

# Nathan K. Rees

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## Education

Ph. D Art History, University of Maryland, College Park, December, 2010.

## Professional Appointments

Associate Professor of Art History, University of West Georgia, Carrollton. Fall 2021-present (Assistant Professor Fall 2016-Spring 2021)

Assistant Professor of Art History, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. Fall 2014-Spring 2016

Visiting Lecturer of Art History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Fall 2013-Spring 2014

Volunteer Curator, Sacred Harp Museum, Carrollton, GA, Oct., 2012-Present

## Publications

### Academic Monograph

*Mormon Visual Culture and the American West*. London and New York: Routledge, 2021.

### Articles in Academic Journals

“This is the Place, Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria: Monuments to Settler Constructions of History, Race, and Religion,” *Safundi, the Journal of South African and American Studies* 22, 2021 (with Cynthia Prescott and Rebecca Weaver-Hightower).

“Enshrining Gender in Monuments to Settler Whiteness: South Africa’s Voortrekker Monument and the United States’ This Is the Place Monument,” *Humanities* 10, 2021 (with Cynthia Prescott and Rebecca Weaver-Hightower).

“The Sacred Harp ‘Minutes Book’: Centering Tradition for an Expanding Community in the Digital Age,” *American Periodicals* 30, no. 1, 2020.

“C. C. A. Christensen, *Joseph Preaching to the Indians*, 1878 - an Object Narrative,” *Conversations: An Online Journal for the Initiative for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion* [<http://mavcor.yale.edu/conversations/object-narratives>], Summer, 2014.

### Contributions to Edited Volumes

“Where ‘Deep Streams Flow, Endlessly Renewing’: Metaphysical Religion and ‘Cultural Evolution’ in the Art of Agnes Pelton,” *American Religious Liberalism*, ed. Sally M. Promey and Leigh Schmidt. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012.

“Artists’ Biographies,” with Stephanie McNairy, et. al., in *American Women Modernists: The Legacy of Robert Henri*, ed. Marian Wardle. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005.

### Reviews

Review of *Spencer W. Kimball’s Record Collection: Essays in Mormon Music*, by Michael Hicks, in *Notes: the Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association* 79, no. 1 (Sept. 2022): 84-87.

*Carrollton Collects*, exhibition catalog (with Laura Wolfe), Carrollton Center for the Arts, 2023.

“How a Survey Course Assignment Connected Students With Contemporary Artists,” *Smithsonian Magazine: Smithsonian Voices (Archives of American Art)*, March 17, 2022  
[<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/archives-american-art/2022/03/17/how-a-survey-course-assignment-connected-students-with-contemporary-artists/>].

Introduction, *Home* exhibition catalog, Vault Gallery Press, 2022.

“Race and Representation in Latter-day Saint Art,” *Public Square Magazine*, Sept. 22, 2021 (with Heather Belnap) [<https://publicsquaremag.org/dialogue/race-and-representation-in-latter-day-saint-art/>]

“From the Collection: An Earlier Sacred Harp,” *Sacred Harp Publishing Company Newsletter* 6, no. 1 (2017)

“Tubby Walton, ‘An Indispensable Head Waiter’ at the 1935 United Convention.” *Sacred Harp Publishing Company Newsletter* 6, no. 1 (2017)

Preface, *Like Cords Around My Heart: a Sacred Harp Memoir*. Audiobook, written and performed by Buell Cobb. Produced by Matt Hinton, Nathan K. Rees and Jesse P. Karlsberg for the Sacred Harp Publishing Company in Association with Awake Productions, 2016. 6 compact discs.

“The United Sacred Harp Musical Association,” permanent online digital humanities project. Sacred Harp Museum, Carrollton, GA, in association with Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA [<http://originalsacredharp.com/museum/united/>], launched Sept. 12, 2015.

“Harmony Primitive Baptist Church Singing, November 19, 1995: ‘The Traditional Window Opening,’” *Sacred Harp Publishing Company Newsletter* 4, no. 2 (2015)

“The First National Sacred Harp Singing Convention,” permanent online digital humanities project. Sacred Harp Museum, Carrollton, Georgia [[www.originalsacredharp.org/museum/national-convention/](http://www.originalsacredharp.org/museum/national-convention/)], launched Jun. 12, 2014.

