

SILVERMAN, Raymond Aaron

Curriculum Vitae

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address and phone

Work: Department of the History of Art, University of Michigan, Tappan Hall, 855 South University Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1357
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education

Ph.D. Art History. University of Washington. December 1983. Major: Sub-Saharan Africa. Minors: Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica, 20th-century Mexico, Japan.
Dissertation: "History, Art and Assimilation: The Impact of Islam on Akan Material Culture."

M.A. Art History. University of Washington. June 1977.
Major: Sub-Saharan Africa.
Thesis: "The Northern Factor in Asante Art."

B.A. (*summa cum laude*) Art History. University of California, Los Angeles. June 1975.

areas of general interest

Visual cultures of sub-Saharan Africa and Muslim societies; art and religion; history of museums.

primary research interest

History of museums in Africa; the translation of local knowledge in community-based cultural institutions, history of museum representation of Africa and Africans, interaction between West Africa and the cultures of the Middle East and Europe; history of metal technologies in Ethiopia and Ghana; social values associated with creativity in Ethiopia; visual culture of religion in 20th-century Ethiopia; commodification of culture in Ethiopia and Ghana.

employment history

Professor, Department of the History of Art and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan. Fall 2002 to present.

Director [Founding], Museum Studies Program, University of Michigan. Fall 2002 to Summer 2012.

Adjunct Curator of African Art, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Summer 2010 to present.

Interim Co-Director, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Spring 2009 to Summer 2010.

Professor, Department of Art, Michigan State University. Fall 2000 to Spring 2002.

Interim Chair, Department of Art, Michigan State University. Summer 1999 to Summer 2000.

Director [Founding], Museum Studies Program, Michigan State University. Summer 1999 to Spring 2002.

Associate Professor, Department of Art, Michigan State University. Fall 1992 to Summer 2000.

Assistant Professor, Department of Art, Michigan State University. Fall 1988 to Summer 1992.

Adjunct Curator of African Art, Kresge Art Museum and Michigan State University Museum, Michigan State University. Fall 1988 to Spring 2002.

Associate Curator of Ethnology, Glenbow Museum (Calgary). Fall 1991 to 1994. [advisory position]

Lecturer, Department of Art, University of California, Santa Cruz. Fall 1985, Fall 1986 to Spring 1987.

Visiting Lecturer, School of Art, University of Washington. Spring 1986.

Acting Associate Curator, Ethnic Art Department, Seattle Art Museum. May to August 1985.

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Art History, University of California, Berkeley. Summer 1984.

Lecturer, Continuing Education, University of Washington. Summer 1982, Spring 1984.

Instructor, School of Art, University of Washington. Summer 1982.

Visiting Lecturer, California State University, Los Angeles. Summer 1977.

research in Africa

2012 Ethiopia (3 months, Aksum)
2011 Ghana (3 weeks, Techiman)
2009 Ghana (6 weeks, Techiman), Ethiopia (2 weeks, Addis Ababa, Aksum)
2008 Ghana (6 weeks, Legon, Techiman)
2007 Ghana (3 weeks, Techiman, Kumasi)
2006 Ghana (5 weeks, Techiman, Kumasi)
2005 Ghana (2 weeks, Techiman, Kumasi), Kenya/Tanzania (2 weeks, Swahili Coast)
2004 Ethiopia (2 weeks, Addis Ababa)
2003 Ethiopia (3 weeks, Addis Ababa), Kenya (1 week, Nairobi)
2002 Ethiopia (2 weeks, Addis Ababa, Aksum)
2001 Ghana (6 weeks, Kumasi and Techiman), Ethiopia (6 weeks, Aksum)
1998 Ethiopia (2 months, Aksum)
1997 Ethiopia (2 months, Aksum)
1991-93 Ethiopia (several 1 to 3-month trips)

1987-88 Côte d'Ivoire (12 months, Bondoukou)
1979-80 Ghana (15 months, Brong Ahafo & Asante)

fellowships, awards, honors

Senior Research Fellow, National Museum of African Art and National Museum of Natural History (Department of Anthropology), Smithsonian Institution. February-June, 2013.

Michigan Museums Association, Peninsulas Award. Recognizing long and distinguished service by an individual to a single institution. November 2011.

Michigan Museums Association, President's Award. Recognizing exemplary contribution of an individual to the Michigan museum community. November 2011.

Experiential Learning Grant, International Institute, University of Michigan. 2009.

Arts of Citizenship Faculty Grant in Public Scholarship, University of Michigan. 2008-09.

Fulbright Specialist Program. 2008.

Public Goods Council Grant for Curriculum Development, University of Michigan. 2007.

International Partnership Among Museums, American Association of Museums [Ghana]. 2006-07.

Intramural Research Grant, Michigan State University. 2001-02.

All-University Research Initiation Grant, Michigan State University. 1997-98.

Short-Term Visitor Fellowship, Smithsonian Institution. 1996.

Community Outreach Grant for Exhibition, "Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity," Dayton-Hudson Foundation. 1994.

Implementation Grant for Exhibition, "Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity," National Endowment for the Arts. 1994.

Planning Grant for Exhibition, "Greater Ethiopia—Its Peoples and Cultures," National Endowment for the Humanities. 1991-92.

International Partnership Among Museums [Ethiopia]. 1990-91.

All-University Research Initiation Grant, Michigan State University. 1990.

Fulbright Fellowship, Islamic Civilization Research Program. 1987-88.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. 1987-88.

Royal Government of Saudi Arabia Fellowship for the Study of Arabic. Summer 1987.

University of Washington President's Dissertation Fellowship. 1982-83.

Graduate Associate, School of International Studies, University of Washington. 1982-83.

Social Science Research Council Fellowship for International Doctoral Dissertation Research. 1979-81.

Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad. 1979-80.

Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship for Doctoral Research. 1978-79.

