

Tola Porter
Curriculum Vitae
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2022 expected. Department of Art History and Archaeology, Washington University in St. Louis. Dissertation title: “Modernism as Public Art: Reawakening the Social Agency of Abstract Public Sculpture, 1950-1980.” Advisor: John Klein.

Minor Field: Ancient Roman Monuments with Advisor Nathaniel B. Jones.

M.A. 2015 Art History, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

M.A. 2013 Arts Administration, Teacher’s College, Columbia University

B.A. 1997 College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

2022 “Requiring a Place of Its Own: How Modern Sculpture Ushered in Post-War Sculpture Parks” Laumeier Sculpture Park 50th Anniversary Catalogue (forthcoming).

2017 “Reanimating the Possibilities of Affect in Henry Moore’s The Arch, 1980.” *Public Art Dialogue*, no. 2 (Nov 2017): 111-137. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21502552.2017.1343604>.
Feature article.

Book Reviews

2022 Book review, *Teachable Monuments: Using Public Art to Spark Dialogue and Confront Controversy*, edited by Sierra Rooney, Jennifer Wingate, and Harriet F. Senie, (London: Bloomsbury, 2021) for *Sculpture Journal*, Volume 31.1, March 2022, pg. 113-117, Liverpool University Press. <https://doi.org/10.3828/sj.2022.31.1.09>.

Other Publications

2020 Critical essay for the digital exhibition, *A Transitory Space*. Sam Fox School, Washington University in St. Louis.

- 2019 Two critical essays for the Sam Fox School Annual MFA Catalogue, Washington University in St. Louis.
- 2019 *Human Ties* blog published by the Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis “Self-Knowledge as a Tool for Humanities PhD’s to Combat Career Bias and Achieve Post-Doctoral Career Fulfillment.” <https://humanities.wustl.edu/features/tola-porter-self-knowledge-for-humanities-phds-career-bias-fulfillment>
- 2017 Art St. Louis Blog Exhibition review for “Spectacle and Leisure in Paris, Degas to Mucha” at The Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum.
<https://artstlouis.blogspot.com/2017/05/spectacle-and-leisure-in-paris-degas-to.html>

AWARDS and HONORS

- 2022 Mark S. Weil and Joan Hall Weil Professional Development Fellowship at Laumeier Sculpture Park, \$22,000
- 2019 Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence, Washington University in St. Louis, \$1,500
- 2019 Mark S. Weil Dissertation Award, Washington University in St. Louis, \$5,000
- 2019 National *Humanities Without Walls* Predoctoral Fellow, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, \$5,000
- 2019 Graduate Research Funding Grant, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2018 Graduate Research Funding Grant, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2017 Graduate Research Funding Grant, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2014 Shelby White and Leon Levy Travel Grant, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Refereed Papers Presented

- 2022 “From Joseph Beuys to Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, From Social Sculpture to Public Sculpture,” Midwest Art History Society
- 2017 “Reanimating the Possibilities of Affect in Henry Moore’s *The Arch*, 1980,” College Art Association
- 2017 “Recreating Public Meaning for Nonfunctional Abstract Public Art,” Midwest Art History Society

Conferences/Symposia Organized

- 2018 Co-Chair of the Washington University in St. Louis Graduate Student Art History Symposium, entitled *More Than Sustenance: Food in Art*. Keynote speaker, Associate Professor Deborah L. Krohn, Bard Graduate Center

Panels Organized

- 2022 Co-chair for the Public Art Dialogue session, “Notions of Value in Public Art,” College Art Association.
- 2020 Panel convener and moderator for “Aging Modern Public Sculpture in a Postmodern Era,” Americans for the Arts Public Art and Civic Design Conference, Washington D.C. Due to pandemic, panel was canceled

CAMPUS TALKS and INVITED TALKS

- 2022 Guest lecturer on public art for the colloquium *How to Work with Art*. Department of Art History and Archaeology, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2021 Guest lecturer for freshman seminar course *Whose Art Is It Anyway?: St. Louis Art Museums and Their Audiences*. Department of Art History and Archaeology, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2021 Guest respondent for the seminar, *Special Topics: Curatorial Practices in Architecture*, Architecture Department, Sam Fox School, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2020 Guest respondent for seminar student debate about the removal of the St. Louis monument, “The Apotheosis of St. Louis,” Architecture Department, Sam Fox School, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2020 Panel presenter for *Public Art – Commissions, Collection, and Engagement*, organized by the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum. My talk “Public Art Engagement During a Global Pandemic” is from 41:32-56:32:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGEBY92W0MY>.
- 2019 New Perspectives Talk at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University in St. Louis, “From Land Art to Art for the Land: Inigo Manglano-Ovalle’s Weatherfield No. 2.”
- 2019 Gallery talk and Q&A with artist Mee Jey at her exhibition, *Dadi*, Erica Popp Gallery, St. Louis

TEACHING EXPERIENCE at Washington University in St. Louis

Instructor of Record

Introduction to Modern Art, Architecture, and Design - Summer 2019

Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Western Art, Architecture, and Design - Fall 2021, Fall 2018, Fall 2017

Introduction to Modern Art, Architecture, and Design - Spring 2018, Spring 2019

Course Assistant

Myths and Monuments of the Ancient World - Fall 2019

Greek Art and Archaeology - Spring 2020

MUSEUM EDUCATION and CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

2022 Mark S. Weil and Joan Hall Weil Professional Development Fellowship, Curatorial Department, Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis

2021 Student Educator, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University in St. Louis

2020 Student Educator, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University in St. Louis

2017 Gallery talk at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University in St. Louis, "Reclining Figure, Henry Moore"

2015 Curatorial Associate, Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation, NYC

2014 Curator, NYU Curatorial Collaboration, NYC (Fall-Spring Semesters)

2014 Curatorial Intern, Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC (Spring Semester)

2012 Director's Office Intern, Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC (Fall Semester)

2012 Artist Archive Intern, Esteban Vicente Foundation, NYC (Summer)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Public Art Dialogue, Board of Directors Member and Archivist/ Historian, 2020-23

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty, Department of Art History and Archaeology, Washington University in St. Louis, 2019-21

Graduate Student Peer Mentor, Department of Art History and Archaeology, Washington University in St. Louis, 2017-18

LANGUAGES

French: basic proficiency

Spanish: basic proficiency

German: translation

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Public Art Dialogue, Board of Directors Member

Americans for the Arts

College Art Association

Midwest Art History Society