

JAMES M. CORDOVA

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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

EMPLOYMENT

University of Colorado, Boulder

Department of Art & Art History

Fall 2016— Associate Chair of Art History

2015— Associate Professor 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

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)

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," *Word and Image: A Journal of Verbal and Visual Enquiry* 30, 4 (April): 1-20.

2011 "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

- 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, forthcoming May 2021)
- 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*, ed. 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.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2017 *New England/New Spain: Portraiture in the Colonial Americas, 1492-1850*, by Donna Pierce, ed. *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.

CREATIVE WORK

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 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, curator: 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

- 2017 Folk Art, Santa Fe, NM (regional venue, national visibility, curator:)
 “Cuatro[4]: A Series of Artist Interactions,” May 6, 2017- November 19, 2017, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO (national venue, national visibility)
- 2016 “The Red that Colored the World,” May 17, 2015 – September 13, 2015, Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, NM (regional venue, national visibility, curators: Barbara Anderson and Carmella Padilla)

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)

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

GRANTS, AWARDS, & HONORS

NATIONAL

- 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

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

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

- 2020 “The Flowers of Guadalupe: Devotional Painting and Indigenous Cosmology in Post-

- conquest Mexico,” to have been presented at the Department of History, University of California, Berkeley (postponed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions)
- 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

- 2020 Chair and presenter for “Looking Back at the Conquest in 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 for panel “Reframing the Renaissance for the 21st Century,” 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

- 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

- 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

2013 the Governors (Santa Fe, September 28)
“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)

LANGUAGES READ

Spanish (advanced), Classical Nahuatl & contemporary Huazalinguillo dialect Nahuatl (reading facility)

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