships

Founding member of “The Commonwealth of Craft” (a working consortium of museums, schools and organizations in Boston whose missions engage with contemporary craft)
Founding Member, Boston chapter of the Guild of Admirers of Chimney Sweeps, Oven Makers, Roof Tilers, Well Diggers and Potters
College Art Association
Design Studies Forum (CAA affiliate)
Society for the History of Technology
American Association of Museums
Design History Society (UK)
Victorian Society of America
Victorian Studies Association

Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association
American Studies Association
Organization of American Historians

Education

Ph.D., Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and
Material Culture, May 2007

M.F.A., Hunter College, Painting, May 1996

B.A., Wesleyan University, Classical Languages/College of Letters, Honors, May 1991