Fall Term 2017
ARTH 813/3.0
Topics in Visual and Material Culture II: Image, Object, Thing:
Theories of Visuality and Materiality

INSTRUCTOR: Associate Professor Allison Morehead
TIME: Wednesdays 8:30-11:20am
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will introduce graduate students to the theories of visuality and materiality that have functioned and continue to function as “dangerous supplements” to art history. We will explore how different concepts of images, objects, and things might be mobilized in a critical art historical practice. In doing so we will analyse the debates and historiography of visual and material culture studies, with particular attention paid to the role of critical gender analyses mobilized (or not) by the texts under consideration. Readings will include work by Leora Auslander, Mieke Bal, Bill Brown, Whitney Davis, James Elkins, Richard Grassby, Martin Heidegger, W.J.T. Mitchell, Marcia Pointon, Jules David Prown, and Michael Yonan. For their research projects, students will choose between a methodological paper, exploring the methods of visual and material culture studies in relation to their own areas of research interest, and a historiographical paper considering selected texts of visual and/or material culture studies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & FORMAT:
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available during the first class. Each class will be structured as a seminar discussion. Regular and attentive attendance is expected. Assignments will include seminar presentations, an annotated bibliography and proposal assignment, and a final research paper.