



Faculty Directory

The College

AS News

Romita
Ray
(Kapoor)
Associate
Professor of Art



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Art & Music Histories
308 G Bowne Hall
Phone: 315-443-5030

Research and Teaching Interests

Romita Ray teaches a variety of courses from the introductory Arts & Ideas lecture to specialized graduate seminars. In particular, she covers European art and architecture (18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries), South Asian art and architecture, post-colonial

theory, theories of Orientalism, and film studies. She is an editorial board member for the *Journal of South Asian Studies*. Prior to coming to Syracuse, Dr. Ray taught at Colby College and at the University of Georgia. Her research interests center on the art/architecture of the British empire in India, post-colonial theory, Orientalism in art, and material culture. She recently published a book about the picturesque in British India. She is currently working on a second book about the visual culture of tea drinking in British India and post-colonial India, while finishing a research project on the art collections of Elihu Yale (benefactor of Yale University). She welcomes Honors students and graduate students interested in working on (but certainly not restricted to):

- The Art and Architecture of the British and French Empires
- Landscape and Empire
- Animals and Empire
- Photography
- Orientalism in art
- Material culture and empire
- British India
- Diaspora and post-colonial aesthetics
- Travel theory
- South Asia
- Orientalism in American art/architecture

Romita Ray has curated numerous exhibitions at the Georgia Museum of Art at the University of Georgia. She was also the guest curator for the British India section of the exhibition, *Between Worlds: Voyagers to Britain 1700-1850*, organized by Dr. Jocelyn Hackforth-Jones in 2007. When she is not musing about tea and the Picturesque, Dr. Ray turns her attention to elephants. For those fans of pachyderms in art, an *Elephant of the Month* posting can be found outside her office door in Bowne Hall.

Education

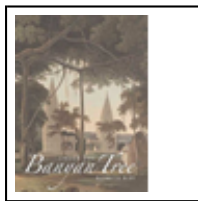
- Ph.D 1999 Yale University
- B.A. 1992 Smith College

Courses

- 19th-century European Art
- 18th-century European Art
- Art and Architecture of India
- Art and Music of the British Empire (with professor Amanda Winkler)
- Art and Empire
- Modern and Contemporary South Asian Art
- The Triumph of Modernism
- Animals and Empire
- Landscape and Empire
- Art of Romanticism
- Realism to Symbolism
- European Art between the Wars
- Photography and the Fine Arts

Publications

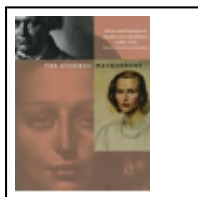
Books



Under the Banyan Tree: Relocating the Picturesque in British India. Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. London: Yale University

Press, 2013

<http://yalepress.yale.edu/book.asp?isbn=9780300187694>



The Eternal Masquerade: Prints and Paintings by Gerald Leslie Brockhurst (1890-1978) from the Jacob Burns Foundation. Athens: Georgia Museum

of Art, 2006

Articles and Book Chapters

2016. Forthcoming. "Ornamental Exotica: Transplanting the Aesthetics of Tea Consumption and the Birth of a British Exotic." In *The Botany of Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century*. Eds. Yota Batsaki and Sarah Cahalan. Washington DC: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection.

2014. "A Tale of Two Cities: Calcutta/Kolkata" in *The Home and the World, A View of Calcutta: Photographs by Laura McPhee*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 136-155.

2014. "Whose City, Whose Art?" *The City and South Asia*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard South Asia Institute, 2014. 64 – 67.

2014. "All that Glitters: Diamonds and Constructions of Nabobery in British Portraits (1600-1800)." In *The Uses of Excess in Visual and Material Culture, 1700-2010*. Ed. Julia Skelly. London: Ashgate. 19-40.

2014. "At Home with Durga: The Goddess in a Palace and Corporeal Identity in Rituparno Ghosh's *Utsab*." *Religions* 5:1 (March 2014). Special Issue: Body and Religion. 334-360.

2012. "Going Global, Staying Local: Elihu Yale the Art Collector." *Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin* (December 2012): 34-51.

2012. "Elihu Yale at Yale." *Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin* (December 2012): 52-65.

2012. "Misty Mediations: Spectral Imaginings and the Himalayan Picturesque." *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide* (NCAW), Autumn 2012. 11: <http://www.19thc-artworldwide.org/autumn12/ray-spectral-imaginings-and-the-himalayan-picturesque>

2012. "Baron of Bengal: Robert Clive and the Birth of An Imperial Image." *Transculturation in British Art, 1770-1930*. Ed. Julie Codell. London: Ashgate. 21-38.

2012. "Orientalizing the Bayadère/Fabricating Mata Hari." *Photographies* 5:1 (March 2012): 87-111.

2011. "Inscribing Asymmetry: Johann

Zoffany's Banyan and 'The Extension of Knowledge'." *South Asian Studies* 27:2 (2011): 185-198.

2008. "Britain and the World Beyond." Co-author: Angela Rosenthal. In *Revised History of British Art* (volume 2). General Editor: David Bindman. Tate Britain and Yale Center for British Art. 2008. 86-115.