Phi Beta Kappa, University of California, Los Angeles. 1975.

Pi Gamma Mu (National Social Science Honor Society), University of California, Los Angeles. 1974.

membership in professional organizations

African Studies Association (ASA)

Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA)

Ghana Studies Council (Founding President, Fall 1988 to Fall 1993)

American Association of Museums (AAM)

AAM Committee on Museum Professional Training (COMPT)

International Council of Museums (ICOM)

International Committee for University Museums and Collections (UMAC)

consultation

Advisor, *Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints: Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil*. Traveling exhibition planned by the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit. April 2013.

Collections Evaluator, Art Institute of Chicago African Art Deaccessioning Project. January 2013.

Faculty, Smithsonian Curatorial Practices Workshop. National Heritage Board, Singapore. November 2011.

Consultant, Baltimore Museum of Art African Gallery Reinstallation. Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD. June, November 2011.

Reviewer, *Kumasi Realism, 1951-2007: An African Modernism* (manuscript), Hurst & Company, London, 2010.

Consultant, Newark Museum African Gallery Reinstallation. Newark Museum, Newark, NJ. Fall 2008.

Reviewer, *Representing Africa in American Art Museums* (manuscript), University of Washington Press, 2006 and 2007.

Consulting Curator, University of Michigan Museum of Art, African Installation. Winter 2006 to 2009.

Consultant, Ethnological Documentation Project. Public Museum of Grand Rapids. Summer 2004.

Consultant, *Ethiopia: Icons of the Past, Images of the Present*. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida. Fall 2002-present.

Research Associate, Michigan State University Museum. 2002 to 2008.

Reviewer, Arts and Humanities Research Board (Bristol, England), Summer 2001, 2002.

Reviewer, Anthropology Panel, Division of Public Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities (Washington, DC), Spring 1999.

Consultant, *'Into the Light': The Extraordinary Art of Ethiopia* (video on Ethiopian art). Albany Museum of Art (Albany, GA), Spring 1999.

Member, Board of Advisors for The Ethiopian Art Heritage Project, 1997 to 2003.

Consultant, Permanent Installation—African Gallery, Glenbow Museum (Calgary), February 1992.

Reviewer, 1992 International Partnership Among Museums Program, American Association of Museums (Washington, DC), January 1992.

Consultant, "Art and Culture of the Islamic World: An Exhibition Project," Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC), December 1991.

Review of manuscript "African and African American Art," SPECTRA Program (Provo, UT), October 1991.

Review of manuscript, "African Kingdoms," Circa 1492, National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC), June 1991.

Evaluation of African art collection, Glenbow Museum (Calgary), February 1991.

miscellaneous professional activities

Consulting Editor, *African Arts*, Summer 1994 to present.

Editorial Advisory Board, *Museum Worlds: Advances in Research*, Winter 2012 to present.

Editorial Board, *International Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, Fall 2002 to present.

Associate Editor, *Ghana Studies Journal*, Winter 1997 to present.

Associate Editor, *GEFAME Journal of African Studies*, Fall 2004 to present.

Associate Editor, *Northeast African Studies*, Fall 1994 to 2003.
Member, Board of Directors, Michigan Museums Association, Fall 2005 to 2009.
Member, International Advisory Board, *Journal of Art and Humanities* (College of Art and Social Sciences, KNUST), Fall 2008 to present.
Consulting Editor, *Image* (Journal of the College of Art, KNUST, Ghana) Fall 2000 to present.
Book Review Editor, *African Arts*, Summer 1994 to Summer 1999.
Member, Board of Directors, Arts Council of the African Studies Association, Spring 1992 to Spring 1995.
President (Founding), Akan Studies Council (renamed Ghana Studies Association), Fall 1988 to Fall 1992.
Editor, *Akan Studies Council Newsletter*, 1989 to 1993.
Editor for African art, *Tribal Arts Review*. January 1984 to May 1986.

publications

“Of Chiefs, Tourists and Culture: Heritage Production in Contemporary Ghana.” In *The Politics of Heritage in Africa*, eds. D. R. Peterson, K. Gavua and C. Rassool. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press. In press.

“African Art and the Shape of Time (Exhibition Preview),” with Prita Meier. *African Arts* 46 (1) 2013: 72-81.

African Art and the Shape of Time, with Prita Meier. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Museum of Art, 2012.

“Besieged! Contemporary political, cultural and economic challenges to museums in the academy as seen from Ann Arbor,” with Carla Sinopoli. *University Museums and Collections Journal* 4 2011: 27-37.

“An Artist’s Sense of Place: The World of Atta Kwami.” *Susuka: Recent Paintings and Prints of Atta Kwami*. [Exhibit brochure essay]. Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan, 2011.

“Ethiopian Orthodox Visual Culture in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction: A Research Note.” *Material Religion* 5 (1) 2009: 88-103.

“Icons of Devotion/Icons of Trade: Creativity and Entrepreneurship in Contemporary 'Traditional' Ethiopian Painting,” with Neal Sobania. *African Arts* 42 (1) 2009: 26-37.

“Drinking the Word of God.” In *Inscribing Meaning: Writing and Graphic Systems in African Art*, eds. C. M. Kreamer, M. N. Roberts, E. Harney and A. Purpura, pp. 117-123. Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Institution, 2007.

“Guest Editor's Introduction. Special Issue: Sites/Sights of Memory in Ghana's Cultural Landscapes.” *Ghana Studies* 7 2004 [2006]: 2-9.

“Patrons and Artists in Highland Ethiopia: Contemporary Practice in the Commissioning of Religious Painting and Metalwork,” with Neal Sobania. In *Proceedings of the XVth International Conference of Ethiopia Studies, Hamburg, July 20-25, 2003*, ed. S. Uhlig, pp. 469-477. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2006.

