

# Alex Zivkovic

Email: [az2527@columbia.edu](mailto:az2527@columbia.edu) / Phone: (949) 836-9405 / [aleksazivkovic.com](http://aleksazivkovic.com)

## Education

- May 2025 (expected) **Ph.D., Art History & Archaeology, Columbia University**  
 Dissertation (in-progress): “Ambient Empire: Ecologies, Colonies, and *Nature Vivante* in Modern Paris, 1860-1940”  
 Committee: Noam M. Elcott, Zeynep Çelik Alexander, Jonathan Crary
- Oct 2022 Graduate certificate, **Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender**  
 May 2021 Graduate certificate, **Center for Comparative Media**
- Feb 2021 **M.Phil., Art History & Archaeology, Columbia University**  
 Exam areas: Photography, film, and media (1839-1940), Painting and sculpture (1880-2000), History of nature: landscape, surveys, and collections (1700-1900)  
 Committee: Noam M. Elcott, Branden W. Joseph, Zeynep Çelik Alexander
- Oct 2019 **M.A., Art History & Archaeology, Columbia University**  
 Master’s thesis: “Environmental Assemblage: Staging Nature in Paris’s Public Aquariums, 1861-1900”
- Jun 2017 **B.A. with distinction, Stanford University**  
 Majors: Art History (honors) and Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity  
 Honor’s thesis: “Underwater Embraces: Queer Ecologies in Jean Painlevé’s Cinematic Science” (advisors: Richard Meyer and Margaret Cohen)

## Fellowships & Awards

### External Support

- 2024-25 Gerda Henkel Dissertation Fellowship (12 months)
- 2023 Farrar Memorial Award, Society for French Historical Studies (for outstanding in-progress dissertation)
- 2023 Early Career Paper Prize, Ecologies/Victorian Ecologies (for dissertation excerpt “Greenhouse Modernism: Vacuums, Atmospheres, and Racial Ecologies”)
- 2023 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow, The Huntington Library (Short-Term Fellowship, 1 month)
- 2023 Finalist, Carter Manny Research Award, Graham Foundation (architecture)
- 2022 Research Fellowship, DFK Paris, Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte Paris/ Centre allemand d’histoire de l’art Paris (3 months in Paris)
- 2022 Finalist, International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council

### Columbia University

- 2023-24 Teaching Scholar, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)
- 2022 Core Preceptor Award for Excellence in Teaching Art Humanities, Columbia Core
- 2022 Finalist, 3MT competition (Three-Minute Thesis), Columbia University
- 2021-22 Riggio Fellowship in Art History, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)

- 2021 Dr. Lee MacCormick Edwards Summer Fellowship (for 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>-century art)  
 2020-21 Frieda B. and Milton F. Rosenthal Art History Fellowship, GSAS

### Stanford University

- 2017 Phi Beta Kappa Society  
 2017 Albert Elsen Prize in Art History  
 2017 Award for Excellence in Honors Thesis Presentation for “Underwater Embraces”  
 2017 Hofer Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Writing, Albert M. Camarillo Senior Paper Prize, and Francisco Lopes Prize for “Queering the Flâneur” (Senior paper for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity)  
 2016-17 Hume Humanities Honors Fellowship, Stanford Humanities Center

## Publications

### Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- Forthcoming “Animation and Animacy in Salvador Dalí’s Multimedia Projects,” in *Surrealism and Animation: Transnational Connections, 1920-Present*, ed. Abigail Susik (London: Bloomsbury, 2025).
- 2023 “‘It’s not really a cat’: Art, Media, and Queer Wildness in *Cat People* (1942, 1982),” *New Review of Film and Television Studies* 21, no. 2 (Summer 2023)  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17400309.2023.2196221>
- 2022 “Joan Jonas’s Ecological Portraits: Echo and Narcissus,” *Afterimage: The Journal of Media Arts and Cultural Criticism* 49, no. 1 (March 2022): 63–87.  
<https://doi.org/10.1525/aft.2022.49.1.63>

### Exhibition Catalogues

- Forthcoming Two catalogue entries: “Portrait of Monsieur and Madame Manet (1860)” and “Young Boy Peeling Pear (1868)” in *Manet: A Modern Family*, ed. Diana Seave Greenwald (Princeton University Press/Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2024).
- 2023 Two catalogue essays: “Exploration of the Sources of the Orinoco River (1959)” and “Discovery (1956)” in *Remedios Varo: Science Fictions*, ed. Caitlin Haskell and Tere Arcq (New Haven: Yale University Press/Art Institute of Chicago, 2023), 72–76, 102–107.

