

Newsletter of the New
York Chapter of the
Art Libraries Society of
North America

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ARLIS/NA New York News

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Letter from the Chair

by Billy Chi Hing Kwan, Director of the Library and Archives,
New York School of Interior Design

I attended my first ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in 1996, which was also my first professional conference. It took place at the beautiful Doral Ocean Beach Resort in Miami Beach, Florida. As an early professional in the library field, I committed a few faux pas and experienced some surprises, e.g., I did not know how to budget for my first professional trip, nor was I aware of the appropriate dress code for social events after the conference schedule—I wore a suit jacket to an outdoor bar in Miami in late April! Moreover, I also did not expect that a group of art librarians would form a line, dancing together at a reception held in a Basque-Cuban restaurant! Apart from all those fond memories, I can still remember the camaraderie I received from my colleagues, who kindly introduced themselves to me and patiently instructed me how to navigate a professional event.

Throughout my career in the art library field, I have continued to receive support from and be welcomed by other fellow librarians and colleagues. It is a community that I treasure, value, and am thrilled to have returned to. Though I started as a Cataloger and Reference Librarian at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, I spent a decade of my career in library systems and technical services areas at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, UMass Boston, and Harvard Business School. My second position at the Metropolitan Museum of Art as the Systems Librarian in the Image Library marked my return to the field of art libraries, which was followed my role as Assistant Library Director at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and finally as the Director of Library and Archives at the New York School of Interior Design, where I am currently employed.

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(Letter from the Chair continued from page 1)

A lot has changed in the past three decades. I still remember the New York Chapter's cataloging discussion group meetings when we had to address the issues of cataloging websites. Now, NYU and its Consortium and Affiliated Libraries, including the New York School of Interior Design, have e-resource management integrated directly into their library management system, Alma. Similarly, during my early years at the Met, Celine Palatsky taught me how to catalog. Now, as Chair, I am able to pay tribute to her contributions to the field by serving on the New York Chapter's Celine Palatsky Award Committee and selecting the award recipient, who you will hear from later in this issue.

In the last few years, both the world and the library field have experienced some significant challenges, especially as we confronted the pandemic and ongoing civil rights movement. But, I am hopeful about our return to normalcy, especially as we begin gathering in person again and creating deeper understandings of each other's backgrounds and differences. From 2015–2017, I was a member of the ARLIS/NA's Survey of Personnel Characteristics Task Force led by Stacey Brinkman. The Task Force allowed me to look at diversity issues from various perspectives and angles. Since then, issues surrounding diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility have been among my top priorities. I hope that I can continue to pursue and facilitate this strategic goal for the New York Chapter. ☺

Member Publication Spotlight

by A.M. LaVey, Librarian for Ukrainian Visual Culture, The Ukrainian Museum

Citation: A. M. LaVey. "Archiving the digital semiosphere: A study in Belarus." *Slavic & East European Information Resources* 23, no. 4 (2022): 461–470. DOI: 10.1080/15228886.2022.2146624.

Abstract: This paper explores grassroots community activist art archives and their ability to disseminate and preserve digital protest art in the period surrounding the Belarusian 2020 presidential election. This paper focuses on the cultural aspects of these digital archives and argues that they have become a recent source for describing, defining, and communicating Belarusian culture in ways that have challenged the norms of political power and the centrality of the archives of state institutions.

Access: This journal is available via The New York Public Library's electronic access to Taylor & Francis Online at the following locations: Library for the Performing Arts, Schomburg Center, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, and Science, Industry & Business Library. ☺

Celine Palatsky Travel Award Recipient

by Alejandra Perez, Systems & Metadata Librarian, Brooklyn Museum

The New York Chapter of ARLIS/NA is thrilled to announce Alejandra Perez as this year's awardee of the Celine Palatsky Travel Award for attendance at ARLIS/NA's Annual Conference in Mexico City.

Perez is a recent graduate with an MS in Library and Information Science and an advanced certification in archives from Pratt Institute, as well as a BS in Art History and Museum Professions from SUNY FIT. She has previously worked as a Page for New York Public Library in the General Research Division and as a Library Assistant for Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University. She is now the Systems & Metadata Librarian for the Brooklyn Museum Libraries & Archives.



