

FOREWORD

The pleasure of critical thinking and scholars debate motivated graduate students in the Department of Art History & Visual Studies at UVic to create the graduate journal *Articulate* in 2012. The desire to push the boundaries of scholarship through engaged and incisive research on world art and visual culture continues to inspire the present issue. From in-depth articles that explore art and visual culture around the globe and across time, to critical reviews of exhibitions, the 2017 issue of *Articulate* promises to challenge, inform, and delight readers.

In addition to offering readers both lively conversations and cutting edge research, the present issue also celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Art History & Visual Studies. Fifty years ago, at a time when Art History was just starting to be taught on campuses in North America, Dr. Alan Gowans brought his pioneering vision of the discipline to the University of Victoria, creating the Department for “History in Art” in 1966. He famously asked, “What is it that art does in and for society?” By asking, ‘what does art do?’, Gowans set the stage for an expanded, world-minded Art History, with a focus on how art could be studied as evidence of social, cultural, and political events and movements.

At first, classes were small and were offered in classrooms in the Clearihue, Elliott, or Sedgewick Buildings, and later in the Cornett Building. Offices

were in the military ‘huts’ along with biochemistry, where the sports complex is now. The offices housed a slide library, faculty offices, and one seminar room. Since those early days, we have not been idle. Over the years we have added MA and Ph.D. program, acquired a new building, forged an alliance with the Cultural Resource Management Program, expanded our offering to include Film Studies, transformed the slides into digital images, and changed our name from “History in Art” to “Art History and Visual Studies.” Five decades later we are one of the largest stand-alone world art history departments in Canada, with the largest graduate program in the Faculty of Fine Arts.

Our graduate students have enriched our history in multiple ways. As teaching assistants, they instruct and mentor our graduate students. They organize the annual graduate student conference “Visual Impetus” and welcome incoming graduate students at the orientation. The Art History & Visual Studies Graduate Association (AHVSGA) plays a vital role in governance, advocacy, and social events, and their quarterly newsletter keeps faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends up to date on the life of the department. Within our vibrant graduate community, *Articulate* provides stellar intellectual leadership. I commend the journal editors for their careful stewardship of all the processes expected of a top-notch academic journal, from the call for papers, to the selection of articles for peer review, to the rigorous editing of the manuscripts. We are honoured to include the 2017 issue of *Articulate* as part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations.

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