“An Aesthetic of Accumulation and Display in Akan Tano Shrines.” In *Art for Archaeology’s Sake: Material Culture and Style across the Disciplines. Proceedings of the Thirty-Third Annual Conference of the Archaeological Association of the University of Calgary*, eds. A. Waters-Rist, C. Cluney, C. McNamee and L. Steinbrenner, pp. 24-31. Calgary: The Archaeological Association of the University of Calgary, 2005.

“Goldsmiths.” In *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*, ed. S. Uhlig, vol. 2, pp. 835-36. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2005.

Painting Ethiopia: The Life and Work of Qes Adamu Tesfaw. Los Angeles: UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, 2005.

“Gold and Silver at the Crossroads in Highland Ethiopia,” with Neal Sobania. *International Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, 1 (2) 2004: 82-109.

“Painting Ethiopia: The Life and Work of Qes Adamu Tesfaw (Exhibition Preview).” *African Arts* 37 (3) 2004: 62-71, 92.

“Mining a Mother Lode: Early European Travel Literature and the History of Precious Metalworking in Highland Ethiopia,” with Neal Sobania. *History in Africa* 31 2004: 335-55.

“The Aroma of Milk, the Container, and the Body: a Borana Milk Container (*gorfa*).” In *See the Music, Hear the Dance: Rethinking African Art at The Baltimore Museum of Art*, ed. F. Lamp, pp. 250-253. Baltimore: The Baltimore Museum of Art, 2004.

“Histories of Gold and Silver in Central and Eastern Ethiopia,” with Neal Sobania. *Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on the History of Ethiopian Art, Addis Ababa, 5-8 November 2002*, ed. Birhanu Teferra and R. Pankhurst, pp. 341-52. Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, 2003.

Catalogue entries, “Dolls (*Akua’mma*)” and “Helmet.” In *The Power of Form: African Art from the Horstmann Collection*, Ezio Bassani, et al, pp. 72-73, 74-75. Milano: Skira, 2002.

“Contemporary Pottery Production in Wolayta (Ethiopia).” In *Clay and Fire: Pottery in Africa*, ed. C. Roy, pp. 169-88. Iowa City: School of Art and Art History, The University of Iowa, 2000.

“Africa and the Internet (First Word),” with Michael Conner, *African Arts* 32 (2) 1999: 1, 4-9, 89-90.

Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity. East Lansing and Seattle: Michigan State University Museum and University of Washington Press, 1999. (editor and author of four essays—volume includes twelve essays dealing with various aspects of Ethiopian art and culture)

"Qes Adamu Tesfaw—A Priest Who Paints." In *Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity*, edited by R. Silverman, pp. 132-55, 261-66. East Lansing and Seattle: Michigan State University Museum and University of Washington Press, 1999.

"Jembere and His Son Marcos: Traditional Painting at the End of the Twentieth Century" with Girma Fisseha. In *Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity*, edited by R. Silverman, pp. 156-79, 267-71. East Lansing and Seattle: Michigan State University Museum and University of Washington Press, 1999.

"Silverwork in the Highlands: The Life and Work of Gezahegn Gebre Yohannes and Abib Sa'id" with Neal Sobania. In *Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity*, edited by R. Silverman, pp. 182-99, 271-72. East Lansing and Seattle: Michigan State University Museum and University of Washington Press, 1999.

"The Gods Wear Kente." In *Wrapped in Pride: Ghanaian Kente and African American Identity*, ed. D. Ross, pp. 64-69. Los Angeles, UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, 1998.

"Ethiopia: Art and Architecture." In *The Encyclopedia of Sub-Saharan Africa*, ed. J. Middleton, vol. 2, pp. 74-76. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1997.

"Zerihun Yetmgeta," *African Arts*, 30 (1) 1997: 52-57, 96.

"Seeking a History for a Masquerade: Do Performances of the Bondoukou Region." In *Bedu Is My Lover: Five Stories About Bondoukou and Masquerading*, eds. K. Arnaut and E. Dell, pp. 15-21. Brighton: The Green Centre for Non-Western Art at the Royal Pavilion, Art Gallery and Museums, 1996.

"Two Generations of Traditional Painters: A Biographical Sketch of Qangeta Jembere Hailu and Marqos Jembere," with Girma Fisseha. In *New Trends in Ethiopian Studies. Papers of the 12th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*, ed. H.G. Marcus, pp. 369-79. Lawrence, NJ: The Red Sea Press, 1994.

Artist Profiles for "Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity." East Lansing: Michigan State University Museum, 1994.

"Do Masks," In *Visions of Africa: The Jerome L. Joss Collection of African Art at UCLA*, ed. D.H. Ross, pp. 40-43. Los Angeles: Fowler Museum of Cultural History, University of California, 1994.

"History and Art in Ethiopia," with Neal W. Sobania. In *Art of Everyday Life in Ethiopia and Northern Kenya from the Collection of Neal W. Sobania*, pp. 12-30. Holland, MI: De Pree Art Centr & Gallery, Hope College, 1992.

"Arabic Writing and the Occult," In *Brocade of the Pen: The Art of Islamic Calligraphy*, ed. C.G. Fisher, pp. 19-30. East Lansing, MI: Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, 1990.

"A Portrait 'Mask' of President Nnamdi Azikiwe," *African Arts*, 23 (4) 1990: 78, 96.

"'All That's Gold Does Not Glitter': A Review of the Barbier-Mueller Museum's Gold of Africa," *African Arts*, 23 (2) 1990: 71-80, 103-04.

"G. Mennen Williams: A Collector of African Art." Essay for exhibition, "G. Mennen Williams: His Legacy from an African Mission." Oakland University, Rochester, MI, 1990.

"Gold and Power: Art and Politics of the Asante." In *Art as Technology: The Arts of Africa, Oceania, Native America, and Southern California*, ed. A. Rubin and Z. Pearlstone, pp. 133-38. Beverly Hills: Hillcrest Press, 1989.

