

JAMES M. CORDOVA

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Colorado, Boulder

Department of Art & Art History

2015—

Associate Professor of Art History

Fall 2016-Spring 2021

Associate Chair of Art History

2008-2015

Assistant Professor of Art History

Pomona College

Department of Art & Art History

2006-2008

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Latin American Art

EDUCATION

Tulane University

2006 Ph.D. in Latin American Studies (focus on Pre-Columbian and Colonial Latin American Art)

2000 M.A. in Art History

Seton Hall University

1998 M.A. in Museum Studies

New Mexico State University

1996 B.A. in Art History

PUBLICATIONS

SINGLE AUTHOR VOLUME

2014 *The Art of Professing in Bourbon Mexico: Crowned-Nun Portraits and Reform in the Convent*. Austin: University of Texas Press

SINGLE AUTHOR JOURNAL ARTICLES (PEER REVIEWED)

2024 "Center and Periphery in the Early Modern Spanish Empire: An Art-Historical Perspective on Colonial Latin America." *Mediterranean Studies: A Journal of Scholarship on the Mediterranean Region and Its Influence* 32,1:105-119.

2017 "Images beyond the veil: Funeral portraits and sacred materialities in New Spain's nunneries." *Res: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 67/68 (2016/2017): 256-272.

2015 "Drinking the Fifth Cup: Notes on the Drunken Indian Image in Colonial Mexico,"

- 2011 *Word and Image: A Journal of Verbal and Visual Enquiry* 30, 4 (April): 1-20.
 “Clad in Flowers: Indigenous Arts and Knowledge in Colonial Mexican Convents,”
The Art Bulletin 93, 4 (December): 449-467.
- 2009 “Aztec Vestal Virgins and the Brides of Christ: The Mixed Heritage of New Spain’s
Monjas Coronadas.” *Colonial Latin American Review* 18, 2 (August):
 189-218.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2024 “San Hipólito and the Sacred Origins of Mexico City in an Eighteenth-Century Viceregal
 Painting,” in *Saints and Santos: Picturing the Holy in New Spain*, ed. Cristina Cruz
 González (Santa Fe: New Mexico Museum of Art), 22-29.
- 2022 “New Mexico’s Unmistakable *Santos*: Artistic Bricolage and the Formation of Style,” in
*Appropriation & Invention: Three Centuries of Art in Spanish America: Selections
 from the Denver Art Museum*, ed. Jorge F. Rivas Pérez (Denver and Munich:
 Denver Art Museum, Mayer Center for Ancient and Latin American Art, and
 Hirmer Publishers), 224-233.
- 2021 “The Flowers of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Marian Devotional Painting and Nahua
 Cosmology After the Conquest,” in *Flower Worlds: Religion, Aesthetics, and
 Ideology in Mesoamerica and the American Southwest*, eds. Michael Mathiowetz
 and Adam Turner (Tucson: University of Arizona Press), 283-303.
- 2018 “*San Hipólito y las armas mexicanas*: Sacralizing Epic History in a Viceregal Painting,” in
The Significance of Small Things: Essays in Honour of Diana Fane, eds. Luisa
 Elena Acalá and Ken Moser (Madrid and New York: Ediciones El Viso and the
 Americas Society), 40-47.
- 2012 Córdova, James M. and Claire Farago, “*Casta* Paintings and Self-Fashioning Artists in
 New Spain,” in *At the Crossroads: The Arts of Spanish America and Early Global
 Trade, 1492-1850*, eds. Donna Pierce and Ronald Otsuka (Denver: Denver Art
 Museum and Mayer Center), 128-154.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- 2011 Córdova, James M. and Claire Farago. *Grove Encyclopedia of American Art*. 1st ed., ed.
 Joan Marter, s.v. “*Santos*.” New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2007 *Iberia and the Americas*. 1st ed., ed. J. Michael Francis, s.v. “Creoles,” and “Art and
 Architecture—Colonial Latin America.” Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO.

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 “University of Colorado: Ground-Breaking PhD Program in Arts of the Americas.” *The
 Hispanic Outlook on Education* 34,9 (June/July): 12-13.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2022 *Visual Culture and Indigenous Agency in the Early Americas*, by Alessia Frassani, ed.