### Other Essays and Public Scholarship

- 2023 “Expanded Vitrines: Museological Sculptures and Diasporic Identity,” *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art* 52 (May 2023)  
<https://doi.org/10.1215/10757163-10435008>
- 2023 “Leonor Fini’s Surrealist Object and Other Marvelous Precipitates of Desire,” *Modernism/modernity Print Plus*, Visualities Forum (March 2023)  
<https://modernismmodernity.org/forums/posts/zivkovic-leonor-fini-surrealist-object>
- 2022 “Claude Cahun” (biography), *MoMA*, <https://www.moma.org/artists/8195>

- 2018 Series of three essays on René Magritte: “Painting Under Crisis: Magritte and World War II,” “Panoramic Surrealism: *The Enchanted Domain*,” and ‘It’s Like Being in the Picture’: *The Dominion of Light*,” *SFMOMA*, <https://www.sfmoma.org/author/alex-zivkovic/>

### Exhibition Review

- 2023 Review of “Near East to Far West: Fictions of French and American Colonialism” at the Denver Art Museum (Mar 5–May 29, 2023), *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide*, <https://www.19thc-artworldwide.org/autumn23/zivkovic-reviews-fictions-of-french-and-american-colonialism>

### Book Reviews

- 2023 Review of Michael Nitsche, *Vital Media: Making, Design, and Expression for Humans and Other Materials* (MIT Press, 2022), *H-Sci-Med-Tech* (Science, Medicine and Technology), H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences, <https://networks.h-net.org/group/reviews/20012712/zivkovic-nitsche-vital-media-making-design-and-expression-humans-and-other>
- 2023 Review of Samantha Muka, *Oceans under Glass: Tank Craft and the Sciences of the Sea* (University of Chicago, 2023), *H-Environment*, H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences, <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=59149>

## Teaching Experience

### Instructor of Record, Columbia University

- Spring 2024 Art Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Art (Core Curriculum)
- Fall 2023 Ecology, Art, and Empire (Art History seminar, cross-listed with the Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender)
- Sum 2022 Art Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Art (Core Curriculum)
- Spr 2022 Art Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Art (Core Curriculum)
- Fall 2021 Art Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Art (Core Curriculum)

### Discussion Section Leader, Columbia University

- Spr 2021 Nineteenth-Century Art (Meredith Gamer)
- Fall 2020 In & Around Abstract Expressionism: Mid-Twentieth-Century Art (Alexander Alberro)
- Spr 2020 Twentieth-Century Art (Branden Joseph)
- Fall 2019 History of Photography (Alexander Alberro)

### Teaching Assistant, Telluride Association Summer Program, at Cornell University

- Sum 2016 Literatures of the Security State: Privacy, Surveillance and Modern Culture (Chris Holmes, Ithaca College and Corey McEleney, Fordham University)
- Sum 2015 Thinking About Cities: In Particular Jerusalem (Neil Hertz, John Hopkins University and Omar Yousef, Al-Quds University)

### Workshop Organizer, Humanities House, Stanford University

- Win 2016 Photography Criticism: Reading Gender, Culture, and the Psyche (1-unit reading group), created syllabus

## Conference Presentations and Workshops

### Panels Organized

2024 “Surrealism’s Queer Methods,” College Art Association Annual Conference, Chicago, February 14–17, 2024.

### Workshops

2022 Stanford-Leuphana Summer Academy for Media Studies on “Scale” (funded, 1 week in Berlin), “Ambient Environments: Aquariums and Visual Scale,” June 20–24, 2022.

2022 Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop, Dumbarton Oaks (funded, 3 weeks), May 15–June 3, 2022 (on-site, then virtual).