Expressions of Africa: Selections from the Museum Collections of Michigan State University. East Lansing: The Kresge Art Museum and Michigan State University Museum, 1989.

"Islam among the Akan: A Bibliographic Essay," with David Owusu-Ansah, *History in Africa* 16 1989: 325-39.

The River Shall Never Be At Rest: Transitions in Yoruba Art. Santa Cruz, CA: Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery, 1987 (exhibition catalog, supervising editor).

"Historical Dimensions of Tano Worship among the Asante and Bono." In *The Golden Stool: Studies of the Asante Center and Periphery*, ed. E. Schildkrout, pp. 272-88. Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History. Volume 65, Part 1. New York: American Museum of Natural History, 1987.

"Painted Incantations: The Closeness of Allah and Kings in 19th Century Asante," with René Bravmann. In *The Golden Stool: Studies of the Asante Center and Periphery*, ed. E. Schildkrout, pp. 93-108. Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History. Volume 65, Part 1. New York: American Museum of Natural History, 1987.

"Bono Brass Casting," *African Arts*, 19 (4) 1986: 60-65, 85-86.

"Arts of the Akan." (set of gallery handouts prepared for exhibition) Seattle: Seattle Art Museum, 1985.

"Kuduo: Form and Function." In *Akan Transformations: Problems in Ghanaian Art History*, eds. D.H. Ross and T.F. Garrard, pp. 10-29. Los Angeles: Museum of Cultural History (UCLA), 1983.

"14th-15th Century Syrio-Egyptian Brassware in Ghana," *Nyame Akuma*, (20) 1982: 13-16.

book and exhibition reviews

The Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan (Museum Review). *Journal of American History*, 93 (3) 2006: 821-825.

'Living in Style.' Crafts and Technologies: Some Traditional Craftsmen and –women in the Western Grasslands of Cameroon. Part 4: Handicrafts, Music and the Fabric of Social Life, by Hans Knöpfli, *Material Religion*, 2 (2) 2006: 247-48.

The Ones That Are Wanted: Communication and the Politics of Representation in a Photographic Exhibition, by Corinne A. Kratz, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 35 (2) 2002: 467-69.

The Vibrant Art of Ghana, Gemeentemuseum, The Hague (exhibition review). *Ghana Studies Newsletter*, No. 15, Summer 2002, pp. 6-7.

Art and Life in Africa: Recontextualizing African Art in the Cycle of Life, conceived and developed by L. Lee McIntyre and Christopher D. Roy (CD ROM review). *African Arts*, 32 (1) 1999: 91-92, 96.

Art That Heals, Museum for African Art (exhibition review). *African Arts*, 31 (3) 1998: 80-81.

African Metalwork, by Jeremy Coote, *et al. African Arts*, 29 (3) 1996: 93-94.

State and Society in Pre-Colonial Asante, by T.C. McCaskie. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 2 (2) 1996: 371-72.

The Arts of Africa: An Annotated Bibliography, by Janet L. Stanley. *African Studies Review*, 35 (2) 1992: 127-28.

African Art in American Collections, by Warren M. Robbins and Nancy Ingram Nooter. *African Studies Review*, 35 (1) 1992: 138-40.

"Object and Intellect: Interpretation of Meaning in African Art." Edited by John Henry Drewal. Special issue of *Art Journal*, Volume 47, Number 2, Summer 1988. *African Arts* 22 (4) 1989: 16-24, 85.

Images from Bamum: German Colonial Photography at the Court of King Njoya, Cameroon, West Africa, 1902-1915 by Christraud Geary. *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 22 (1) 1989: 115-16.

Perspectives: Angles on African Art by James Baldwin, et al. *African Arts* 21 (1) 1987: 19-24.

Hatumere: Islamic Design in West Africa by Labelle Prussin. *Bulletin of the Middle East Studies Association*, 21 (1) 1987: 102-03.

Red Gold of Africa: Copper in Precolonial History and Culture by Eugenia Herbert. *African Arts*, 18 (2) 1985: 18-23.

Various book reviews in *Tribal Arts Review* (January 1984 to May 1986).

exhibitions

"African Art and the Shape of Time." University of Michigan Museum of Art. August 18, 2012 to February 3, 2013.

"*Susuka: Recent Paintings and Prints of Atta Kwami.*" Gallery CAAS, University of Michigan. January 2 to February 25, 2011.

"Casting Tradition: Contemporary Brassworking in Ghana." Exhibit Museum of Natural History, University of Michigan. August 1, 2008 to July 31, 2009.

"Painting Ethiopia: The Life and Work of Qes Adamu Tesfaw." UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History and the Museum of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University. UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles, March 6 - September 18, 2005; Birmingham Museum of Art, February 5 - April 23, 2006; Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, October 20, 2006 - March 5, 2007; Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago, August 25 - November 4, 2007.

"Ethiopian Crossroads: Photographs of a Land and Its People." UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles. March 6 to June 26, 2005.

"'Drinking the Word of God': Expressions of Faith and the Search for Well-Being in Two West African Communities." Michigan State University Museum. March 18, 2001 to January 20, 2002.

"African Connections: Perspectives on Collecting Culture," Michigan State University Museum. January 31 to September 3, 1999.

"Hand-Painted Icons by Five Ethiopian Artists." Water Street Gallery, Saugatuck, MI. August 16 to 22, 1998. [Co-curated with Neal Sobania]

"Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity." Michigan State University Museum. July 24 to December 16, 1994; Dillard University (New Orleans), September 8 to December 8, 1995.

"G. Mennen Williams: His Legacy from an African Mission." Oakland University, Rochester, MI. February 1 to March 18, 1990.

"Expressions of Africa: Selections from the Museums of Michigan State University," Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University. September 19 to December 15, 1989.