- (Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill Press, 2021) in CAA Reviews, July.
- 2017 *New England/New Spain: Portraiture in the Colonial Americas, 1492-1850*, by Donna Pierce, ed. (Denver: The Denver Art Museum, 2016) in *The New England Quarterly: A Historical Review of New England Life and Letters*, June.
- 2016 Morrill, Penny. *The Casa del Deán: New World Imagery in a Sixteenth-Century Mexican Mural Cycle* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2015) in CAA Reviews.
- 2005 Carrera, Magali. *Imagining Identity in New Spain Race, Lineage, and the Colonial Body in Casta Paintings and Portraiture* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003) in CAA Reviews.

CURATED MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 “Art Elements: Materials, Motive, and Meaning,” CU Art Museum (September 5 – Dec. 21), co-curated with Dr. Hope Saska and Dr. Gerardo Gutiérrez
- 2011 Co-curated with Lisa Tamaris Becker New Mexican *santos* exhibition for the University of Colorado, Boulder University Museum grand opening, CU Art Museum

CREATIVE WORK

ARTWORK FEATURED IN MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 “Nepantla,” October 4 – Jan 5, Museum of Art Fort Collins (group exhibition, regional venue, regional visibility, curated by Tony Ortega)
- 2019 “Trails, Rails, and Highways: How Trade Transformed the Art of Spanish New Mexico,” November 15, 2019 – January 31, 2020, Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, Santa Fe, NM (regional venue, national visibility, curated by Robin Farwell Gavin)
- 2018 “A Gathering of Voices: Folk Art from the Judith Espinar and Tom Dillenberg Collection,” December 16, 2018 – September 8, 2019, Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, NM (regional venue, national visibility, curated by Laura Addison and Judith Espinar)
- 2017 “Cuatro[4]: A Series of Artist Interactions,” May 6, 2017- November 19, 2017, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO (national venue, national visibility, organized by Heather Nielsen)
- 2015 “The Red that Colored the World,” May 17, 2015 – September 13, 2015, Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, NM (regional venues, national visibility, curated by Barbara Anderson and Carmella Padilla, work illustrated with object entry text in museum catalog)
- 2002 “Conexiones: Connections in Spanish Colonial Art” inaugural exhibition for the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, Santa Fe, NM (regional venue, regional visibility, curated by Donna Pierce and Carmella Padilla, work illustrated in museum exhibition catalog)

ARTWORK FEATURED IN OTHER EXHIBITIONS

- 2022- *The Art of Our Lands*, exhibit of contemporary New Mexican *santos* (group exhibit), Albuquerque International Sunport Airport (regional venue, national visibility, curated by Andrew Montoya)

ARTWORK FEATURED IN MUSEUM EXHIBITION CATALOGS

- 2024 *Nepantla*, Tony Ortega, ed. (published by Museum of Art Fort Collins), 5.
 2015 *A Red Like No Other: How Cochineal Colored the World, An Epic Story of Art, Culture, Science, and Trade*, Carmella Padilla and Barbara Anderson, eds. (New York: Skira/Rizzoli), 280.
 2002 *Conexiones: Connections in Spanish Colonial Art*, Carmella Padilla, ed. (Santa Fe: Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, 2002), 127.

SELECTED COMMISSIONS

- 2016 Designed and painted *retablos* (panel paintings) for altarpiece in historic church of Saint Anthony of Padua, Questa, New Mexico (collaborated with community leaders and parish renovators)
 Designed and produced triptych for Denver Art Museum exhibition, “Cuatro[4]: A Series of Artist Interactions,” May 6, 2017-November 19, 2017 (triptych acquired by Denver Art Museum)

GRANTS, AWARDS, & HONORS

NATIONAL

- Ailsa Mellon Bruce Visiting Senior Fellow, Center for Advanced Study of the Visual Arts (CASVA), The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; book project title: “Sacralizing Conquest: The Spanish-Aztec War in Religious Art and Exchange” (January 1 – February 28, 2023, \$7,000)
 Millard Meiss Author’s Book Award (subvention grant awarded by the College Art Association) for single author book, *The Art of Professing in Bourbon Mexico: Crowned-Nun Portraits and Reform in the Convent* (University of Texas Press), 2013
 Andrew W. Mellon Latin American and Caribbean Arts and Culture Publication initiative (subvention grant awarded by the University of Texas Press) for single author book, *The Art of Professing in Bourbon Mexico: Crowned-Nun Portraits and Reform in the Convent*, 2012

