

O.M. COMSTOCK

CURRICULUM VITAE

2025

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Art History Department
comst099@umn.edu

EDUCATION

2020-Present PhD, Art History, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (In Progress)

Dissertation Title: "Allen Fannin: Hand Spinning and Weaving, Nitty-Gritty Needs, and 'The Black Craftsman Situation'"

Committee: Jennifer Marshall, Emily Capper, Elliott Powell

Examination fields: American Art, Contemporary Art, American Studies

2021-22 Fulbright Research/Study. Humboldt Universität

2019 BA, Philosophy, minor in German, University of Idaho

Honors Thesis: "Sara Joyce: Catalogue Raisonné of Clay"

2017-18 National Student Exchange, University of New Mexico

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Toward a Critical New Deal Legacy: The Performance of Colcha Embroidery in New Mexico,"

Source: Notes in Art History. "Confronting the Legacy of the New Deal" special issue, 44, no. 1 (2025), eds. Erika Doss and Mary Okin.

"*Table Remains*: Sites of Discipline and Alternative Empathies, or an Invitation for Found Object Transformation," *US Latinx Art Forum*, X as Intersection: Writing on Latinx Art--Materiality of Memory (2025).

"Weaving Anni Albers through Édouard Glissant: The Opacity of Embodied and Material Knowledge," *Journal of Black Mountain College Studies*, Volume 15 (2024).

Edited Volumes

Editors O.M. Comstock, Michelle Miller Fisher, Sara Clugage, Namita Gupta Wiggers, Daisy Alejandre, and Yutong Shi. *Craft Education: Teaching, Learning, Knowing, and Making Craft in the United States and Territories*, (Book proposal accepted by Bloomsbury, expected publication 2027).

Exhibition Reviews

"*In Touch* at the Northern Clay Center," *The Journal of Modern Craft* (2026).

"Bobby Marines' 'Resurrection' at Northeast Sculpture Gallery Factory: February 2023," *Venue*, Volume 1, no. 2 (2024).

Exhibition Catalogues

Introductory essay and artist interviews for *Edible* at the Northern Clay Center (2024).

Encyclopedia Entries

“Fannin, Allen” and “Owens-Hart, Winnie.” In *Benezit Dictionary of Artists*. Oxford Art Online.

Publicly Engaged Scholarship

“More Beautiful, & More Terrible: Thinking with Baldwin,” Weisman Art Museum (2024).

“Crafting Queer Futures: A Conversation with *Embodied Material* Artists,” *MN Artists* (2023).

“Why Look at Animals?,” Weisman Art Museum (2023).

“Telling our Stories: A Conversation with Multimedia Artist Marina Castillo,” CLA Chicano and Latino Studies Dept (2023).

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (SELECTED)

- 2026 ACLS/Luce Fellowship in American Art**
- 2025 Predoctoral Fellowship in American Craft and Big 10 Academic Alliance Fellowship**
Smithsonian American Art Museum
- 2025 Predoctoral Fellowship (awarded and declined)**
Getty Research Institute
- 2025 Hella Mears Graduate Fellowship in European Studies**
Center for German and European Studies, University of Minnesota
- 2025 Research Travel Grant**
The Graduate School, University of Minnesota
- 2025 Saltus Grant**
Center for Premodern Studies, University of Minnesota
- 2025 Graduate Student Travel Award**
Department of Art History, University of Minnesota
- 2024 Graduate Research Partnership Fellowship for Summer Research**
Department of Art History, University of Minnesota
- 2023 Toward Equity in Publishing Program**
American Art Journal
- 2023 Graduate Student Research and Travel Award**
Department of Art History, University of Minnesota
- 2023 Graduate Student Internship Program**
College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
- 2021 Fulbright Open Research/Study Award**
Museum FLUXUS+, Humboldt Universität, and Freie Universität in Berlin, Germany
- 2021 Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship**
Department of Art History, University of Minnesota
- 2020 Graduate Recruitment Fellowship**
College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
- 2020 Beverly & Richard Fink First-Year Fellowship Award**
College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
- 2019 Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society**

PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

Panels Organized

- 2026** “Failed Experiments.” Association for the Study of Arts of the Present 17. Madison, Wisconsin, Oct 14-17. Co-chair: Joe Sussi.
- 2025** “Making Empire?: Material Culture Practices, Community, and US Empire in the Late Cold War.” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Puerto Rico, November 20-22. Co-chair: Margie Tang-Whitmore. Discussant: Shoniqua Roach.
- 2025** “Hands-On: Critical Connections Between Craft and Pedagogy.” College Art Association, New York, February 12-15. Co-chair: Julia Hamer-Light. Discussant: Michelle Millar Fisher.
- 2024** “Student-Led Art Museum Learning: Student Gallery Teaching Programs and Belonging through Participation.” Association of Academic Museums and Galleries Annual Conference, Online, June 24-26.