"The River Shall Never Be At Rest: Transitions in Yoruba Art." Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery, University of California, Santa Cruz; May 10 to June 5, 1987. Museum of Cultural History, University of California, Los Angeles; February 7 to April 3, 1988.

"Northwest Coast Indian Art from the Hauberg Collection," Seattle Art Museum. August 22, 1985 to March 18, 1986.

"Arts of the Akan," Seattle Art Museum. February 14 to March 31, 1985.

other museum projects

"Nkwantananso: The Cultural Center of Techiman." This long-term (2005-present) project has offered opportunities for collaborative work among faculty and students from several universities in the US and Ghana and members of a community in central Ghana to build a cultural center. The

work has involved the application of current social theory concerning culture, heritage and civil society.

multimedia production

“Three Generations of Ethiopian Painters.” Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, 2002. [DVD, with Neal Sobania]

“The Parchment Makers: An Ancient Art in Present-Day Ethiopia.” Scriptorium (Grand Haven, MI) and Hope College (Holland, MI), 2000. [Video, with Neal Sobania]

“Akan Brasscasting.” CD-ROM contribution. *Art and Life in Africa: Recontextualizing African Art in the Cycle of Life*. Compiled by C. Roy and L. McIntyre. University of Iowa, 1998.

“Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity.” Video. Set of 10 artist vignettes to accompany exhibition dealing with the contemporary art of Ethiopia. Michigan State University, 1994.

“Atano: River Deities of the Akan.” African Encounters Video Series. University of Washington, 1986.

“Bono Brasscasting.” African Encounters Video Series. University of Washington, 1985.

“The Akan of Ghana.” African Encounters Video Series. University of Washington, 1985.

virtual exhibitions

Designer and Co-Curator, “‘Drinking the Word of God’: Expressions of Faith and the Search for Well-Being in Two West African Communities.” Exhibit site. Online March 2001.

< <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~silveray/dwg/> > or

< <http://museum.msu.edu/Exhibitions/Virtual/DrinkingtheWordofGod/> >

Designer and Curator, “African Connections: Perspectives on Collecting Culture.” Exhibit site. Online March 1999. < <http://www.museum.msu.edu/exhibitions/Virtual/afcon/> >

Designer and Curator, “Zerihun Yetmgeta: Ethiopian Artist.” Documentation of life and work of the artist. Online January 1999. < <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~zerihun> >

Designer and Curator, “Richard Hunt: American Artist.” Documentation of life and work of the artist. Online January 1999. < <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~rhunt> >

Designer and Curator, “Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity.” Virtual exhibition. Online September 1998. < <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~etoc> >

miscellaneous advanced technology projects

Interactive Content/Subject Analysis for *Painting Ethiopia: The Life and Work of Qes Adamu Tesfaw*. CD ROM, completed February 2005.

Editor and moderator, H-AfrArts discussion list and WWW page. 1996-2002.
< <http://h-net2.msu.edu/~artsweb> >

Advisory Board member, H-West Africa discussion list and WWW page. 1998-2002.

First Prize, Michigan State University NeXT Hypermedia Contest, for "Learning Resources for the Cultural History of Africa." August 1991.

"Liberal Arts Multimedia Exploration Project: Second Session." Mills College, Oakland, CA. June 1991.

President (Founding), Michigan State University NeXT User's Group, Fall 1990-Spring 1991.

"Brass in the Cultural History of West Africa." Multimedia courseware developed on the NeXT Computer for a course on the cultural history of Africa. Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. September 1990.

"Liberal Arts Multimedia Exploration Project: First Session." Mills College, Oakland, CA. June 1990.

professional conference participation

Paper, "Heritage Dialogues: Locating 'Culture' in a Ghanaian Community." Recovering Voices Seminar, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. May 2013.

Paper, "Ink, Paint and Parchment: Making Manuscripts in Aksum Today." Ethiopic Manuscripts Illuminated: The Gerald Weiner Collection. University of California (Symposium), Los Angeles. May 2012.

Paper, "In the Beginning . . . Reflections on Northern Kentucky's Creation Museum," with Bradley Taylor. Michigan Museums Association Annual Meeting, Harbor Springs, MI. October 2011.

Paper, "Of Chiefs, Tourists and Culture: Heritage Production in Contemporary Ghana." The Politics of Heritage, Johannesburg, July 2011.

Paper, "Memorializing Diaspora: Contemporary Heritage Discourse in Ghana." 15th Triennial Symposium on African Art, University of California, Los Angeles. March 2011.

Paper, "Besieged! Contemporary Political, Cultural and Economic Challenges to Museums in the Academy," with Carla Sinopoli. International Council of Museums 22nd General Conference. Shanghai. November 2010.

Paper, "Reimagining Curatorial Practice in 21st-Century Africa: Community Museums." Exhibiting Africa: Critical Curatorial Practice in the 21st Century, University of California, Los Angeles. October 2010.

Paper, "Culture's Patina: Souvenirs as Objects of Heritage." Sensational Heritage. Fashioning Culture, Styling the Past Stimulating the Senses, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Conference venue: Accra). April 2010.

Paper, "Locating Culture with/in a Ghanaian Community." Translating Knowledge: Global Perspectives on Museum and Community, University of Michigan. January 2010.

Paper, "Of Chiefs, Tourists and Culture: The Making of Local and National Heritages in Ghana." Heritage Matters! University of Ghana, Accra. December 2009.

Workshop Chair, "Community Initiatives." Heritage Matters! University of Ghana, Accra. December 2009.

Paper, "The Ins and Outs of Church Painting in Present-Day Aksum: The Case of the Church of Enda Iyasus," with Neal Sobania. 17th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa. November 2009.

Paper, "'Drinking the Word of God:' Script as Spiritual Communication in Africa." Script to Sacred Symposium, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan. January 2008.

