



The Graduate Visual Culture Association of Queen's University
Context and Meaning XX: Art and Crime

We are pleased to announce the 20th annual *Context & Meaning* Graduate Student Conference, hosted by the Department of Art History and Art Conservation at Queen's University from **Friday, January 22nd to Saturday, January 23rd, 2021**. We invite proposals for research papers, artworks, and/or participatory projects that address this year's theme, *Art and Crime*. This year's conference will engage broadly with issues of crime and criminality in visual and material culture, *Context & Meaning XX* considers the complex inter-relationship between art and crime. From forgeries to representations of criminality, to artists who were murderers, marauders, mobsters and misogynists, crime has long been a subject of art. *Art and Crime* will include projects that relate to issues of crime and criminality in visual and material culture.

Context & Meaning is an inclusive forum for multi-disciplinary discussions about visual and material culture. We encourage applications from current and recent graduate students working in Art History, Art Conservation, Architectural Studies, Studio Art, Digital Humanities, Cultural Studies, Museum Studies, Religious Studies, Gender Studies, and beyond. This conference is open to both historical and contemporary topics. We seek to assemble a diverse group of scholars in order to foster interdisciplinary discussions that consider art and crime as it intersects with race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, Indigeneity, and disability.

Presentations will be 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute discussion period. All presenters will have the option to present remotely. While we hope that the conference can be held in-person, we will be following public health guidelines and will not require any presenter to travel for the conference.

Potential themes and topics for consideration:

- Art and visual culture as cultural property. The destruction of cultural property as a crime against humanity
- Can art be considered separately from an artist? Does an artist's criminal behavior affect the interpretation of an artwork?
- War looting and restitution efforts
- Colonialism and the destruction of Indigenous cultural property
- Intentional destruction and seizure of works of art and monuments as International War Crimes and their prosecution

- Stolen works of art and museum heists
- Ethical art practices, including art activism
- Mishandling and damage to works of art through improper conservation
- Public and private collecting practices. Issues around provenance
- Visual representations of criminal behavior and criminalized individuals
- Illegal, subversive art practices, such as graffiti & street art
- Fakes and forgeries

If you are interested in participating in *Context and Meaning XX*, please submit a 300 word abstract for a 20-minute presentation along with a 2-3 sentence bio to contextandmeaning@queensu.ca. by Friday, October 16th, 2020. Please ensure that your name and the title of your paper are included.

Thank you to all who apply! Successful candidates will be contacted via email in December.

Context and Meaning Conference Committee

Maddi Andrews, Madeleine Dempster, Katherine Marshall, Briana Pellizzari-Lento, Ben Pulver, Julia Ranney, Laura Ryan, Violet Tang, Jordan Thompson, and Maggie Whitmore

Conference Co-Chairs

Natalie Hume, Madeline Legg
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Graduate Visual Culture Association

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