Perez is responsible for all original and copy cataloging for a variety of materials, including artists' books, zines, special collections, and monographs. She oversees the administrative functions of the libraries' integrated library system and catalog, Ex Libris Alma/Primo, which is shared with the NYARC partner institutions, including The Frick Collection and The Museum of Modern Art. Since the Libraries & Archives closure at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Perez has helped coordinate and implement policies and workflows for its reopening.

Perez has been a member of ARLIS/NA since 2021 and is thrilled to attend her first in-person conference. She is looking forward to touring the historic city of Teotihuacán and attending the session "If You See Something, Submit Something: A Beginners Guide to Contributing to Controlled Vocabularies," moderated by William Blueher and presented by Sherman Clarke, Sarah Osborne Bender, Andrea Puccio, and Alexandra Provo.

The Celine Palatsky Travel Award is given in memory of Celine Palatsky, who served as the Associate Museum Librarian of the Thomas J. Watson Library of the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1971 to 1999 and as the New York Chapter's Treasurer for fourteen consecutive years. Palatsky grew up in France; as a cataloger and reference librarian at the Met, she handled books in several languages, including Greek and Latin. She was a dedicated professional, serving this chapter from 1979 to 1993 and participating in local, regional, and national meetings. Palatsky was an avid and enthusiastic traveler, enjoying the arts, fine food, and adventure.

The amount and number of awards varies based on chapter resources and location of the annual conference. The ARLIS/NA New York Chapter Travel Award was initiated in 1993 and renamed the Celine Palatsky Travel Award in 2000. A special fund in support of the Celine Palatsky Travel Award has been established. We encourage members to donate to promote conference attendance and professional development of our community. Amy Handfield, Deborah Kempe, and Billy Kwan served on this year's Award Committee. ☺

Member Publication Spotlight

by Corina Reynolds, Executive Director, Center for Book Arts

Citation: Megan N. Liberty, ed. *Craft & Conceptual Art: Reshaping the Legacy of Artists' Books*. New York: Center for Book Arts, 2023.

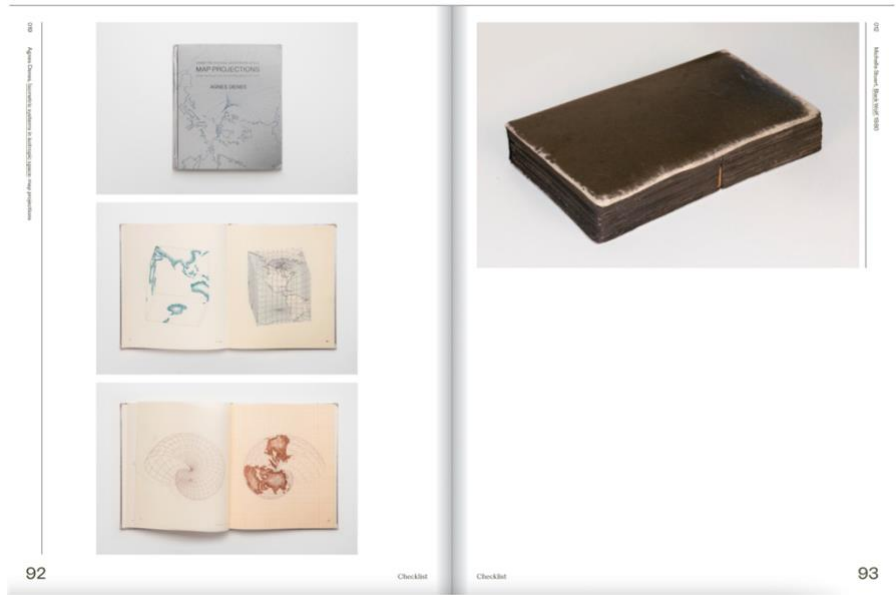
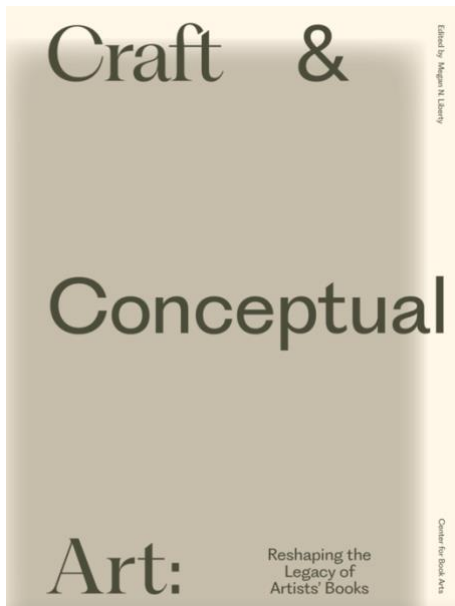
Abstract: The book [*Craft & Conceptual Art: Reshaping the Legacy of Artists' Books*](#), edited by Megan N. Liberty, reconsiders the early history of artists' books. This fully illustrated catalogue features an introduction by ARLIS/NA member Corina Reynolds and additional contributions by ARLIS/NA members David Senior, Sur Rodney (Sur), Kayleigh Perkov, and Tara Aisha Willis, and a selection of reprinted historical texts.

