

OCAD
UNIVERSITY
**FACULTY
TALK**

RYAN WHYTE

Recipient of the 2013-2014 OCAD University Award for Excellence in Early Stage Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity

Art History for Women: Art, Fashion, and Subversion in Napoleonic France

During the First French Empire (1804–14/15) women encountered art inside objects of fashion. Specifically, women's pocket-sized literary almanacs included reproductions of and commentary on canonical artworks. Fashionably bound and worn on the person, they transformed the space of fashion into a zone of spectatorship within which women operated as equivalent to their male counterparts as authors, subjects of art, critics, and audiences. In a period when state policy and ideology divided art from fashion and women from art, women's almanacs were subversive because their scale changed the space of reception, and their use appropriated female fashion as an arena for the display of and commentary on art.



When?

2015

WEDNESDAY
MARCH
25

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Where?

100 McCAUL STREET,
ROOM 187

About



Dr. Whyte's research reveals legacies of eighteenth-century art and culture that are commonplace in and relevant to the early twenty-first century. He is currently writing a book on the role of printed matter in the Salon du Louvre exhibitions of the Ancien Régime; a second research project explores the visual culture of gastronomy in 18th- and 19th-century France. His other recent work addresses fashion, materiality, and cross-cultural exchange in eighteenth-century print culture. He has also written art criticism and essays for journals that include *Artext*, *Artichoke*, *Border Crossings*, *C Magazine*, *Lola*, *New Observations*, and *Parachute*.