Paper, "Building Civil Society: Creating a Community Center at the Crossroads of Culture and Commerce." West African Museums Programme Symposium, Dakar, Senegal. November 2007.

Panel Chair and Discussant, Contesting Knowledge: Museums and Indigenous Perspectives (Indigenous Past and Present: First Annual Symposium). Newberry Library, Chicago, IL. September 2007.

Paper, "Building Civil Society: Creating a Community Center at the Crossroads of Culture and Commerce." African Architecture Today Conference, Kumasi, Ghana. June 2007.

Paper, "Icons of Devotion / Icons of Trade: Religion and Contemporary Visual Culture in Ethiopia." 14th Triennial Symposium on African Art, Gainesville, FL. March 2007.

Paper, "Building Civil Society: A Community Center at the Crossroads of Culture and Commerce." 2nd Triennial AFRICOM Conference, Cape Town, South Africa. October 2006.

Panel Chair, "Standardisation of Training Programmes: Good or Bad Idea?" International Council for the Training of Personnel (International Council of Museums), Annual Meeting, Paris. October 2005.

Panel Chair, "Sites/Sights of Memory in Ghana's Cultural Landscapes." 47th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, New Orleans. November 2004.

Paper, "Qes Adamu Tesfaw and the Limits of 'Modernity': A Consideration of the Life and Work of a Contemporary Ethiopian Artist." 13th Triennial Symposium on African Art, Cambridge, MA. April 2004.

Paper, "Painting for the *ferenj*: Tourism and art in contemporary Axum (Ethiopia)." 46th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Boston. November 2003.

Paper, "Patrons and Artists in Highland Ethiopia: Contemporary Practice in the Commissioning of Religious Painting and Metalwork," with Neal Sobania. 15th International Conference of Ethiopia Studies, Hamburg University. July 2003.

Paper, "Art, Artists, and the Orthodox Church: Contemporary Religious Painting in Ethiopia." Symposium, Christian Art in Ethiopia: Framing *The Miracles of Mary*, Art Institute of Chicago. February 2003.

Roundtable Discussion, "New and Improved: Applications of Information Technology in Studies of African Visual Culture." 45th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, DC. December 2002.

Paper, "Histories of Gold and Silver in Central and Eastern Ethiopia," with Neal Sobania. Sixth International Conference on the History of Ethiopian Art, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University. November 2002.

Paper, "Gold and Silver at the Crossroads in Highland Ethiopia." 90th Annual Conference of the College Art Association. Philadelphia. February 2002.

Paper, "An Aesthetic of Accumulation and Display in Akan Tano Shrines." 12th Triennial Symposium on African Art. St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. April 2001.

Paper, "An Aesthetic of Accumulation and Display in Akan Tano Shrines." 33rd Annual Chacmool (Archaeology) Conference, University of Calgary. November 2000.

Section Chair for African Art, Panels Selection Committee for Annual African Studies Association (ASA) Meeting. Summer 2000.

Roundtable Discussion, "Museum Studies: Training for the New Century." Michigan Museum Association, Ann Arbor. September 1999.

Paper, "Sustaining the Faith: Expressive Culture and Christianity in Ethiopia." 35th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo. May 2000. [with Neal Sobania]

Paper, "H-AfrArts: What It Is and What It Can Be." Eleventh Triennial Symposium on African Art, New Orleans. April 1998.

Roundtable Discussion, Co-Chair, "H-AfrArts and the Arts Council of the African Studies Association." Eleventh Triennial Symposium on African Art, New Orleans. April 1998.

Paper, "Negotiating 'Traditional' Law: Akan Royal Regalia and the African Art Market." 38th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, San Francisco. November 1996.

Paper, "Ethiopia and African Art: How Race and Ethnicity Have Shaped the Perception of Ethiopia as African." Tenth Triennial Symposium on African Art, New York. April 1995.

Panel Chair, "History and Art in Ethiopia." Tenth Triennial Symposium on African Art, New York. April 1995.

Paper, "Two Ethiopian Goldsmiths: Abib Sa'id and Gezahegn Gebre Yohannes," with Neal Sobania. Tenth Triennial Symposium on African Art, New York. April 1995.

Paper, "Two Generations of Traditional Painters: A Biographical Sketch of Qangeta Jembere Hailu and Marqos Jembere," with Girma Fisseha. 12th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. September 1994.

Paper, "Contemporary Pottery Production in Wolayta (Ethiopia)." African Pottery Conference, University of Iowa, Iowa City. April 1994.

Paper, "Ethiopian Traditions of Creativity: 'Art' or 'Handicraft'." Third International Conference on the History of Ethiopian Art, Addis Ababa. November 1993.

Paper, "Bringing Ethiopia into the Fold: An Overview of Ethiopian Art Studies." Ninth Triennial Symposium on African Art, Iowa City. April 1992.

Panel Chair, "Neglected Themes in the Study of African Art." Ninth Triennial Symposium on African Art, Iowa City. April 1992.

Paper, "Establishing and Sustaining a University-Based African Art Program—The Relationship of Scholar/Teacher, Librarian, and Visual Resource Specialist." Art Libraries of North America 20th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. February 1992.

Paper, "A Consideration of the Origins, Evolution, and Demise of the Do Tradition in the Bondoukou Region (Côte d'Ivoire)." African Studies Association Meeting, St. Louis, MO. November 1991.

Participant, Second International Conference on the History of Ethiopian Art. Nieborow, Poland. September 1990.

Paper, "Through African Eyes, Perceptions of the West in African Art: Defining the Problem(s)." African Studies Association Meeting, Atlanta, GA. November 1989.

Panel Chair, "Through African Eyes: Perceptions of the West in African Art." African Studies Association Meeting, Atlanta, GA. November 1989.

Paper, "Masking and Ethnicity in the Departement de Bondoukou, Côte d'Ivoire." Eighth Triennial Symposium on African Art, Washington, DC. June 1989.