In the history of art, craft and conceptual art are often placed at odds. Craft emphasizes the materiality of the object, while conceptual art emphasizes the dematerialization of the object. But artists' books offer a unique merging of these premises in the book's status as a conceptual, tactile, and often ephemeral object. Successful artists' books blend the craft of its making—paper, binding, scale, and printing method—with a conceptual premise tied to its status as time-based media in which the idea of the book—sequence, repetition, and audience activation—is essential to its meaning. While early exhibitions and writing on artists' books maintained both these practices, including unique and small-edition handmade books that verge towards sculpture alongside mass-produced photobooks, paperbacks, and stapled zines, the history of artists' books has since shifted, primitizing only the democracy of the genre and ghettoizing expensive, unique, and sculptural bookworks.

Craft & Conceptual Art: Reshaping the Legacy of Artists' Books, revisits this early history, focusing on the intertwined legacies of book art centers across the US whose primary goal has been to teach the craft practices of book arts, and other institutions focused on distribution and collecting. Tracing the foundation and production of book art organization across the US—including, Center for Book Arts in 1974, Printed Matter and Franklin Furnace in 1976, Minnesota Center for Book Arts in 1983, and San Francisco Center for the Book in 1996—this exhibition will show craft and conceptual art not to be opposites, but rather two ends of a spectrum of book art practices.

The book focuses on book art production beginning in the mid 1960s that was exhibited from 1973-1996, drawing a—albeit zig-zag—line from the first cited US exhibition of artists' books at Moore College to the founding of San Francisco Center for the Book, charting an expanding definition, practice, and legacy of bookmaking across the US. It will include a range of artists, from Liliana Porter, Howardena Pindell, and Suzanne Lacy, to Barton Lidice Benes and Sas Colby. Leaning heavily on the archives and exhibition history of institutions devoted to craft and conceptual art, this exhibition will revisit who and what was considered an “artists' book.” In doing so, *Craft & Conceptual Art* will shed new light on both ends of the sliding scale between craft and conceptual art, allowing us to better understand the growing field of artists' book production. This publication was made possible with support from Furthermore: a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund.

Access: To purchase this book, please visit centerforbookarts.org. ↻



Cover and inside pages of *Craft & Conceptual Art: Reshaping the Legacy of Artists' Books*, published by Center for Book Arts in 2023.

Spring Happy Hour, Treadwell Park



On March 29th, members celebrated the first blooms of spring by gathering together at Treadwell Park!

Save the Date: Our next Happy Hour will be on April 19th at 6:15 PM at Licorería Limantour's Roma Norte location in Mexico City during the Annual Conference. We look forward to toasting to your accomplishments! For more information, please visit arlisny.org.

Meet the Executive Board

Billy Chi Hing Kwan, Chair

Director of the Library and Archives, New York School of Interior Design

Billy (he/him) has been a member of both ARLIS/NA and its New York Chapter since he started his professional library career at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1995. Since then, he has worked at academic and museum libraries, including University of Maryland Baltimore County, UMass Boston, Harvard Business School, and Philadelphia Museum of Art. Around 2015–17, he was a member of the ARLIS/NA's Survey of Personnel Characteristics Task Force led by Stacey Brinkman. Since then, issues surrounding diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility have been among his top priorities. He is also an amateur ceramist and avid traveler and skier.



