

Richard W. Ellis

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EDUCATION

- 2024-Present** Doctor of Philosophy, Art History, College of Letters & Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin
Supervisor: Prof. Jennifer Pruitt
- 2019** Master of Arts, Art History, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
Thesis: "[Seeing King Solomon through the Verses of Hafez: A Critical Study of Two Safavid Manuscript Fragments](#)," supervised by Dr. Esra Akin-Kıvanç
- 2017** Bachelor of Arts, Art History, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022 – 2024** Instructor of Art History, Department of Art and Design, University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida
- Summer 2024 Art 101: Form & Idea (in-person, enrolls 45)
Spring 2024 Worlds of Art: Faith, Death, & Love (in-person, enrolls 25)
Worlds of Art: Faith, Death, & Love (in-person, enrolls 25)
Fall 2023 Survey of Non-Western Art (in-person, enrolls 45)
Art 101: Form & Idea (in-person, enrolls 45)
Spring 2023 Art 101: Form & Idea (in-person, enrolls 45)
Art 101: Form & Idea (in-person, enrolls 45)
Fall 2022 Art 101: Form & Idea (in-person, enrolls 45)
Art 101: Form & Idea (in-person, enrolls 45)
- 2020 – 2024** Instructor of Art History, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
- Summer 2024 History of Visual Arts I (online, asynchronous, enrolls 180)
History of Visual Arts II (online, asynchronous, enrolls 180)
Spring 2024 Art History Practicum (online, asynchronous, enrolls 45)
History of Visual Arts I (online, asynchronous, enrolls 180)
History of Visual Arts II (online, asynchronous, enrolls 180)
Fall 2023 History of Visual Arts I (online, asynchronous, enrolls 180)
History of Visual Arts II (online, asynchronous, enrolls 180)

Summer 2023 History of Visual Arts I (online, asynchronous, enrolls 180)
Spring 2022 Introduction to Islamic Art & Architecture (in-person, enrolls 45)
Spring 2021 Visual Cultures of the Middle East (online, asynchronous, enrolls 45)
Fall 2020 Themes in Islamic Art and Architecture (remote synchronous, enrolls 45)
Spring 2020 The Purity of Painting: Picasso to Kandinsky (hybrid synchronous seminar, enrolls 12)

2022 – 2023 **Reader, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida**

Fall 2023 History of Visual Arts I
 History of Visual Arts II
Spring 2023 History of Visual Arts I (Dr. Pamela Brekka, online, asynchronous)
 Art & Culture (Marta Slaughter online, asynchronous)
Fall 2022 History of Visual Arts I (Dr. Pamela Brekka (online, asynchronous)

2017 – 2019 **Graduate Teaching Assistant, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida**

Fall 2019 Visual Cultures of the Middle East (Dr. Esra Akın-Kıvanç, in-person)
Spring 2018 History of Visual Arts I (Dr. Pamela Brekka, online, asynchronous)
Fall 2018 Introduction to Islamic Art & Architecture (Dr. Esra Akın-Kıvanç, in-person)
Spring 2018 Contemporary Issues in Art (Dr. Allison Moore, in-person)
Fall 2017 Contemporary Issues in Art (Dr. Allison Moore, in-person)
Spring 2018 Film Arts (Laura Colkitt, online, asynchronous)
Summer 2018 Film Arts (Laura Colkitt, online, asynchronous)
Fall 2017 Film Arts (Laura Colkitt, online, asynchronous)

THESES SUPERVISED

2023 **Sartorial Aesthetics of the Nazi Party**, Honors College Tutorial by Christofer Theodoropoulos, B.S. (Psychology), University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida
This student was enrolled in one of my sections of Art 101: Form and Idea in the Spring of 2023. He demonstrated an interest in art history and enthusiasm for the course and petitioned the Honors College to make an exception and allow me, a part-time instructor, to supervise his Honors College Tutorial, a senior capstone research project traditionally guided by a full-time faculty member. The resulting presentation consisted of a psychological analysis of Nazi uniforms as well as trends in civilian fashion in Nazi Germany.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 **“Hermaphroditus: Intersexions in Myth and History,”** Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, Florida
- 2023 **“Calligraphy in Iran: Origins and Trajectories,”** Summer Language Workshop (Persian), Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
- 2023 **[“In the Shadow of the Crescent: The Tampa Bay Hotel and Islamic Architecture,”](#)** Henry B. Plant Museum, Tampa, Florida
- 2023 **[“Unique Architecture Helped Hotel Transform Tampa Skyline,”](#)** segment for Bay News 9, Tampa, Florida
- 2022 **[“Taking Shape: A Conversation,”](#)** hybrid panel discussion for *Taking Shape: Abstraction from the Arab World, 1950s—1980s*, while on view at the Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, Florida
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PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 **“Islamic Calligraphy,”** in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Religion and the Arts in the West: Renaissance to the Present*, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*, Oxford University Press (forthcoming)
- 2023 **“Islamic Calligraphy,”** annotated bibliography coauthored with Dr. Esra Akin-Kıvanç for Oxford Bibliographies Online, Oxford University Press (forthcoming)
- 2023 **[“Fall in Unordinary Love: Salman Toor in Tampa,”](#)** exhibition review of *Salman Toor: No Ordinary Love*, at the Tampa Museum of Art for *Bay Art Files*
- 2020 **“Regarding the Invisible Pain of Others: The Photography of Mohsen Azar,”** catalog essay for *Battin’ a Hundred*, MFA Thesis Exhibition, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
- 2018 **“Eye Abject!,”** catalog essay for *Buried Alone*, MFA Thesis Exhibition, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
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EDITORIAL WORK