Panel Chair, "Art in Multi-Ethnic Contexts." Eighth Triennial Symposium on African Art, Washington, DC. June 1989.

Paper, "Writing and Dyula Identity in Ivory Coast and Ghana (West Africa)." College Art Association Meeting, Houston, TX. February 1988.

Paper, "Dress for Success: Adorning the Gods of the Akan." African Studies Association Meeting, Madison, WI. November 1986.

Participant, roundtable discussion, "African Technological Visions: Indigenous Metalworking on Film and Video [Bono Brass Casting]." African Studies Association Meeting, Madison, WI. November 1986.

Paper, "The Arts of Tano." Seventh Triennial Symposium on African Art, Los Angeles. April 1986.

Panel Chair, "Shrines and Altar Ensembles." Seventh Triennial Symposium on African Art, Los Angeles. April 1986.

Paper, "Bono Brasscasting: Art, Technology and History." Art in Context: Environment and Society (Symposium), Portland Art Museum, Portland. May 1985.

Panel Chair, "The Shapes of Religious Experience: Islam and Art in West Africa." African Studies Association Meeting, Los Angeles. October 1984.

Paper, "Reconstructing the Origins of Akan Casting Technology." African Studies Association Meeting, Los Angeles. October 1984.

Paper, "Tano Worship Among the Bron and Asante." Asante and its Neighbors: Relations with the Exterior (Symposium), American Museum of Natural History, New York. October 1984.

Paper, "Islam, Art and Technology: The Origins of Akan and Nupe Brassworking." Sixth Triennial Symposium on African Art, Norman. April 1983.

Paper, "Reconstructing a History of Islam's Impact on Akan Art." African Studies Faculty Seminar, University of Washington, Seattle. May 1983.

Symposium Chair, "Rhythms of Ritual: Creation and Context of African Art," Seattle Art Museum. September 1982.

Paper, "Mamluk Metalwork in Bilad as-Sudan: Evidence for Fourteenth-Sixteenth Century Trans-Saharan Trade." Middle Eastern Studies Association Meeting, Seattle. November 1981.

Paper, "A Vestige of the Trans-Saharan Gold Trade: Arabic-Inscribed Vessels among the Akan." African Studies Association Meeting, Bloomington. October 1981.

Paper, "The Impact of Politics and Economy on Bono Aesthetic Traditions." African Studies Association Meeting, Philadelphia. October 1980.

Paper, "Islamic Influence in Akan Art: The Kufesque." Arts of Ghana (Symposium), Los Angeles. October 1977.

invited public lectures

"Visual Traditions of Orthodox Christianity: Religion, Commerce and Art in Ethiopia Today." National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. March 2013.

“Community/Museum: Relocating Curatorial Authority in Techiman, Ghana.” Centre for Ethnographic Research and Exhibition in the Aftermath of Violence (Department of History), Concordia University (Montreal). April 2012.

“Tactical Museology: Thinking Strategically about Community, Museum and the Academy,” with Maria Cotera and Aimee VonBokel. *Cross Currents: Transdisciplinary Dialogues on the Museum*. Museum Studies Program, University of Michigan. October 2011.

“Teaching in, with, and about Museums: Engaging Students in Materially Different Ways.” Center for Research in Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan. February 2011.

“Learning about Visual Culture in Ghana.” My Days in Ghana (Peace Corps Symposium), University of Michigan Student Union. October 2010.

“Museums and Pedagogies of Practice.” Institute for the Humanities Spring Seminar, University of Michigan. May 2010.

“Culture and Civic Engagement: Reflections on Heritage Work in Techiman, Ghana.” Latin@ Museum and Cultural Center Project, UM Detroit Center. January 2010.

“Being Invited to One’s Own House: Reflections on Culture and Heritage in Techiman, Ghana.” Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan. November 2009.

“Culture and Civic Engagement: Reflections on Heritage Work in Techiman, Ghana.” Arts of Citizenship, University of Michigan. October 2009.

“Icons of Devotion / Icons of Trade: Contemporary Religious Art of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.” Colgate University, Hamilton, NY. September 2009.

“Thinking about Museums in Africa: Two Examples of Community-Centered Museums.” Wheaton College, Norton, MA. April 2008.

“Reflections on Culture and Community: Building a Cultural Center in Techiman, Ghana.” Arts of Citizenship, University of Michigan. April 2008.

“Qes Adamu Tesfaw: A Painter of Contemporary Ethiopia.” Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago, IL. September 2007.

“Contemporary Religious Art and the Orthodox Church.” Ethiopian Community of Chicago New Year’s Conference, Loyola University, Chicago, IL. September 2007.

“Reimagining the Museum — Exhibiting Africa and Africans.” University of Michigan Museum of Art. December 2006.

“History and the Discursive Object.” Workshop organized by the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan. December 2006.

“Qes Adamu Tesfaw — A Painter of Contemporary Ethiopia.” Birmingham Museum of Art. April 2006.

“Reading Exhibitions.” Opening Public Goods for Teaching Workshop, University of Michigan. January 2006.

“Painting ‘Culture’ in Contemporary Ethiopia: The Life and Work of Qes Adamu Tesfaw.” Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan. March 2005.

“Expressions of Ethiopian Culture: The Paintings of Qes Adamu Tesfaw.” UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History. March 2005.

“Contemporary Painting in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.” Brigham Young University. February 2005.

“The Archaeology and History of Ancient Aksum, Ethiopia.” Toledo Museum (American Archaeological Institute). February 2005.

“Hearing/Reading Akan Visual Culture.” Symposium presentation, Learning from Objects: A Conversation about Visual Culture in Africa. University of Michigan Museum of Art. December 2004.

“Collecting Culture: Museums and Their Antecedents in Ghana (West Africa).” Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida. October 2003.

