

Madeline Axlund
Visiting Assistant Professor of Art History

Creative Arts Collegium
Eckerd College
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Education

M.A., Art History, University of South Florida, 2022.

Qualifying Paper: "Partnership between Museums and Donors: Preserving or Defiling Cultural Heritage?"

B.A., Art History, University of South Florida, 2019.

Areas of Expertise

As the Professor of Art History at Eckerd College, Madeline creates and teaches art history special topics courses in medieval and Renaissance art, monastic art and culture, scientific conservation, Western and non-Western arms, armor and artillery, medieval illustration and tattoo design, as well as additional art history courses in Eckerd's course catalog.

Professional Teaching Experience

Visiting Professor of Art History, Eckerd College, Fall 2024 to present.

Instructor of online coursework/grading, Art History, University of South Florida, 2023-2025.

Adjunct Professor of Art History, Eckerd College, Spring 2024- Summer 2024.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Art History, University of South Florida, 2020- 2022.

Previous Special Topics Courses

Nuns, Convents, & Art, (AH 323A), Spring 2024

This course focuses on the nuanced relationship between religious women and art through an examination of art in convents in Europe and North America, from the high medieval period to present. Students study various monastic Orders of nuns from Western Europe to elucidate the varying autonomy and agency of nuns as artists, patrons, and curators of convent culture.

Monastic complexes and their depictions in select paintings and prints present in Victorian

literature such as the Whitby Abbey in Brahm Stoker's *Dracula*, as well as contemporary case studies of nuns such as Sister Wilhelmina of Lancaster are also examined.

Conservation in Art History (AH 231A), Summer A 2024

This course focuses on the nuanced, scientific skill of conservation efforts within art history, from grand scale to smaller examples of history paintings from the Renaissance to the late nineteenth century. Students examine the importance of this process, as well as its problematic aspects, in the preservation and reconstruction of dirty and damaged paintings.

Art of Ottoman Daggers (AH 231A), Summer B 2024

This course focuses on the art, production, and socio-cultural use of Ottoman weaponry in the late Ottoman Empire, and the ways in which it is improperly categorized within art historical discourse as simply "Islamic weaponry." Students examine how, in many cases, Western encyclopedic institutions that house Ottoman daggers within their collections obliterate the objects' historical and cultural contexts through this improper categorization.

Art of Renaissance Drawing (AH 331A), Spring 2025

This course examines the art production, classical techniques, and specialized materials used in the creation of Renaissance drawings from the workshops of pioneering Renaissance artists throughout Western and Northern Europe, from fourteenth through early seventeenth centuries.

Medieval Illustration and Tattoo Design (AH 331A), Summer A 2025

This course examines the art and production methods of medieval illustration created by artists of manuscripts throughout Western and Northern Europe (1150-1528 CE), and how these designs are later reproduced within the currently evolving culture of tattoo art.

Nuns, Convents, & Art, (AH 221A), Fall 2025

This course focuses on the nuanced relationship between religious women and art through an examination of art in convents in Europe and North America, from the high medieval period to present. Students study various monastic Orders of nuns from Western Europe to elucidate the varying autonomy and agency of nuns as artists, patrons, and curators of convent culture. Monastic complexes and their depictions in select paintings and prints present in Victorian literature such as the Whitby Abbey in Brahm Stoker's *Dracula*, as well as contemporary case studies of nuns such as Sister Wilhelmina of Lancaster are also examined.

Upcoming Special Topics Courses

Art of Ottoman Weaponry (AH 231A), Spring 2026

This course focuses on the art, production, and socio-cultural use of Ottoman weaponry in the late Ottoman Empire, and the ways in which it is improperly categorized within art historical discourse as simply “Islamic weaponry.” Students examine how, in many cases, Western encyclopedic institutions that house Ottoman daggers within their collections obliterate the objects’ historical and cultural contexts through this improper categorization.

An examination of case studies of Western arms, armor and artillery collections, such as Maximilian I (Holy Roman Emperor, 1508-1519), will be considered to compare and contrast Ottoman collections with Western ones in relation to their use and display.

Course added to 2025-2026 Eckerd College Art History Permanent Catalog

AH 325 Conservation in Art History, Spring 2026

This course examines the nuanced scientific skill of conservation efforts within the history of art, with special focus on architecture, illuminated manuscripts, paintings, sculptures, and digital artworks, spanning from the medieval period to the present.

Committee Member for Senior Student Thesis Exhibitions

Brianna Garfolo, 2025 Visual Arts Graduate
Edgar Baker, 2025 Visual Arts Graduate
Ellie Becker, 2025 Visual Arts Graduate
Jordan Moses, 2025 Visual Arts Graduate
Leah Peterson, 2025 Visual Arts Graduate
Lys Williams, 2025 Visual Arts Graduate
Grace Adler, 2026 Visual Arts Candidate
Jessie Lotze, 2026 Visual Arts Candidate
Kinga Michalska, 2026 Visual Arts Candidate
Lele Colon, 2026 Visual Arts Candidate
Leo Dutkewych, 2026 Visual Arts Candidate
Myles Roven, 2026 Visual Arts Candidate
Pearse Gorman, 2026 Visual Arts Candidate
Tida Bagby, 2026 Visual Arts Candidate

Art History Minor Student Achievements Under Prof. Axlund

Grey Curcio, 2024 Graduate
Edgar Baker, 2025 Graduate
Leah Peterson, 2025 Graduate
Jessie Lotze, 2026 Candidate

Isabella Helm, 2026 Candidate

Exhibitions

2025, *Visual and Interdisciplinary Arts Faculty Exhibition*, Main Gallery, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL.

Awards

Art History Writing Symposium Prize Winner, Department of Art & Art History, University of South Florida, Spring 2020.