



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Mary L. Cornille (GRS'87) 39th Annual Boston University Graduate Symposium in the History of Art & Architecture

Submissions due: January 13th, 2023

Symposium dates: April 21st-April 22nd, 2023

ADORNMENT

The Mary L. Cornille (GRS'87) 39th Annual Boston University Graduate Symposium in the History of Art & Architecture invites submissions considering or responding to the role of adornment in constructing and communicating meaning in visual and material culture.

Stained glass windows. Painted tiles. Gilded embroidery. Sparkling jewels. Elaborate hairstyles. Be it person, place, or thing, history has left few surfaces unadorned. In art, adornment is a tool for communication. Alongside beauty and frivolity lie revelations about identity, taste, wealth, and reverence. Bound up with ideologies of class, gender, and self-fashioning, adornment of the human body in particular is a powerful signifier across time and space. When scholars of visual and material culture underscore adornment, they demonstrate how it is central to art making and not merely incidental or additive. Studies in adornment have emphasized the affective function of adorned surfaces created with the ability to enchant, inspire, and amaze the viewer. Adornment is embellishment, ornamentation, and enhancement, and it is essential to understanding the visual realm.

Possible subjects include, but are not limited to, the following: jewelry, money, ornament, decoration, frivolity, shopping, wealth, cosmetics, excess, the body, tattoos, design, color, gilding, precious metals, fashion, identity, accumulation, ritual spaces, self-fashioning, taste, collecting, exhibit design, accessories, costume, patterns of consumption, class distinctions, fantasy, illumination, material culture, display, artifice, relics and reliquaries, gems, the transience of beauty, furs and animal products, headdresses and hairstyles, stained glass, embroidery, fiber arts, costume books, and luxury.

We welcome submissions from graduate students at all stages of study, from any area of study.

Papers must be original and previously unpublished. Please send an abstract (300 words or fewer), a paper title, and a CV to bugraduatesymposiumhaa@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is January 13, 2023. Selected speakers will be notified by early February. Papers should be 15 minutes in length and will be followed by a question and answer session. The symposium will be held at the Museum of Fine Arts on Friday, April 21, and Saturday, April 22, 2023, with a keynote lecture by Dr. Jill Burke from the University of Edinburgh.

This event is generously sponsored by Mary L. Cornille (GRS'87). For additional information, please visit [our website](#).