- 2017 **Editor,** *Every Disaster Made Us Wish For More*, MFA thesis exhibition catalog, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
- 2016 **Editor,** *Sunny-Side Up*, MFA thesis exhibition catalog, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
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RESEARCH PAPERS

“King Solomon Enthroned, Enframed by the Verses of Hafez,” *The Human Figure in Islamic Art*, Dr. Esra Akin-Kıvanç, Spring 2019

“Ma Jolie: a Paradoxical Portrait,” *The Purity of Painting*, Dr. Riccardo Marchi, Spring 2018

“Postcolonial Ghosts: Shahzia Sikander’s Apparatus of Power,” *Critical Perspectives in Contemporary Art*, Dr. Allison Moore, Spring 2018

“Black Dionysus and the Photography of Rotimi Fani Kayode: Post-Negritude Sentiments in the Diaspora,” *Contemporary African Art*, Dr. Allison Moore, Fall 2018

“Collection and Recollection in an Ottoman Costume Album,” *Collecting the East*, Prof. Elisabeth Fraser, Fall 2018

“Abdullah Buhari: Revisiting Art of the Tulip Era,” *The Art of Travel*, Prof. Elisabeth Fraser, Fall 2017

“Reproducing the Replica: Negotiating the Identity of the Getty Villa,” *Keeping up with the Caesars: Pompeii, Luxury and Roman Art*, Dr. Rosemarie Trentinella, Fall 2017

“Gothic Art in Gilded Frames: Re-reading an Excised Manuscript Leaf,” *Art of the Renaissance Manuscript*, Prof. Helena Szépe, Fall 2017

“Making Sense of the Walters Censer: Architecture as Ornament in Medieval Germany,” *Art and the Senses in the Late Middle Ages and Early Renaissance*, Prof. Helena Szépe, Spring 2017

“Public Art in Practice: Reading the Political Landscape of Iran,” *History of the Arab Spring*, Dr. Nadia Jones-Gailani, Spring 2016

“Between Exposure and Erasure: Photographing the Street Art of the Egyptian Revolution,” *Issues in African Photographies*, Dr. Allison Moore, Fall 2016

“Conservation as a Means of Translation: Opening the Door to Interpretation,” *Cross-Cultural Studies in Islamic Art*, Dr. Esra Akin-Kıvanç, Spring 2016

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022 – 2023 **Research Assistant, School of Art and Art History**, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

I reported to Associate Professor, Dr. Esra Akin-Kıvanç, to assist with research on the history and historiography of Islamic calligraphy for an entry in Oxford Bibliographies Online, and with grant-writing to support this project.

- 2021 – 2024** **Visitor Experience and Engagement Representative, Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, Florida**
This position oversees all aspects of guest services, from daily operations to special events. Members of this department collaborate with other factions of the museum by aiding with condition reporting and editing and workshopping exhibition proposals.
- 2015** **Intern, Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, Tampa, Florida**
I independently managed reception and gallery access, aided in planning exhibitions, as well as installing artworks. I also designed custom invitations for special events, and initiated community outreach programs with local businesses and other art spaces in downtown Tampa.
- 2013** **Intern, ArtNexus Magazine, Miami, Florida**
My responsibilities at ArtNexus, a South American art magazine, included preparing and distributing guides for Miami Art Week.
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CERTIFICATES

- 2023** **Online Instructor Certification, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida**
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AWARDS

- 2022** **“Most Improved,”** Summer Language Workshop (Persian), Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, Bloomington, Indiana
- 2022** **College of the Arts Faculty Grant, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida**
This grant supported my role as Dr. Esra Akin-Kıvanç’s Research Assistant while we compiled and annotated a bibliography of sources on Islamic calligraphy for Oxford Bibliographies Online.
- 2021** **Research Travel Grant, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida**
This grant supported a research trip to Atlanta, Georgia, where I went to the High Museum to conduct a virtual tour of the traveling exhibition *Bestowing Beauty: Masterpieces from Persian Lands – Selections from the Hossein Afshar Collection*, from the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. This exhibition was central to the instruction of my survey course, Visual Cultures of the Middle East, for which each student wrote a research paper on an object from this exhibition.

- 2019** **Research Travel Grant**, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
This grant supported a research trip to the Allen Memorial Art Museum and the archives at Oberlin College Libraries at Oberlin College and Conservatory in Oberlin, Ohio, for my master’s thesis.
- 2018** **“First Place,”** for *“Ma Jolie: a Paradoxical Portrait,”* Art History Symposium, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
- 2016** **“Second Place,”** for “Conservation as a Means of Translation: Opening the Door to Interpretation,” Art History Symposium, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
- 2015** **“Honorable Mention,”** for “A Turbulent Understanding: Reading and Misreading Shirin Neshat,” Art History Symposium, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
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SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2017** **Undergraduate Talent Grant**, for “Raqib Shaw: The Garden of Earthly and Unearthly Delight,” School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
- 2013 – 2017** **Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholarship**, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, Florida
This scholarship program offers merit-based financial aid to students from Florida high schools who maintained a minimum GPA of 3.00, scored at least a 1210 on the SAT, and performed a minimum of 75 volunteer hours, 100 working hours, or a combined total of 100 volunteer and working hours.
- 2013 – 2015** **Moorings Park Foundation Scholarship**, Moorings Park, Naples, Florida
This scholarship was awarded in recognition of my service as a volunteer teacher’s aide in the art studio at an assisted living facility in Naples, Florida. I supported art classes and art therapy programs for residents with memory-related cognitive disorders.
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LANGUAGES

- Arabic** Elementary
- English** Native
- French** Intermediate

Persian Intermediate

Spanish Intermediate

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

College Art Association

Historians of Islamic Art Association

Middle East Studies Association