

Letter from the Editor

The third edition of *ARTiculate* continues to present and showcase the diverse scholarly research of the graduate students and alumni at the Art History and Visual Studies Department, University of Victoria. As a peer-reviewed Journal, *ARTiculate* provides an avenue for students to disseminate their research findings and become acquainted with the process of academic publishing. Graduate students and alumni of the Department, at both the Masters and Doctorate levels, are successfully granted numerous fellowships and awards, within the University and nationally — this Journal is but one foray into making their rigour, dedication, and voices visible.

Throughout history, the visual has been used as a means of communication. As the role of images continues to proliferate and manifest in new technologies, a careful study of its materiality, cultural contexts, and modes of perception illuminate historical interactions, ritual practices, individual and communal identities. The contributions in this Journal comprises scholarly articles and exhibition reviews that speak to the varied functions of art and the visual. Brian Pollick's article examines a genre of manuscripts from late-medieval Venice in the context of mercantile culture and medieval travel. Using a socio-cultural lens, the author establishes the role of such objects as markers of identity, social communication, and personal protection. Christine Oldridge challenges the scholarly reading of an eighteenth-century self-portrait by the artist, Rosalba Carriera (1675–1757). Through a visual reading of the painting, Oldridge asserts the presence of a dominant, empowered imagery, rather than prior interpretations of melancholy. Astara Light interrogates the unseen worlds in the works of

contemporary Balinese artists. Her research also includes the ephemeral art of offerings to articulate Balinese cultural contexts. Two exhibition reviews negotiate and reframe contemporary viewpoints by examining the past: the first revisiting Indigenous photographs at the Seattle Art Museum; and the second exploring the intersection between fashion and nature at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The articles and reviews together illustrate the significant role of the visual, both in the past and the present, and the many ways in which knowledge is constructed and interpreted.

A few words of gratitude are due. I was encouraged to take on the role of editor-in-chief by Brian Pollick, a devoted, generous, graduate student, who has been instrumental in initiating and ensuring the ongoing legacy of *ARTiculate*. My sincerest gratitude to Dr. Catherine Harding, Faculty Advisor for the Journal, whose ongoing support, intellectual insight, and constructive feedback has served as a learning tool for all involved with the project. My deepest thanks also to all the contributors and anonymous peer reviewers for their time and patience. And most importantly, the editorial team: Lindsay Kaisla, Françoise Keating, and Terry Rodgers, for their tireless efforts and for helping this third edition of *ARTiculate* come to fruition.

Warmly,

Zahra Kazani

Editor-in-Chief