2007. "Storm in a Teacup? Visualising Tea Consumption in the British Empire." In *Art and the British Empire*. Volume II. *Geographies*. Eds. Tim Barringer, Douglas Fordham, and Geoff Quilley. Manchester: Manchester University Press. 205-222.

2006. "The Beast in a Box: Playing with Empire in Early 19th-Century Britain." Ed. Ann Bermingham. *Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation*. Special Edition. XXII: 1 (March 2006): 7-31.

2005. "A Dream of Beauty: Inscribing the English Garden in Victorian India." In *Intrepid Women: Victorian Artists Travel*. Ed. Jordana Pomeroy. London: Ashgate. 51-66.

2005. "The Imperial Canvas: Art and Empire." *The Visible Empire*. Ed. Glyn Porritt. London: Adam Matthews Publications. Co-contributors: Jeffrey Auerbach, Antoinette Burton (accessible online by subscription only).

1998. "The *Memsahib's* Brush: Anglo-Indian Women and the Art of the Picturesque, 1830-1880." In *Orientalism Transposed: The Impact of the Colonies on British Culture*. Eds. Julie F. Codell and Dianne Sachko Macleod. Aldershot, England: Ashgate, 1998. 89-116.

Book Reviews

2011. Pauline Rohatgi and Graham Parlett assisted by Shirley Imray and Pheroza Godrej, *Indian Life and Landscape by Western Artists: Paintings and Drawings from the Victoria and Albert Museum 17th to the Early 20th Century* (London: Victoria and Albert Museum and Mumbai: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, 2008) in *British Art Journal*, 12.3 (Winter 2011): 106.

2008. Joan Coutu, *Persuasion and Propaganda: Monuments and the*

Eighteenth-Century British Empire (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006) in *Revue d'art canadienne*. XXXIII, 1-2 (2008): 151-153.

2002. Colleen Denney, *At the Temple of Art: The Grosvenor Gallery, 1877-1890* (London: Associated University Presses, 2000) in *The Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies*.11 (Fall 2002): 119-122.

Museum Publications

2007. Essays on Raja Rammohun Roy, Sake Dean Mahomed and Maharaja Dalip Singh in exhibition catalogue, Jocelyn Hackforth-Jones, ed. *Between Worlds: Voyagers to Britain 1700-1850*. National Portrait Gallery, London. 2007. 96-105; 78-87; 105-116.

2004. "Reflections 'on a Lithographile': A Thoroughly Modern Maltby Sykes." In Marilyn Laufer et. al. *The Spirit of the Modern: Drawings and Graphics by Maltby Sykes*. Exhibition catalogue. Georgia Museum of Art, 2004. 34-46.

1997. "*veluti in speculum*: Spectatorship in Hogarth's *The Beggar's Opera*." In "*Among the Whores and Thieves*": *William Hogarth and The Beggar's Opera*. Eds. David Bindman and Scott Wilcox. New Haven: Yale Center for British Art, 1997. 35-40.

Podcasts

On a group portrait featuring Elihu Yale, beneficiary of Yale University, *Slavery and Portraiture in Eighteenth-Century Britain*, Yale Center for British Art, Yale University, October – December

2014 <http://www.centerforbritishart.org/slavery-and-portraiture/332/commentary-by-romita-ray>

On "bling" and Maharajas, Atlanta Pecha Kucha, November

2007 <http://atlantapechakucha.blogspot.com/2007/11/romita-ray-bling-maharajas.html>

Awards, Honors, Grants

External

- NEH Summer Research Stipend. 2009 and 2014
- Yale Center for British Art. Yale University. Visiting Scholar grant. 2009-2010
- The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. London. 2009
- The Georgia Humanities Council. Public Program Grant for symposium organized in conjunction with exhibition, *Regal Bodies, Royal Splendor: Reflections on Velázquez and Philip IV of Spain*. 2004
- Yale Center for British Art. Yale University. Visiting Fellowship. 2004
- The Lewis Walpole Library Visiting Fellowship. Yale University. 2000-2001
- Margaret Storrs Grierson Scholars-in-Residence Award. Smith College. 2000-2001
- Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship. The Huntington Library. 1999
- Eleanor M. Garvey Fellowship in Printing and Graphic Arts. Harvard University. 1996-97

Syracuse University

- William P. Tolley New Faculty Summer Stipend. Syracuse University. March 2007
- College of Arts and Sciences. Travel grants to present a paper at the International Conference on Travel and Literature (New Delhi, India) and to participate in exhibition opening and conference for "Between Worlds: Voyagers to Britain 1700-1850" (London, UK). February-March 2007 and November 2006
- College of Arts and Sciences. Book research grant, December 2007

Yale University

- The Lewis Walpole Library. Graduate Student Summer Fellow (first recipient). 1998
- Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Writing Fellowship. 1997-98
- Paul Mellon Centre Fellowship for Doctoral Research. The Paul Mellon

Centre for Studies in British Art. London.
1996-97

- John F. Enders Fellowship. Yale University. Summer 1996
- Mary E. Ives Fellowship for Graduate Study. Yale University. 1992-96

Smith College

- Phyllis Williams Lehman Travel Prize in Art History. Smith College. May 1992

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