UNIVERSITY

- LEAP Individual Growth Grant, CU Boulder (travel expenses for archival and field research in Mexico, \$8,000), 2022
 Dean’s Fund for Excellence, CU Boulder (travel expenses for delivering paper at American Society for Ethnohistory Conference, Oaxaca City, Mexico), 2018
 Dean’s Fund for Excellence, CU Boulder (for book research in Mexico), 2017

Hazel Barnes flat residency, CU Boulder (10 days for conference & research), 2016

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

- 2024 "Guadalupe's Flowers: Picturing the Sacred in Colonial Mexican Painting," presented at the Museo de las Americas, Denver, CO (June 19)
- 2019 "San Hipólito, Colonial Mexico City, and the *Santero* Tradition in New Mexico" presented at the Roswell Museum and Art Center and Roswell Artists-in-Residence Program, Roswell, NM (May)
- "Crowned-Nun Portraits from Bourbon Mexico," presented at San Miguel Writers Conference and Literary Festival, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico (October)
- "Flowers of the Virgin of Guadalupe: Devotional Painting and Indigenous Cosmogony After the Conquest," TCU's College of Fine Arts, Fort Worth, TX (November 4)
- 2017 Presented on New Mexico *santero* tradition and indigenous contributions to art of colonial Latin America at the Aurora History Museum, Aurora, CO
- 2016 "Four Hundred Rabbits: A Critical Analysis of the Drunken Indian Image in New Spain," presented at the Denver Art Museum (May 15)
- 2014 "Monastic Reforms and Nuns' Portraits in Colonial Mexico," presented at the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art (MoSCA), Santa Fe, New Mexico (July 23)
- "The Language of Flowers and Colonial Mexico's Portraits of 'Crowned Nuns,'" presented at Colorado College, in conjunction with the college's exhibition of New Mexican Santos (Colorado Springs, January 27)
- "Creating a New World Icon: Bicultural Motifs and Identity Politics in New Spain's 'Crowned-Nun' Image (part 2)," presented at the Denver Art Museum (January 19)
- 2013 "Creating a New World Icon: Bicultural Motifs and Identity Politics in New Spain's 'Crowned-Nun' Image (part 1)," presented at the Denver Art Museum (January 20)
- 2009 "The Secular and the Sacred: Contrasting Views of New Spain in Eighteenth-Century Paintings" presented at the Denver Museum of Art (November)

CONFERENCES

SESSIONS CHAIRED/ORGANIZED

- 2024 Co-chair (with Dr. Lori Boornazian-Diel, TCU) for "Gendered Spaces and Embodiments in Ancient and Colonial Latin America" session at College Art Association Annual Conference (Chicago, IL, February 15)
- 2020 Chair and presenter for "Looking Back at the Conquest" at World and Image, Latin American Studies Association (LASA) annual conference (canceled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions), submitted paper: "San Hipólito in Tenochtitlan: Commemorating the Conquest in an Eighteenth-Century Mixed Genre Painting"
- 2016 Co-organizer (with Dr. Ananda Cohen-Aponte, Cornell University) for "Reframing the Renaissance for the 21st Century," panel, Renaissance Society of America annual conference (Boston, MA, April 2)
- 2015 Chair and presented paper for Latin American Art session at Midwest Art History Society Conference (Saint Paul, Minnesota, March 26), paper title: "Reform, Relics, and the

