

DEFNE ORUC

Ph.D. Student
Department of Art History
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Education

- 2025- **PhD Student, Department of Art History, UW-Madison** .
Primary Advisor: Jill H. Casid.
- 2023 **MA, History of Art, University College London, Distinction**
MA Thesis: “Mediating the Past, Making (in) the Present: Contemporary Artistic Practices from Türkiye and the Construction of Memory around 6-7 September 1955.”
- 2022 **BA, Fine Art and History of Art, Goldsmiths, University of London, First Class Honors**
Thesis: “Installation as Assembly: The Emergence, Organisation and Mobility of Political Subjects in Kutluğ Ataman’s *Küba*.”
- 2021 **BA course, Freie Universität Berlin**
“History of European Art: Local Traditions and Transnational Networks”

Awards and Fellowships

- 2025-2026 Conference Travel Award, Department of Art History, UW-Madison, USA
2025-2026 Conference Travel Award, Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program, UW-Madison, USA
2025 Association for Art History Scholarly Research Grant, UK
2022-2023 Junior Fellowship, Department of Art, Goldsmiths, UK
2021 GoldAward for Professional Development, Goldsmiths, UK

Publications

Journal Article

- 2025 “Mediating the Past, Making (in) the Present: Contemporary Artistic Practices from Türkiye and the Construction of Memory around 6-7 September 1955,” *Archivo Papers* 5 (July):123-38. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15756834>.

Book Review

- 2025 “Archiving the Commons: Looking Through the Lens of bak.ma.” Archivo Photofile, 13 May 2025. <https://www.archivoplatform.com/post/review-oruç-25>

Conferences

Papers Presented

- 2024 5th Reframing the Archive International Conference, 26-27 September 2024. Paper titled “Mediating the Past, Making (in) the Present: Contemporary Artistic Practices from Türkiye and the Construction of Memory around 6-7 September 1955.”
- 2022 Intercollegiate Art History Symposium, University of Chicago, 16 April 2022. Paper titled “Penelope in the Present: Discussing the Potential of Weaving as a Form of Performed Thought.”

Conferences Convened

- 2026 7th Reframing the Archive International Conference: “Visual Thinking and the Futures of Democracy: Photography, Archives and Political Imagination,” 23-25 September 2026. Scientific committee member and panel moderator.

Sessions Organized

- 2026 Session co-convenor, Association for Art History Annual Conference, University of Cambridge: “Intermedia Dialogues,” with Maryluna Santos Giraldo.
- 2024 Session co-convenor, Association for Art History Annual Conference, University of Bristol: “Shifting Grounds: Landscape and Cultural Practices in Latin America,” with Dr. Camilo Escobar.

Teaching Experience

- 2025 **Guest Lecturer, Latin American Studies 1010, Tulane University, USA**
Delivered an online lecture on the Testimonio genre and its reflections in visual culture in the Latin American Studies undergraduate survey course LAST 1010, 13 November 2025.
- 2023-2025 **Full-time Lecturer in Art & Design, Foundation Program, London College of Contemporary Arts, London, UK**
Promoted inquiry-based learning in lectures, seminars and field visits for Foundation-level Visual Culture and Final Major Project modules.

Work Experience

University of Wisconsin-Madison

- 2026 **UW Art Group Leader, Badger Precollege Summer Programs, USA**
Engaged youth groups in academic programs exploring the arts on the UW-Madison campus, June and July 2026.
- 2026 **Summer Research Assistant to Jill Casid, UW-Madison, USA**
Wrote alt-text image description for figures in *Sowing Empire: Landscape and Colonization* (University of Minnesota Press, 2005) and *Scenes of Projection: Recasting the Enlightenment Spectator* (University of Minnesota Press, 2015) in preparation for forthcoming open access editions with University of Minnesota Press.

Departmental Service

- 2026-2027 **Vice President of the Art History Grad Forum (2026-2027)**
Organizes events for graduate students and represents graduate students to art history faculty.

Other Work Experience

- 2022-2023 **Junior Fellow, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK (fixed-term)**
Mentored sixty-six Foundation-level Fine Art students in their progression to BA Fine Art Year 1 with tutorials, skill-sharing workshops, hosting artist talks and leading crits/seminars.
- 2021-2022 **Education Officer & Gallery Assistant, Goldsmiths Centre for Contemporary Art, London, UK (part-time)**
Co-led the project “Crossing Borders” alongside the engagement curator Trish Scott. Delivered weekly art workshops for school children aged between 5-17 based on Eugenio Dittborn's exhibition “Airmail Paintings.”

Curatorial Experience

- 2026 Co-curator, “Life After Life,” April 2026, UW-Madison, USA.
- 2026 Curator, “Catalysts: Transfeminist zines from Evangeline Thurston Wilder’s collection,” March 2026, UW-Madison, USA.
- 2022 Co-curator, “Horizons,” Deptford Art Hub, May 2022, London, UK.
- 2021 Curator, “Skin Hunger,” SEAGER Gallery, July 2021, London, UK.

Exhibitions

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| 2023 | Exhibiting artist, “Yankı” (Echo), group exhibition, February 2023, Istanbul, Turkey. |
| 2022 | Artworks selected for the 10 th edition of Mamut Art Project, an annual group exhibition of emerging artists in Turkey. October 2022, Istanbul, Turkey. |
| 2022 | Goldsmiths Degree Show, June 2022, London, UK. |
| 2022 | Exhibiting artist, “Horizons,” group exhibition, Deptford Art Hub, May 2022, London, UK. |
| 2021 | Exhibiting artist, Deptford X Fringe. Collaborated on the public art installation “Notwithstanding,” July 2021, London, UK. |

Languages

Turkish, English, Spanish