Emily Walz, Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect

Librarian, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints & Photographs, The New York Public Library

Emily (she/her) has served both ARLIS/NA and the New York Chapter in a variety of roles throughout her career and serves on College Art Association's Committee on Research and Scholarship. In addition to working at NYPL full-time and serving on the Board, she is enrolled in the Art History MA program at Hunter College. In her slivers of free time, can often be found sewing or trying to find a bar that shows tennis more than once a year.



Giana Ricci, Past Chair

Librarian for the Fine Arts, New York University

Giana (she/her) has served on the ARLIS/NA New York Board since 2018 as Programming Coordinator, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Chair, and now Past Chair. In her current role as Past Chair, she primarily supports the Chair by providing insight and assistance with implementing chapter initiatives. Working with the New York Chapter has been one of the most rewarding experiences of her career thus far, and she is very excited for the upcoming changes to chapter policies and initiatives that will center inclusion, transparency, and equity.





Shea'la Finch, Secretary

Research/Instruction Librarian, School of Visual Arts

Shea'la (she/her) has been a librarian at the School of Visual Arts Library since 2019. In the autumn, she will be joining the faculty of the Humanities & Science Department with her course on video games and culture. Shea'la is an active studio artist currently working in the mediums of ceramics, printmaking, and photography.



Lauren Allshouse, Treasurer

Librarian, New York Studio School

Lauren (she/her) received her MS in Library and Information Science, with a concentration in Archives, from Pratt Institute in 2015 and has worked for both art and academic libraries. Her background is in fine arts, which has informed her work as a librarian. As Treasurer, she is involved with all aspects of the board's finances, including yearly budgets, scholarships and awards, membership dues, and reports. She also works with special projects on the Board.



Ralph Baylor, Membership Coordinator

Head of Reference & Reader Services, Teachers College, Columbia University

Ralph (he/him) has served as the Membership Coordinator for the New York Chapter of ARLIS/NA for over a year. Prior to joining Teachers College in October of 2022, he worked at the Frick Art Reference Library for over nine years. Ralph loves to visit the Southwest as often as possible, especially central and Northern New Mexico.



Matt Garklavs, Web Editor

Electronic Resources Librarian, Pratt Institute

Matt (he/him) has been involved with ARLIS since 2015 and started serving on the Board in 2020. He's happy to be in a position to give back to an organization that has done so much for him professionally over the years.

Rachel Garbade, News Editor

Assistant Archivist, The Museum of Modern Art

A Brooklyn resident and Hudson Valley enthusiast, Rachel (she/her) can usually be found walking around art museums, drinking matcha lattes, or hard at work processing archives at MoMA. In 2022, she completed an MA in Art History at NYU's Institute of Fine Arts and MS in Library and Information Science at Long Island University. Though she has been a student member of ARLIS for a few years, this is her first experience on the Board and she is so thrilled to be in the position of documenting our chapter's exciting activities and achievements!



Joey Vincennie, Social Media Coordinator

Reference Lead, Frick Art Reference Library, The Frick Collection

Joey (he/him) hails from sunny Florida and is happiest at the beach or a botanical garden. This is his second year on the Executive Board. He is grateful for the opportunity to continue working with other art librarians and information professionals in the area. His role involves keeping members updated on what's happening with our chapter through social media. He is also a member of the Membership and Programming Committees.



Mackenzie Williams, Mentoring and Student/ Early Professional Liaison

Art & Architecture Librarian, Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art

Mackenzie (she/her) received her Master of Science in Library and Information Science from Drexel University and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Printmaking from Virginia Commonwealth University.



ARLIS/NA 51st Annual Conference Preview

ARLIS/NA is hosting their 51st Annual Conference in Mexico City from April 18 to 21. Please see below for a list of sessions, workshops, and posters featuring the New York Chapter's members! We are also thrilled to announce that the New York Chapter is sponsoring the following session: [Using the Homosaurus as a Tool for Reparative Description and Community-Building with Queer Collections](#). Please visit arlisna.org to learn more.