- “Reconsidering the Secular in Art” (Session Chair), College Art Association, Chicago, Feb. 17, 2024.
- “Race, Religion and the Politics of Memory at This is The Place Heritage Park,” Western History Association, Los Angeles, Oct. 28, 2023.
- “When Anti-Racism and Decolonization Conflict: the Pioneers of 1847 Monument,” SECAC, Richmond, Virginia, Oct. 13, 2023.
- “Taming Radical Mormon Women: Reimagining the ‘Pioneer Mother,’” Nineteenth Century Studies Association, Sacramento, California, April 1, 2023.
- “Representing Race in the Mormon Panorama,” SECAC, Baltimore, Maryland, Oct. 28, 2022.
- “Decolonizing the ‘Mormon Pioneer’: Cyrus Dallin’s Brigham Young Monument,” Mormon History Association, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, June 4, 2022.
- “Advancing ‘Celestial Marriage,: Promoting Polygamy in Nineteenth-Century Mormon Visual Culture,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association, Rochester, New York, March 19, 2022.
- “C. C. A. Christensen: Colonizing the Utah Landscape,” Mormon History Association, Park City, Utah, June 10, 2021.
- “You Can(t) Do That!”: Appropriation, Censorship, Copyright, and Ethics in Art,” Foundations in Art: Theory and Education Conference, with Stephanie Smith, April 15, 2021 (held virtually).
- “This is the Place (Salt Lake City, Utah) and the Voortrekker Monument (Pretoria, South Africa): Monuments to Settler Constructions of History, Race, and Religion,” British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference, Feb. 19, 2021 (held virtually).
- “Painting a ‘Properly Civilized’ Campsite: Race and Recreation in the Nineteenth-Century West,” SECAC Conference, Nov. 30-Dec. 11, 2020 (held virtually).
- “Redeeming the ‘Lamanites’: Framing Colonization for Mormon Youth in *The Juvenile Instructor*,” American Contact Conference, Princeton University (held virtually), April 24, 2020.
- “Queering Mormon Art: John Hafen and the Divine Feminine,” SECAC, Chattanooga, TN, Oct. 18, 2019.
- “Racializing Resources: the Colonialist Ecology of the Utah State Capitol Murals,” Un-Fair Trades Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, October 10, 2019.
- “Working with Wikis: Designing a Collaborative Virtual Exhibition Assignment,” Foundations in Art: Theory and Education Conference, Columbus, OH, April 4, 2019.
- “Picturing Sacred Harp Singing: Exploring Traditional Music through Visual Culture,” Intersectionalities/ Interconnections/Liminalities: Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities, University of West Georgia, Oct. 27, 2018.
- “Queering Art Appreciation,” SECAC, Birmingham, AL, Oct. 19, 2018.
- “Unity, Harmony, Hegemony: The Colonial Vision of the Utah Capitol Murals,” Southwest Art History Conference, Taos, NM, Oct. 12, 2018.
- “Viewing Race in the Nineteenth-Century Utah Landscape,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association, Philadelphia, PA, Mar. 17, 2018.
- “Race, Religion, and Water in the Nineteenth-Century Utah Landscape,” SECAC, Columbus, OH, Oct. 27, 2017.