Funeral Portrait in Colonial Mexico's Convents

SELECTED CONFERENCES

- 2024 "Flower Arts in Early Colonial Mexico," presented at "Revisiting a Quarter Century of Latin American Art at Tulane: A Conference in Honor of Elizabeth Boone," Tulane University (New Orleans, April 5-6)
- 2023 "Art in bloom: The polysemy of flowers in colonial Mexican visual culture," at *The Power of Flowers* conference, University of Ghent (Ghent, Belgium; June 14-16)
- 2019 "The Flowers of Guadalupe: Sacred Epistemologies and Religious Painting in Colonial Mexico," presented at "Flowering World Seminar," Amerind Institute (Dragoon, AZ, September 15-20)
- "Flowers and Floral Imagery in New Spain's Visual Production and Religious Spaces," presented at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) annual conference for the panel "The Flower World: Religion, Aesthetics, and Ideology in Mesoamerica and the American Southwest" (Albuquerque, NM, April 12, panel won Amerind Institute/University of Arizona Press publication award)
- 2018 "*Olor de santidad*: Picturing Sacred Materialities in Viceregal Mexican Paintings," presented at American Society for Ethnohistory (ASE) annual conference for the panel "Sacred Stuff: Theorizing Indigenous Materiality in the Early Modern Americas" (Oaxaca City, Mexico, October 12)
- 2017 "Constructing Native Drunkenness in Colonial Mexican Texts and Images," presented at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) annual conference for the panel "Visual Cultures in Colonial Latin America (Lima, Peru, April 29)
- 2016 Keynote speaker for Annual conference of the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), "Gender and Materiality in Latin American History," paper delivered: "Images Beyond the Veil: Funeral Portraits and Materiality in New Spain's Nunneries" (University of London, UK, November 11)
- Discussant for panel "Female Piety and Visual Culture in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Hispanic World," College Art Association annual conference (Washington, D.C., February 5)
- 2014 "Portraiture and the Politics of Death in Colonial Mexican Convents," presented at the College Art Association's annual conference for the panel "Death in Spain and Ibero-America: Representing an Obsession," sponsored by the American Society for Hispanic Art Historical Studies (Chicago, February, 14)
- 2012 "Cultural Heterogeneity and Monastic Arts in New Spain," presented at the annual conference of the Renaissance Society of America (Washington, D.C., March, 22)
- "Sacred and Secular Interests in the 'Bride of Christ' Image from New Spain," presented at the annual conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (Park City, UT, April 15)
- 2010 "Casta Paintings and Self-Fashioning Artists in New Spain," co-presented with Claire Farago for *At the Crossroads: The Arts of Spanish America and Early Modern Global Trade, 1492-1850* (Mayer Center Symposium, Denver Art Museum; November)
- "Indigenous Elements in New Spain's Convent Art," presented at the American Society for Ethnohistory annual conference (Ottawa, Canada; October 15)

- “Indigenous Elements in New Spain’s Convent Art,” presented at the Society for Early Americanists conference, (Saint Augustine, FL; May, 16)
 Panelist for “Transforming Images: Intersections of the Local and the Global,” a symposium in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies annual conference (Boulder, CO; April 10)
- 2009 “Materiality and Order in Casta Paintings and Monjas Coronadas Portraits from New Spain,” presented at the 2009 Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; June 11)

INVITED SYMPOSIA

- 2024 “Sacralizing the Spanish-Aztec War in San Hipólito y las Armas Mexicanas,” presented at the New Mexico Museum of Art, for the exhibition *Saints and Santos: Picturing the Holy in New Spain* (Santa Fe, October 19)
 Roundtable panelist for *Nepantla* exhibition, Museum of Art Fort Collins (November 7)
- 2022 “Center and periphery in the canon of art history,” presented and discussed at *The Mediterranean Seminar’s* “The Spanish Empire and the Mediterranean: New Directions,” a Kayden Book Prize Symposium, University of Colorado-Boulder (April 21)
- 2014 “Marian Implications of the ‘Crowned-Nun’ Image,” presented at *Painting the Divine: Mary in the New World* symposium (New Mexico History Museum, Palace of the Governors (Santa Fe, September 28)
- 2013 “Configuring the Drunken Native Image in New Spain in Text and Image,” presented at the *Image on Text, Text on Image (1450-1789)* symposium (Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada, August, 22)

TEACHING

COURSES DEVELOPED AND TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

UNDERGRADUATE

ARTH 1300: World Art I

ARTH 1600: U.S. Art Across Cultures (co-designed with Dr. Robert Nauman and Dr. Annette de Stecher)

ARTH 3729: Foundations in Latin American Art

ARTH 4419: Arts of Colonial Mexico and Peru

ARTH 4459: Pre-Columbian Art of Mesoamerica

ARTH 4919: Capstone Seminar: Aztec Art

ARTH 4919: Capstone Seminar: Arts in Colonial Spanish America

GRADUATE

ARTH 6929: Theories for Art History

ARTH 6939: Power and Visuality After the Conquest

ARTH 6939: Visualizing Gender Before and After the Conquest

PH.D. THESES DIRECTED

2021- Kristin Enright
 2022-2024 Lauren Hooten

M.A. THESES DIRECTED

2022 Jasmine Gloria
 Nataña Aldana
 2019 Gladys Preciado
 Brianna Humbert (co-directed with Brianne Cohen)
 2018 Valeria Serrano
 2017 Jade Gutiérrez
 2016 Morgan Butts
 2015 Raquel Flecha Vega
 2014 Giustina Renzoni
 2013 Caleb Zúñiga
 2010 Aubrey Wilder

