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Photo caption: Christiane Gruber visiting the Kayran village mosque in Kuyucak, Turkey, May 2022, as part of her current fieldwork for her next book entitled *Elements of the Middle East: Art, Ecology, and Faith*.

As we exit a second pandemic year filled with logistical difficulties and personal losses, I wish to extend my thanks to our department's faculty, students, and staff for having kept History of Art a thriving community. The good will, support, and hard work that many poured into Tappan Hall have been a real tonic.

Despite various challenges, History of Art achieved a number of notable successes this past year. Among our faculty, Paroma Chatterjee was promoted to Full Professor and Ana María León, who will soon depart for Harvard University, to Associate Professor with tenure. Matthew Biro recently published a book on the artist [Robert Heinecken](#) and other colleagues pursued research on prestigious fellowships, including Lihong Liu at Dumbarton Oaks. This past year we also welcomed two distinguished colleagues—Nancy

Micklewright, former Head of Public and Scholarly Engagement at the Smithsonian's Freer and Sackler Galleries, and Ferran Barrenblit, Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona—who also taught courses for the department. History of Art's faculty and postdoctoral fellows will grow in number next year; please stay tuned for more information in the Fall 2022 Newsletter, which will be spearheaded by Interim Chair [Helmut Puff](#). I thank Prof. Puff for his service and dedication to History of Art already now, as the transition begins over the course of the summer.

I also wish to extend my warm thanks to Drs. Shireen and Afzal Ahmad, who endowed a [Professorship for South Asian Arts](#) in our department this past year. Their extraordinary gift joined another successful endowment from Ilene Forsyth to establish a distinguished professorship in any field and geography until 1800 CE. Ilene Forsyth also provided funding to help us create the [Forsyth Visiting Graduate Student Fellowship](#), which allows the department to provide financial support to MA and PhD students anywhere in the world to spend a year studying, researching, and writing under our faculty's mentorship. Our first cohort of three students—from the Philippines, Colombia, and Korea—will join us this fall, further expanding our graduate program and creating intellectual and professional relationships at the global level. The three endowments raised this past year total (a transformational) \$9 million: they will enrich our faculty and graduate student bodies while also enabling us to proactively identify promising PhD students from diverse backgrounds and communities for decades to come.

Among this past year's many lectures, gatherings, and conversations, I wish to flag two signature events: Prof. Nicole Fleetwood, this past year's recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship, joined us as our MLK Day speaker, at which time she delivered a talk on "Abolitionist Aesthetics" that was spotlighted in [The Record](#). Moreover, in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Prof. Chatterjee organized and chaired a roundtable on "Heritage Preservation and Ethics During Upheavals." The latter discussion tackled war's devastating effects on the artistic patrimony of humankind—a topic that is pressing and critically important as well as central to the department's educational mission, both at home and out in the world.

With all my best wishes for a restorative summer,

***Christiane Gruber***

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### In this newsletter...

- Class of 2022
  - 2021 - 22 Graduate Student Selected Accomplishments
  - Decolonizing Fashion: Ottoman and Euro-American Dress, 1700-1920
  - Establishing New Orders in East and West – Cross-cultural Comparisons between Chinggis Khan and Charlemagne
  - "Robert Heinecken and the Art of Appropriation" - Matthew Biro
  - More Updates...
- 

### [Congratulations Class of 2022!](#)



We were thrilled to be able to celebrate the accomplishments of our talented cohort of students in History of Art and Museum Studies on Friday, April 29th 2022 on campus. Congratulations to our [Henry P. Tappan Award Winners](#) and congratulations to the entire class of 2022. Wherever you go, remember to Go Blue!

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### [2021 - 22 Graduate Student Selected Accomplishments](#)

Please join us in congratulating our graduate students on all their hard work and impressive scholarship from the past year, which includes five dissertation defenses as well as numerous fellowships and grants. They continue to represent the department well, and we look forward to what the next academic year will bring for them.

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### Decolonizing Fashion: Ottoman and Euro-American Dress, 1700-1920

- Nancy Micklewright

“Decolonizing Fashion: Ottoman and Euro-American Dress, 1700-1920”, a winter 2022 seminar at the University of Michigan, was an eight-week hybrid course that examined how fashion histories are written and what it means to deconstruct or decolonize those histories. It was an ambitious project, and the twelve intrepid students in the class gave it an excellent try. A number of the students had previous experience in various aspects of the fashion world, but no one had done fashion history before, so we began by examining actual garments and accessories, as a researcher would do when conducting primary research for a fashion history project. Each student chose a piece from the professor’s collection, loaned for this purpose, and had to assess the object based on criteria the class discussed in advance. What is important to know about a garment? Fabric, shape, construction, owner, provenance, date? And how much of this can be determined by a careful examination of the piece itself?



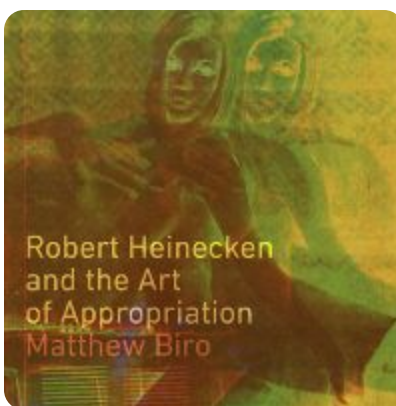
### Establishing New Orders in East and West – Cross-cultural Comparisons between Chinggis Khan and Charlemagne



- Susanne Reichert

"As I write this short communication for the spring newsletter I am sitting in a yurt in the Mongolian steppes and think about how I got here. I travelled from Ann Arbor to Germany to get on a plane to Ulaanbaatar, then into a car to drive into the countryside. I traversed not only several time zones but also climate regions, cultures, urban and pastoral divides. And yet, Mongolia is not the "exotic" other that one might assume from this description. Rather, I am interested to learn how we might overcome such dichotomies."

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Congratulations to Matthew Biro on the release of his new book "Robert Heinecken and the Art of Appropriation," published by University of Minnesota Press, 2022. [Click for more information](#) or check out [Matthew's Instagram](#) for further insight.

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### More Updates...

- Congratulations to Timothy McCall (PhD '05) on the publication of his new book "[Brilliant Bodies: Fashioning Courtly Men in Early Renaissance Italy](#)"
  - Professor Emerita Jennifer Robertson quoted in the Washington Post, "[Japan records its largest natural population decline as births fall](#)"
  - "[Field hockey or pop music? This University of Michigan senior chose a singing career](#)" - MLive, featuring History of Art student Cece Duran
  - [Save the date!](#) History of Art's Graduate Symposium 2022, "Intimacies: Friction, Restoration, Action" - October 8th, 2022. Stay tuned for more details.
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