## Academic Presentations, cont.

- “In Sweetest Union Join’: Recovering, Identifying, and Sharing Historical Sacred Harp Recordings in Private Collections, Association for Recorded Sound Collections Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, May 12, 2017.
- “Picturing the Prophet: Memory, Vision, and the ‘True Image’ of Joseph Smith,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association, Charleston, SC, Feb. 3, 2017.
- “Converting Images: Re-purposed Illustrations in the *Juvenile Instructor*,” Western History Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Oct. 22, 2016.
- “Greenbergian Petroglyphs: Raymond Jonson’s Search for Ancient Modernism,” Southwest Art History Conference, Taos, NM, Oct. 13, 2016.
- “Queering Michelangelo in Harlem: Richmond Barthé and the Captive Body,” Midwest Art History Society Annual Conference, Chicago, Apr. 8, 2016.
- “Painting the ‘Wilderness Made Fruitful’: Race and Religion in the Nineteenth-Century Utah Landscape,” Branding the American West Symposium, BYU Museum of Art, Provo, UT, Mar. 5, 2016.
- “Marshalling ‘Modern Israel’: Spectacular History in C. C. A. Christensen’s *Mormon Panorama*,” College Art Association, Washington, DC, Feb. 6, 2016.
- “Presiding in Love and Righteousness’: Joseph Smith and Ideal Fatherhood in Contemporary LDS Visual Culture,” Mormon History Association, Provo, UT, Jun. 6, 2015.
- “When the Folk Resist: Temporality and Ideology in Sacred Harp Record Covers,” Popular Culture Association, New Orleans, LA, Apr. 2, 2015.
- “Materializing Latter-day Saint History: Spectacle, Vision, and Experience in C. C. A. Christensen’s *Mormon Panorama*,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association, Boston, Mar. 27, 2015.
- “Envisioning Community/Communicating Vision: Reimagining African American Sacred Harp through the Record Cover,” Southern American Studies Association, Atlanta, Feb. 20, 2015.
- “Curating a Crowd-Sourced Collection: the Sacred Harp Museum,” Association for Recorded Sound Collections Annual Conference, Chapel Hill, NC, May 17, 2014.
- “The Visual Culture of Sacred Harp Singing,” plenary session. Music Library Association, Atlanta, GA, Feb. 26, 2014.
- “Losing the Lamanites: C. C. A. Christensen’s *Joseph Preaching to the Indians*,” Southwest Art History Conference, Taos, NM, Oct. 17, 2013.
- “Redeeming the Lost Israelites: C. C. A. Christensen’s *Huntington Panorama*,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference, Asheville, NC, Mar. 22-24, 2012.
- “Music to the Eye: The Visual Culture of Sacred Harp Singing,” Southern Studies: The Auburn Montgomery Liberal Arts Conference, Montgomery, AL, Feb. 10, 2012.
- “William Matthew Prior’s *Ms. Fairfield* and ‘Realism’ in Nineteenth Century Memorial Portraiture,” New England Self-Fashioning: Portraits and Presentations Symposium, Wellesley College, MA, Mar. 13, 2010.
- “Theosophical Primitivism: Race and Religion in the Art of Emil Bisttram” Cultures of American Religious Liberalism Conference, Yale University, Sept. 25-26, 2009.
- “Theosophical Primitivism,” Revisiting Religious Liberalism Conference, Princeton University, Apr. 10-11, 2008.

## Academic Presentations, cont.

“Mystical Primitivism: Marsden Hartley’s *Morgenrot*, 1932,” Middle Atlantic Symposium in the History of Art, National Gallery of Art, Mar. 28-29, 2008.

“Mystical Primitivism: Marsden Hartley’s *Morgenrot*, 1932,” Roger Rearick Forum, University of Maryland, Nov. 13, 2007.

“The Pieties of the *Rondanini Peità*,” Questioning Renaissance Pieties Conference, Princeton University, May 4, 2007.

“Brainstorming in the Collaboratory: How Rearranging the Furniture Helped Foster Innovation in Teaching,” co-presenter, Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference, University of Maryland, Feb. 23, 2007.

“Arthur Dove and the Heavenly Mystery: Theosophy and *Moon*, 1935,” Roger Rearick Forum, University of Maryland, Nov. 1, 2006.

“Ruth Reeves: Gender and Primitivism in Textile Design,” Redressing American Modernism Symposium, Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Mar. 3-4, 2005.

