

NCSA 2018 President's Award
Janice Simon
Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor of Art History
University of Georgia

Today's recipient of the NCSA President's Award has been a member of our community as a program conference organizer, presenter, attendee, Board member and a valuable member of our Senior Advisory Council. She has been a constant and vibrant presence over the years, demonstrating a consistently enthusiastic approach to art wherever our conference may travel. She also brings excitement and a commitment to making the most of the local environs wherever we gather. I am delighted to recognize the contributions of Janice Simon, Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Georgia.

Janice's personality obviously developed in Buffalo, NY, her hometown, from whose SUNY she earned her B.A. in Art History. She then earned both her M.A. and Ph.D from the University of Michigan, where her dissertation, "*The Crayon (1855-1861): The Voice of Nature in Criticism, Poetry and the Fine Arts*" established her a scholar of note. Indeed, her focus on America's premier art journal of the American antebellum period persists, as her current scholarly work continues to address *The Crayon*. But her range is as extensive as it is impressive, considering Charles Burchfield's late painting, addressing *The Aldine* in more than one article, and exploring images of the White Mountains and Adirondacks. She has been published in our own *Nineteenth-Century Studies* and repeatedly in *American Periodicals*; the list of all her book chapters, journal articles and exhibition catalogues would more than fill our time together here today. Her nearly thirty-year career demonstrates her scholarly prowess as a specialist in landscape painting and photography of American Art as it connects particularly to transcendentalism and environmentalism, while she has also, of course, curated many exhibitions, particularly at the Georgia Museum of Art, over the course of the last twenty-five years. Somehow, she found time to complete over seventy book reviews and is a frequent conference presenter and invited lecturer at the College Art Association and the American Studies Association, among others. She is unquestionably hugely wide-ranging in her knowledge and, if you are friends with her on Facebook, she will enrich your feed with her photos of collections all over the country.

Those of you fortunate enough to have spent time with her at one of our conferences will benefit from her enthusiasm for travel. When we gathered in New Mexico a few years ago, she assisted more than one of our members from investing, probably a little more than they thought they should, in local jewelry—but Janice had done all the research as to where to buy and how to support local artists best with such purchases. She brings that local enthusiasm to all our venues and it has become a feature of our conferences, to the development of which she has also contributed. She served on our Board of Directors for two terms in the 1990s and has been a member of our Senior Advisory Council for over a decade. She was also the Program Co-Director for our 2010 conference in Tampa, FL as well as 2002 in Savannah, GA. Such an accomplished career to date has been recognized with fellowships along the way, such as the one from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, along with a transition from NEH summer institute participation to leading an Institute in 2015. She has also received so many teaching awards that, as with her scholarship, it would take all our time to read them. But I will note she was recognized for her excellence for teaching in the first years of her career—and just last year was recognized (again!) for innovative teaching by her University. She continues to develop new courses and strategies for engaging students in her own enthusiasm for art.

All of us who have met and chatted with her have left the conversation the better for it; we look forward to seeing her the following year and hope to get on a tour with her of an eclectic collection we might otherwise have missed. Janice is a pleasure, and it is my pleasure to recognize her contributions to NCSA today with the President's Award.

Lucy Morrison
NCSA President
March 16th, 2018