“‘Drinking the Word of God’: Spiritual Healing in a West African Community.” James S. Coleman African Studies Center, UCLA, Los Angeles. August 2002 and August 2003.

“Christianity, Tourism and Art in Highland Ethiopia.” Detroit Institute of Art. April 2002.

“Qes Adamu Tesfaw: A Priest Who Paints.” Hope College (Holland, MI). September 2001.

“Collecting Culture: An Aesthetic of Accumulation and Display in Precolonial Asante (West Africa).” University of Michigan. April 2001.

“The Visual Cultures and Creativity in Highland Ethiopia.” Detroit Institute of Art. March 2001.

“Visualizing the Word of God: Talismanic Traditions in Côte d’Ivoire and Ethiopia.” School of Art, University of Washington. February 2001.

“Painters and Scribes: Teaching and Sustaining Christianity in Ethiopia,” The Scriptorium, Grand Haven, MI. June 1999.

“Seeking a History for the Arts of Ethiopia,” Albion College, Albion, MI. October 1999.

“Church Art of Highland Ethiopia—The Challenge of Interpretation,” Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA. November 1997.

“Gold and Power: History, Politics, and Art in Asante,” *All That Glitters: A Symposium About Gold*. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. March 1997.

“Art and Artifact in Ethiopia: Interpreting the Creative Process on Its Own Terms.” African Studies Center, Boston University. October 1996.

“Seeking a History for Metalworking in the Northern Highlands of Ethiopia: A Strategy for Ethnoarchaeological Research at Aksum.” Department of Archaeology, Boston University. October 1996.

“African Art and the Colonial Experience.” Comparative Studies of Colonialism: The Colonial Experience and Its Aftermath in Africa, NEH Summer Institute, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. July 1996.

“Seeking a History for a Masquerade Performance.” Arts Showcase Weekend (Michigan State University, College of Arts and Letters), Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, MI. June 1996.

“Ethiopian Art and Society.” Dillard University, New Orleans, LA. September 1995.

“Aesthetic Expression in Ethiopia.” Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. November 1994.

“Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity—A Preview.” African Studies Center Brown Bag Lecture Series, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. April 1994.

“An Introduction to the Casting Traditions of the Akan (Ghana).” Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. March 1994.

“Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity.” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. March 1994.

“Artists and the Creative Process in Ethiopia.” DePauw University, Greencastle, IN. February 1994.

“Mosques, Marabouts and Masquerades: Islam and Art in West Africa.” Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City. February 1994.

“African Art: What Is It and Who Is It For?” Dennis Museum, Traverse City, MI. February 1993.

“Ethiopian Art: Traditions of Creativity.” Los Angeles Ethnic Arts Council, Los Angeles, CA; and Friends of Ethnic Art, Santa Barbara, CA. February 1993.

“Gold of the Asante: The Power of Art in a West African Society.” Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. April 1992.

“More Than the Eye Beholds: The Multiple Meanings of 'African Art'.” Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, Utah. April 1992.

“What Do We Mean By African Art.” Glenbow Museum, Calgary. February 1992.

Participant, Global Issues Forum Panel Discussion, "Law and Culture: The Rights of Indigenous People to Their Cultural Heritage." Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. February 1992.

"Gold in African Society." Detroit Institute of Art. January 1992.

"Exhibit Design: The Challenge of Displaying African Art." Art Department, Ball State University, Muncie, IN. November 1991.

"African Art and Discipline Based Art Education." The Getty Center for Education in the Arts, Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hills, MI. July 1991.

"Metalworking among the Ancient Akan: Land of Gold." Nickle Arts Museum, University of Calgary. February 1991.

"Arabic Writing and the Occult." Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University. February 1991.

"Approaches to the Study of African Art: State of the Field." Faculty Seminar, Michigan State University. February 1991.

"African Art: An Overview." Oakland Schools Unit of Fine Arts Education, Waterford, MI. October 1990.

"African Art and Images of Africa in Europe and the US." Images of Africa: A Multi-Media, Art, and Literature Approach to Teaching about Africa in the U.S. Classroom, ROADS Program, Detroit, MI. October 1990.

"Searching for a Definition of African Art." African Studies Program, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI. August 1990.

"Why is African Art Important?" The Getty Center for Education in the Arts, Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hill, MI. August 1990.

"What Does An Art Historian Do?" The Getty Center for Education in the Arts, Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hill, MI. August 1990.

"An Introduction to the Mexican Mural Tradition of the Twentieth Century." CHARLA Series, Michigan State University. February 1990.

"More Than the Eye Beholds: The Multiple Meanings of African Art." Meadow Brook Art Gallery, Oakland University (Rochester, MI). February 1990.

"'African Art' What Is It and Who Is It For?" Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University. November 1989.

"Art and Ethnicity: The Masking Traditions of Bondoukou, Côte d'Ivoire." African Studies Program Spring Seminar, Northwestern University. May 1989.

"Islam and African Art." Faculty Seminar, Michigan State University. February 1989.

“Akan Goldweights: A Cultural and Historical Perspective.” Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art, Monterey, CA. May 1987.

“Orientalism and Primitivism in Modern Art.” The Getty Center for Education in the Arts, Los Angeles. July 1985.

“Style in African Art.” The Getty Center for Education in the Arts, Los Angeles. November 1983.

“Finding and Appreciating African Art.” Modest Treasures: Affordable Art for Everyone (Lecture Series), University of Washington, Seattle. August 1982.

“Traditional Brasscasting Among the Akan of Ghana.” Rhythms of Ritual (Symposium), Seattle Art Museum, Seattle. September 1982.

“The Role of Exotic Trade Goods in Akan Society: Some Tentative Conclusions.” Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana. November 1980.

“The Integration of Arabic-Inscribed Vessels Among the Akan: A Study in Cross-Cultural Assimilative Processes.” Department of Archaeology, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana. December 1979.

references furnished upon request