- “Discovering Mannerism,” University of West Georgia School of the Arts “Other Night School” public programming, UWG Newnan Center, Sept. 12, 2023.
- “CACSI Bus Day,” UWG College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry, Art representative, Oct. 14, 2022.
- “How to Look at a Painting,” Nixon Centre for the Arts, Newnan, Georgia, Sept. 15, 2022.
- “Sacred Harp Singing: An American Musical Tradition,” First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Georgia, Sept. 14, 2022.
- “Tales from the New Harp of Columbia,” Camp Doremi Shapenote Singing School, Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC Aug. 13, 2022.
- “Picturing Christ from Antiquity to the Present,” First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Georgia, May 11, 2022.
- “The Art of Frederic Remington,” Nixon Centre for the Arts, Newnan, Georgia, Feb. 22, 2022.
- “Truth or Illusion: the Quest for Reality in Art,” University of West Georgia School of the Arts “Other Night School” public programming, Carrollton Center for the Arts, Oct. 12, 2021.
- “Fact and Fantasy in Western Art,” University of West Georgia School of the Arts “Other Night School” public programming, The Paint Space, Serenbe, GA, Jan. 28, 2020.
- “COAH Bus Day,” UWG College of Arts and Humanities, Art Department representative, Feb. 28, 2020.
- “Precious Words: Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts,” Michael and Andrea Stone Art Talk Series, First Baptist Church of Carrollton, GA, Nov. 17, 2020.
- “Exploring the New Harp of Columbia,” Camp Doremi Shapenote Singing School, Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC Aug. 17, 2019.
- “Rudiments of Sacred Harp Singing,” Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association Camp Fasola Adult Session, Nauvoo, AL, Jul. 10-12, 2019.
- “Icon or Idol: Art and the Second Commandment,” University of West Georgia School of the Arts “Other Night School” public programming, UWG Newnan Center, April 9, 2019.
- “Art and Identity,” UWG Pathways to the Humanities class, Amy Cuomo, instructor, guest lecture, Feb. 14, 2019.
- “COAH Bus Day,” UWG College of Arts and Humanities, Art Department representative, Jan. 18, 2019.
- “Forum on Truth,” UWG College of Arts and Humanities, panel participant, April 18, 2018.
- “Bringing Art into Nature: Painting in Plein Air,” University of West Georgia School of the Arts “Other Night School” public programming, UWG Newnan Center, Oct. 2, 2018.
- “Art and the Second Commandment,” Michael and Andrea Stone Art Talk Series, First Baptist Church of Carrollton, GA, Aug. 26, 2018.
- “Documenting Sacred Harp Singing through Audio and Photograph,” Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association Camp Fasola, Adult Session, Nauvoo, AL, Jun. 13, 2018.
- “Icon or Idol: Art and the Second Commandment,” University of West Georgia School of the Arts “Other Night School” public programming, Red Rock Room, Carrollton, GA, Mar. 27, 2018.
- “Art and the Problem of Primitivism,” University of West Georgia Honors College Fireside Chat, Mar. 14, 2018.

## Lectures and Public Talks, cont.

- “Painting the Southern Landscape,” University of West Georgia School of the Arts “Other Night School” public programming, UWG Newnan Center, Nov. 24, 2017.
- “Accent in Sacred Harp,” New England Sacred Harp Convention, Burlington, VT, Sept. 29, 2017.
- “Impressionism: Behind the Scenes,” University of West Georgia School of the Arts “Other Night School” public programming, UWG Newnan Center, Sept. 19, 2017.
- “Leading Workshop,” Camp Doremi Shapenote Singing School, Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC, Aug. 18, 2017.
- “Rudiments of Sacred Harp Singing,” Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association Camp Fasola Youth Session, Anniston, AL, Jul. 3-6, 2017; Camp Fasola Adult Session, Nauvoo, AL, Jun. 12-14, 2017.
- “Art and Propaganda: The Curious History of Politics and Painting,” University of West Georgia School of the Arts “Other Night School” public programming, Hills and Hamlets Bookshop, Serenbe, GA, Apr. 26, 2017.
- “Art and Propaganda: The Curious History of Politics and Painting,” University of West Georgia School of the Arts “Other Night School” public programming, UWG Newnan Center, Apr. 18, 2017.
- “Sacred Harp Singing in Georgia,” guest lecture, History of Appalachia and Religion in US History course (taught by Dr. Barry Whittemore), Mar. 7, 2017.
- “Carrie Mae Weems and the Problem of History,” Introduction and Question and Answer Session for film screening at University of West Georgia Department of Art “Art Infuse” event, Feb. 9, 2017.
- “The *Sacred Harp* in Georgia,” guest lecture, University of West Georgia Public History Graduate Seminar (taught by Dr. Ann McCleary), Nov. 8, 2016.
- “A *Sacred Harp* Geography,” public presentation, Church of Our Savior, Atlanta GA, Sept. 18, 2016.
- “Rudiments of Sacred Harp Singing,” Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association Camp Fasola Youth Session, Anniston, AL, Jul. 4-7, 2016; Camp Fasola Adult Session, Nauvoo, AL, Jun. 13-15, 2016.
- “The Art of Allison Leigh Holt,” public presentation, Grand Forks Public Library, Mar. 20, 2016.
- “An Introduction to Sacred Harp Singing,” public presentation, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, Mar. 12, 2016.
- “Visual Culture in the Cemetery,” guest lecture, UND Integrated Studies Program, Sept. 23, 2015.
- “Rudiments of Sacred Harp Singing,” Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association Camp Fasola Youth Session, Anniston, AL, Jul. 6-10, 2015; Camp Fasola Adult Session, Nauvoo, AL, Jun. 14-18, 2015.
- “The Art of Propaganda,” guest lecture, UND Department of Art & Design, Art 110, Apr. 21, 2015.
- “Sacred Harp Singing School,” Chicago Area Sacred Harp Anniversary Singing and Singing School, Jan. 10, 2015.
- “Sacred Harp in History and Practice,” Pacific Northwest Sacred Harp Convention, Portland, OR, Oct. 18, 2014.
- “Self-fashioning in Sacred Harp Record Album Covers,” Faculty Show and Tell, Department of Art & Design, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, Sept. 15, 2014.
- “Rudiments of Sacred Harp Singing,” Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association Camp Fasola Youth Session, Anniston, AL, Jun. 30-Jul. 4, 2014; Camp Fasola Adult Session, Nauvoo, AL, Jun. 8-12, 2014.