Papers Presented

- 2026** “‘Nitty-Gritty Needs’: The Critical Possibility of Failure in Fannin Spinners and Weavers and Commercial Production,” Association for the Study of Arts of the Present 17. Madison, Wisconsin, Oct 14-17.
- 2026** “1974 Haystack Afro-American Summer Sessions: Experiential Learning and Transcultural Exchange,” Association for Historians of American Art Biennial Conference. Portland, Maine, Sept 24-27.
- 2026** “The 1974 Haystack Afro-American Summer Sessions: ‘The Black Craftsman Situation,’ Experiential Learning, and Soft Power,” Smithsonian American Art Museum Fellow’s Lecture, May 12.
- 2025** “Craft Propaganda: The Haystack Mountain School of Crafts 1974 Afro-American Summer Session,” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Puerto Rico, Nov 20-22.
- 2025** “Allen Fannin: Hand Spinning and Weaving, Nitty-Gritty Needs, and ‘The Black Craftsman Situation.’” Craft History Workshop, Online, April 22.
- 2024** “Toward a Critical New Deal Legacy: Handicraft and Hispano/a Art in New Mexico.” College Art Association Conference, Chicago, Feb 14-17. Organizer: Erica Doss and Mary Okin.
- 2023** “Settling in Again: A Day-in-the-Life of Marguerite Wildenhain.” Society for US Intellectual History Conference, Denver, Nov 9-11. Organizer: Juliana Ariel DeVaan.
- 2023** “Weaving Anni Albers through Édouard Glissant: The Opacity of Embodied and Material Knowledge.” ReVIEWING Black Mountain College 14: International Conference, Asheville NC, October 13-15.
- 2023** “Revisioning the Past for the Present: Octavia Butler and Bisa Butler.” University of Pittsburgh Film and Media Studies Graduate Conference, Online, Sept 23-24.
- 2023** “Weaving Édouard Glissant’s Opacity: The Case for Craft Making as Material Knowledge Production.” Caribbean Philosophical Association Conference, Online, June 22-24.

Invited Lectures and Presentations

- 2026** Panel Discussion, “*Shadow Pieces*,” for Northern Clay Center, Jan 28.
- 2025** Guest Lecturer, “Curating *Edible*: Asian America and Food.” For AMST 3361: Asian Americans and Food. University of Minnesota Twin Cities, April 28.

- 2024** Guest Lecturer, “Artists Respond to Fascism and WWII: German Émigrés and Art Education.” For ARTH 2390: US Art and Visual Culture. University of Minnesota Duluth, October 22.
- 2024** Panel Discussion, “*Edible*,” for Northern Clay Center, March 1.
- 2021** Invited presenter, “Art and Queer Community,” Fulbright Prism Out in the World Conference, Online, Sept 30-Oct 2. Organizer: Mailé Nguyễn.

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2027** Co-curator with Mary Savig. *Sweater Weather*. February 9-May 9. Center for Design and Material Culture. University of Wisconsin Madison. Madison, WI.
- 2026** Co-curator. *Shadow Piece(s): Chance-Based Responses in Clay*. January 17-February 22. Northern Clay Center. Minneapolis, MN.
- 2024** Independent Curator. *Edible*. March 2-April 21. Northern Clay Center. Minneapolis, MN.
- 2021** Co-curator. *¡Presente!: 50 Years of Chicano & Latino Studies*. February 8-May 16. Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES), St. Paul, MN.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2025** **ARTH 3921: History of Film**
Teaching Assistant with TA-led discussion sections
- Fall 2024** **ARTH 3019: Art, Science and Technology in Europe, 1400-1800**
Reader/grader, writing intensive
- ARTH 3012: 19th and 20th Century Art: Identity and Representation**
Reader/grader, writing intensive
- Spring 2024** **ARTH 1002: Why Art Matters**
Teaching Assistant with TA-led discussion sections, writing intensive
- Fall 2023** **ARTH 1921: Introduction to Film Studies**
Teaching Assistant with TA-led discussion sections, writing intensive
- Spring 2023** **ARTH 3019: Buddhist Art and Architecture**
Reader/grader, writing intensive
- Fall 2022** **ARTH 1004: Introduction to Asian Art**
Teaching Assistant with TA-led discussion sections, synchronous online, writing intensive

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2024-2025** **Founder and Facilitator**
Visual Studies Graduate Writing Group, UMN
- 2022-2025** **Committee Member**
Art History Graduate Student Committee for Visiting Scholars, UMN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Spring 2025** **Tretter Trans Collection Oral History Project Cohort**
University of Minnesota Archives and Special Collections. Conducted five oral history audio interviews.
- Spring 2023** **Community Engaged Learning Project**

Chicano and Latino Studies Department, UMN. Collaborated with Serpentina Arts to write artist statement and bios in consultation with local Latinx artists.

Fall 2021 **Co-Facilitator**
Shelley Sacks *Frametalks*, Museum FLUXUS+, Berlin, Germany.

2018-2020 **Founder and Facilitator**
Community Sewing Circle, University of Idaho.

Spring 2018 **Community Engaged Learning Intern**
University of New Mexico Art Museum

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022-2024 **Public Engagement and Learning Associate**
Weisman Art Museum, UMN. Part time. Developed diverse curriculum focused on accessibility for undergraduate student gallery teaching program. Managed and trained student gallery teachers.

2023 **Exhibition Intern**
Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN.

2019-2020 **Notetaking and Captioning Assistant**
University of Idaho Center for Disability Access and Resources. Full time. Provided C-Print captioning services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. Managed student notetaking and captioning accommodations. Led disability trainings for instructors.

2019 **Digital Preservation Intern**
University of Idaho Archives and Special Collections

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019 **Research Assistant**
Casey Johnson, Department of Politics and Philosophy, University of Idaho.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

College Art Association (CAA)
American Studies Association (ASA)
Associations of Historians of American Art (AHAA)
Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA)
Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG)
Center for Race, Indigeneity, Disability, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, University of Minnesota

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language
German: Conversational speaking, intermediate reading and writing
French: Reading knowledge