2020 Mellon-Marron Research Consortium (MRC) Study Sessions, *Reinstalling the Museum*, “Salvador Dalí’s *The Little Theater*,” Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, February 28, 2020 (on-site) and December 2–3, 2020 (virtual).

### Conference Papers and Talks

2024 “Greenhouse Modernism: Race, Culture, and Ecological Exhibitions,” College Art Association Annual Conference, Chicago, February 14–17, 2024.

2023 “Surrealism’s Uncanny Aquariums,” International Society for the Study of Surrealism Annual Conference, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Menil Collection, November 9–11, 2023.

2023 “Exploring the Orinoco: A Surrealist History,” roundtable presentation for “The Making of *Remedios Varo: Science Fictions*,” International Society for the Study of Surrealism Annual Conference, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Menil Collection, November 9–11, 2023.

2023 “Aquariums and Speculative Ecologies in French Science Fiction,” invited panelist for “Other Oceans/Oceans’ Others: Human-Animal Encounters in Surrealist Reflections of Underwater Realms,” Modernist Studies Association, Brooklyn, October 26–29, 2023.

2023 “Surrealist Exhibitions and the Display of Life,” Art History Graduate Colloquium, Columbia University, April 20, 2023.

2023 “Submerging Empire: Water Infrastructures and Cement Grottoes in French Aquariums,” DocTalks x MoMA, The Emilio Ambasz Institute for the Joint Study of the Built and the Natural Environment at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, April 4, 2023.

2022 “L’air circule’: Greenhouse Paintings and Artificial Atmospheres,” Art History Graduate Colloquium, Columbia University, February 21, 2022.

2021 “Two Lost Parrots: Taxidermic Art and Embodied Engagement,” Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars, *Animaterialities*, University of Delaware, (virtual due to COVID-19 pandemic), April 24, 2021 (delayed from 2020).

- 2019 “It’s not really a cat’: Feline Representations and Affective Wildness in *Cat People*,” Art in the Anthropocene, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, June 7–9, 2019.
- 2018 “Witches, Moths, and *Flaming Creatures*: Documenting Alterity through the Indexical Fragment,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, UCLA, March 29–April 1, 2018.
- 2017 “Penetrating the Dagulf Psalter: Ivory Covers, Tactile Engagement, and New Testament Exegesis,” Association of Art Historians Annual Conference, Loughborough University, UK, April 6–April 8, 2017.
- 2016 “A Silenced Sea: Audiovisual Taming of the Ocean in *The Silent World*,” European Association for Study of Literature, Culture, and Environment, *Wildness without Wilderness*, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, October 27–October 30, 2016.

## Museum Experience

### Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

- 2023 **Research Assistant** for forthcoming 19<sup>th</sup>-century painting show (curated by Diana Seave Greenwald)

### San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA)

- 2018 **Project Research Assistant** (part-time) for *René Magritte: The Fifth Season* (curated by Caitlin Haskell), researched all artworks and key themes, wrote over 30 extended object labels, determined provenance of all international loans
- 2017 **Stanford Arts Intern** in Painting+Sculpture, researched objects for *René Magritte* (2018) and *Alexander Calder: Scaling Up* (2017-19)

### Cantor Center for the Visual Arts, Stanford University

- 2015-16 **Cantor Scholar**, curator of *Intimate Frontiers: The Male Gaze in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna* (2016) featuring works by Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka, Heinrich Kühn, Carl Krennek, and Max Kurzweil

## Professional Service

- 2023-present **Managing Editor**, *Grey Room* (MIT Press journal)
- 2019-22 **Administrator** for the Center for Comparative Media, Columbia University
- 2018-22 **Rapporteur** (assistant role) for the University Seminar in Theory and History of Media, Columbia University

## **Languages**

<b>French</b>	Advanced coursework
<b>Spanish</b>	Intermediate coursework
<b>Serbian</b>	Conversational ability
<b>German</b>	Beginning coursework (reading)

## **Professional Affiliations**

College Art Association  
Society of Cinema and Media Studies  
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies  
International Society for the Study of Surrealism