PH.D. THESES ADVISED

2018 Aubrey Hobart (Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Visual Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz)

M.A. THESES ADVISED

2019 Allyson Burbeck
 2014 Caitlin Roberts
 Amanda Saracho
 2013 Claire LaRose
 Nicole Dial Kay
 Rachel Hawthorne
 2012 Laura Cales
 Lindsay O'Connor

M.F.A. THESES COMMITTEE MEMBER

2017 Carissa Samaniego (MFA)
 2016 Roberta Restaino (MFA)

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESES DIRECTED

2015 Jade Gutiérrez

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESES ADVISED

2021 Courtney Cote
 2011 Claire Waugh

INDEPENDENT STUDIES SUPERVISED

2015 Jade Gutiérrez

UROP GRANTS SPONSORED

2015 Hanna Le (Summer)

SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY

- 2024 Consultant to Yale University Gallery, consulted Dr. Miranda Saylor, Assistant Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture on painting for possible acquisition (2/27)
Consultant to Museo de las Americas, consulted with Laura Beacom, Curator of Collections on Latin American and American Southwest objects (7/17)
- 2023 Contributing editor for volume 78 of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, Library of Congress and the University of Texas Press
Consultant to Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (reviewed collection of Southwestern *santos* and Pueblo pottery for upcoming exhibition)
- 2022 Book review for *caa.reviews*.
- 2021 Video recording narrator for upcoming exhibition on Latin American art, Denver Art Museum
Co-authored condition report for Mexican colonial sculpture in Cathedral Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe, NM, submitted to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe (co-author: Dr. Gerardo Gutiérrez, CU Boulder, Dept. of Anthropology)
- 2019 Delivered symposium paper "Sculpture at Home in Baroque Lima," by Rafael Ramos Sosa (Universidad de Sevilla) at the 2019 Mayer Symposium for Spanish Colonial Art at the Denver Art Museum (November 2)
- 2017 Presented on New Mexico *santero* tradition and indigenous contributions to art of colonial Latin America at the Aurora History Museum, Aurora, CO
- 2016 Delivered paper for Constanza Toquica (Director of the Museo Colonial, Bogotá, Colombia) at the 16th Annual Mayer Center Symposium (October)
Book review for *caa.reviews*.
- 2014 National Endowment for the Arts (NEH) evaluator of research grant proposals submitted by faculty of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Colleges and Universities (Washington, D.C., June 3)
Contributing scholar to the Denver Art Museum's new design and exhibit on "Continuing Traditions in Spanish Colonial Art," (Advised Education Department on interactive children's exhibit regarding colonial Mexican nuns' vestments)
Spearheaded acquisition of a painting by Ray Abeyta for the CU Art Museum, CU Art Museum Collections Committee (September 19)
- 2011 Contributing scholar for museum exhibition on New Mexican *santos*, jointly directed by the New Mexico History Museum, the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art (Santa Fe), the San Antonio Museum of Art, and the Museo Franz Mayer (Mexico City)

Peer reviewer for academic journals

The Art Bulletin

Colonial Latin American Review

Ethnohistory

Getty Research Journal

Hispanic Research Journal: Iberian and Latin American Studies

Journal of Spanish Studies

Latin American Indian Languages Journal

LALVC (Latin American and LatinX Visual Culture)

MAVCOR Journal (Center for the Study of the Material and Visual Cultures of Religion,
Yale University)

Peer-reviewer for academic presses

Routledge

Brill

University of Texas Press

Vanderbilt University Press

Published book endorsements

2022 Villaseñor Black, Charlene. *Transforming Saints: From Spain to New Spain* (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2022)

2020 Engel, Emily. *Pictured Politics: Visualizing Colonial History in South American Portrait Collections* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2020)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

College Art Association, Association for Latin American Art, American Society for Ethnohistory, Latin American Studies Association, Alianza de las Artes Americanas, Spanish Colonial Arts Society

LANGUAGES READ

Spanish (proficient), Nahuatl (basic written and spoken)