Tuesday, April 18:

[Art Resources on the Web: An Introduction to Web Archive Data Analysis and Instruction](#)
Sumitra Duncan, The Frick Collection

Wednesday, April 19:

[Voces de la Ciudad de Mexico](#)

Heather Topcik, Bard Graduate Center

[AI Transformación: The Future of Art and Architecture Methodologies and Practices](#)

Samantha Deutch, The Frick Collection

[New Voices in the Profession](#)

Clarrie Scholtz, Columbia University

[Collections in Focus: Special Topics in GLAMs](#)

Farris Wahbeh and Ivy Blackman, Whitney Museum of American Art

[Collective Efforts: Transformative Research Portals & Catalogue Raisonné Projects](#)

Alexandra Provo, New York University; Samantha Rowe, Wildenstein Plattner Institute

[New Perspectives on Special Collections](#)

Jillian Suarez and Ruth Halvey, The Museum of Modern Art

Thursday, April 20:

[If You See Something, Submit Something: A Beginner's Guide to Contributing to Controlled Vocabularies](#)

William Blueher, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Alexandra Provo, New York University

[Transformative Assessment: Keeping Collections Relevant](#)

Amy Ballmer and Matthew Garklavs, Pratt Institute

[The Collaborative ART Archive \(CARTA\): Next Steps in Art-chiving the Web](#)

Sumitra Duncan, The Frick Collection

[Listening Forward: New Approaches to Oral Histories and Podcasting](#)

Samantha Rowe, Wildenstein Plattner Institute

[Transformative Collections and Latin America](#)

Miguel Rosales, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Friday, April 21:

[Beyond Traditional Archives: New Methods and Perspectives](#)

Eve Perry, Independent Collection Information Specialist

[Management and Leadership Roundtable](#)

Cailin Kilgallen, School of Visual Arts

Posters:

[Using Collections as a Pathway to DEI at the Pratt Institute Libraries](#)

Missy Brown, Pratt Institute

[International Art English and Art Information Literacy](#)

Mackenzie Williams, Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art

[Impacts of Decolonization for Art Libraries](#)

Caitie Moore, School of Visual Arts

[Creating a Collaborative International Street Art Web Archive](#)

Miranda Siler, Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation

Note from the News Editor

by Rachel Garbade, Assistant Archivist, The Museum of Modern Art

Thank you so much for reading my first issue as News Editor! It has been a pleasure contributing to the revitalization of this newsletter, first begun in 2022 by Allison Grillo, our former News Editor.

I have been a member of the New York Chapter of ARLIS/NA since the early months of my graduate education in 2020. Now, early in my career as Assistant Archivist at The Museum of Modern Art, I am thrilled to be able to play a larger part in this chapter and ARLIS/NA, as well. I know that being a member of this organization will be a crucial and enjoyable way to grow my career in art libraries and archives. I look forward to creating this textual archive of the chapter's activities, while also encouraging our members to share their accomplishments, in the hopes that it will connect them to others in the field who are pursuing similar objectives.

We have a lot coming up in 2023! There will be happy hours, museum tours, the annual mini conference, opportunities for students to connect with our expert members, and, of course, a holiday party to top it all off. We're so thrilled that life is returning to a state of normalcy and connections will be made in-person once again!

Please remember that this newsletter is meant to reflect all the impressive accomplishments of *you*, our incredible chapter members. If you have an idea for a submission, large or small, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at rachel_garbade@moma.org. Thank you so much! ✨

The New York Chapter of the Art Libraries Society of North America, an organization that fosters excellence in art librarianship and the visual arts, meets several times a year either virtually or in-person for professional development opportunities, networking, or tours of the various relevant institutions in the New York City metropolitan area.

Chapter programs are great opportunities to meet fellow art library and visual art information colleagues from the area. Members typically include but are not limited to art librarians and visual resource curators, both active and retired, from academic, museum, public, and other special libraries, as well as specialized book dealers and graduate students in library and information science from the New York City area.

To learn more, become a member, or donate to the New York Chapter, please visit our website at arlisny.org, reach out to us at info@arlisny.org, or follow us on social media.



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