## Lectures and Public Talks, cont.

“*The New Harp of Columbia* of East Tennessee,” Camp Doremi Shapenote Singing School, Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC, Aug. 10, 2017.

“Primitivism, Religion, and Native American Art,” guest lecture University of Tennessee Graduate Painting Seminar (taught by Jared Sprecher), Mar. 19, 2013.

“*The Sacred Harp* and the *Southern Harmony*,” South Carolina State Singing Convention in Honor of William Walker, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC, Mar. 16, 2013.

“The Rudiments and History of Georgia’s Sacred Harp,” Georgia Teachers Professional Learning Units Program, Clayton State University, Morrow, GA, Jul. 15, 2011.



## Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

Leadership Fellow, College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry, Fall 2022-Spring 2023.

Georgia Humanities/American Rescue Plan Grant, 2022. Awarded to the Sacred Harp Museum, co-written with Jesse P. Karlsberg, Emory University.

Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art Teaching with Primary Sources program participant, Fall 2021.

UWG Faculty Research Grant, 2020.

Charles Redd Fellowship Award in Western American Studies, 2017.

Community Impact Grant, Community Foundation of West Georgia, 2017. Awarded to the Sacred Harp Museum, co-written with Jesse P. Karlsberg, Emory University.

Georgia Humanities Council Grant, 2017. Awarded to the Sacred Harp Museum, co-written with Jesse P. Karlsberg, Emory University.

“‘Telling Our Own Stories:’ American Indian Artists of North Dakota Oral History Project,” 2016. University of North Dakota College of Arts & Sciences Fine Arts and Humanities Scholarship Initiative (declined award upon leaving employment at UND).

University of North Dakota Residential Hall Channel Outstanding Professor, May 29, 2015.

George Levitine Fellow, Department of Art History and Archaeology, University of Maryland, 2005-2008.

- “Looking Backward/Looking Forward,” co-curator with Laura Wolfe. Exhibition of visual artworks completed by art history students at UWG in art historical research. UWG VAB Gallery, Sept. 26-Oct. 7, 2022.
- “Composer Compilers from *The Sacred Harp*,” co-curator. Sacred Harp Museum in collaboration with Emory University’s Pitts Theology Library and Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library. Emory Performing Arts Studio, Atlanta, GA, Sept. 7-8, 2019.
- “The Sacred Harp: A Georgia Musical Tradition,” curator. Carrollton Center for the Arts, Carrollton, GA, Sept. 7-10, 2018; Sacred Harp Museum, Carrollton, GA, Fall 2018-Spring 2019.
- “American Indian Leaders in Education,” co-curator. Memorial Union Badlands Room, University of North Dakota, permanent exhibition, opened Nov. 18, 2015.
- “The United Sacred Harp Musical Association,” curator. Sacred Harp Museum, Carrollton, GA, in association with Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Physical exhibition at Church of Our Saviour, Atlanta, GA, Sept. 12-13, 2015.
- “American Indian Leaders of Distinction,” co-curator. Hughes Fine Arts Center, University of North Dakota, permanent exhibition, opened May 8, 2015.
- “Honoré Daumier Encore! The Quest for Freedom of Expression,” co-curator. Empire Arts Center, Grand Forks, ND, Apr. 24-Jul. 14, 2015.
- “From Rembrandt to Picasso and Beyond,” co-curator. Empire Arts Center, Grand Forks, ND, Feb. 5-Apr. 2, 2015.
- “UND Art Collections - Selections by Honoré Daumier,” co-curator. Eugene Myers Gallery, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, Sept. 21-Oct. 9, 2014.