Dr. Thomas Wikle  
College of Arts and Sciences Deans Office  
201 Life Science East  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078

March 29, 2019

Dear Dr. Wikle,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in applying for the Director of Religious Studies position. I have been a committed faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences since 2006. I arrived in Stillwater after completing a prestigious Getty Research Institute Fellowship (the year’s theme was “Religion and Ritual”). My primary area of study is Latin American and Iberian religion and visual culture, 1500-1850. Icons and idols, piety and visuality, and paralliturgical spatial practices are some of my concerns within this field. A secondary interest is Late Antiquity/Byzantine history (I have a graduate degree on the subject and also head the classical art program in art history at OSU). My broad academic background has afforded me the opportunity to approach the study of religion from wide-ranging scholarly and intellectual vantage points.

My first book manuscript, *Landscapes of Conversion: Franciscan Politics and Sacred Objects in New Spain* is an entirely reworked and expanded version of my dissertation. The book shows how diverse images—the abominable idol, the didactic image, and the revered Christian icon—functioned throughout the colonial period within a Franciscan missionary project aimed at converting an indigenous population. Initial chapters explore the status and socio-historical relevance of specific sixteenth and seventeenth-century Marian paintings and sculptures, including their material import, delineation, propagation, and dissemination, while the final three chapters probe the Franciscan investment in religious images during periods of secularization and religious reforms (largely occurring in the eighteenth century). Although the revised book manuscript will be resubmitted in July 2019 (at the behest of Penn State Press), articles deriving from this research have already appeared in *The Journal of California Mission Studies Association* (2008), *Catholic Southwest* (2012), and *Religion and the Arts* (2014). My work related to this project can also be read in the following edited volumes: *Beyond the Text: Franciscan Art and the Construction of Religion* (Franciscan Institute Publications 2013), *San Antonio 1718: Art from the Viceregal Period* (Trinity Press, 2018), *The Senses and the Experience of God in Franciscan Art* (Routledge, forthcoming 2019), and *Early Modern Marian Doctrine, Devotion, and Imagery* (Brill, forthcoming 2019/2020).
A second book project, *The Female Imitation of Christ in the Spanish World, 1500-1850*, interrogates the influence of The Imitation of Christ (Thomas à Kempis, Netherlands ca. 1420) on female spirituality and early modern art in Spain, Mexico, Peru, and the Philippines. The period's visual material and primary documents reveal that holy women in the Spanish world asserted affinity with the crucified Christ through simulated Passion scenes, the claim and visual display of their stigmata, and the propagation of their own crucifixion portraits. My project addresses these Christological identifications—both stigmatic spirituality and crucifixion piety—and specifically seeks a better understanding of such imagery within their particular environments: Did these images convince, comfort, or challenge? I explore the process by which the iconography was gendered and localized both at the level of production and reception. My aim, therefore, is not simply to establish a late medieval, northern European reform movement as the theological and iconographical origin of female Christ-like piety in the Iberian world, but to simultaneously argue that the Iberian and colonial images critically engaged with the political, religious, and social polemics of their own time and place. Initial response to this project has been remarkable, with articles appearing in *The Art Bulletin* and *RES: The Journal of Anthropology and Aesthetics* (two of the most prestigious journals in my discipline). As further sign of the subject's appeal and the merit of my research, I am in the process of co-editing the volume *Female Piety and Visual Culture in the Early Modern Hispanic World* for Oxford University Press.

Given my scholarly interests—and their theoretical breadth and interdisciplinary foundation—I value active engagement with scholars inside and outside of art history. Not only do I regularly present my work at the College Art Association, I have also offered papers at the American Historical Association Conference, the Renaissance Society of America Conference, and the Sixteenth Century Conference. Invited lectures and masterclasses, furthermore, were recently given at UC Berkeley's Graduate Theological Institute, the University of Manchester, and the Institute of Historical Investigations at the National University in Mexico City. Not only do I find this active exchange with a large and diverse community to be fundamental to the building of a robust scholarly network, I believe it to be central to the advancement of the humanities.

I have taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses pertinent to my research and have consistently received excellent teaching evaluations. Students regularly comment on the creativity of lectures, the liveliness of class discussions, and the success of the course in disrupting traditional disciplinary and geo-cultural divides. A recent graduate seminar, "Icons and Idols," investigated the animated image—its formation, contestation, destruction, reformation—and its critical status throughout different periods of art history. Case studies were drawn from the Near East, Egypt, the Greco-Roman world, Byzantium, Europe, the Americas, and Southeast Asia. Students were invigorated by the readings and not only drafted excellent research papers, but found ways to incorporate their training into their other graduate courses and thesis projects. My commitment to undergraduate education is no less constant. Since arriving at OSU, I have taught nearly 20 different undergraduate courses, supervised Honors Contracts, organized individual writing-intensive courses, supervised Liberal Studies theses, and directed Multidisciplinary Studies projects. All of these courses rest on my background and interest in religious studies.

As an art historian with expertise in Pre-Columbian, Latin American, Iberian and Classical studies whose work is clearly rooted in the history, questions, and concerns of a transnational study of religion, religiosity, and material culture, I feel I am ideally suited to the directorship position. I am motivated by the possibility of working with the present associated faculty and the new faculty hires. While the enrollment figures point to undergraduate enthusiasm for the field, I believe the program must be
steered by a faculty member who can solidify the area and expand it in a manner best suited to OSU and the College of Arts and Sciences. I have submitted my curriculum vita. Please let me know if I may provide you with any additional materials. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

[Signature]

Cristina Cruz González
Associate Professor of Art History
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Cristina Cruz González

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CURRICULUM VITAE
(March 2019)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Art History
University of Chicago, 2009
Dissertation: “Landscapes of Conversion. Franciscan Politics and Sacred Objects in Late Colonial Mexico”
(Supervised by Thomas B.F. Cummins)

M.Phil. in Classics (1st Class)
Cambridge University (Newnham College), 2000

M.A. in Art History
University of Texas at Austin, 1999

B.A. in Anthropology
Yale University (Hopper College), 1994
Sapir Prize for the Best Senior Thesis in Anthropology

EMPLOYMENT

July 2013 – current: Associate Professor of Art History, Oklahoma State University
July 2006 – July 2013: Assistant Professor of Art History, Oklahoma State University
August 2003 – May 2004: Visiting Professor in Art History, DePaul University, Chicago
January 2004 – May 2004: Visiting Professor in Art History, Columbia College-Chicago

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2019 Oklahoma Humanities Council (NEH) Scholar Research Grant
2019 Helmerich Center for American Research Travel Grant, Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa
2017 Arts and Sciences Research Grant (ASR +1), Oklahoma State University
2016 Doel Reed Center for the Arts Faculty Fellowship, Taos, NM
2015 Newberry Library Renaissance Studies Consortium Faculty Fellowship, Chicago
2014 Oklahoma Humanities Council (NEH) Research Grant
2011 Arts and Sciences Research Grant (ASR +1), Oklahoma State University
2010 William Reese Library Grant, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley
UCLA Library Research Grant, University of California, Los Angeles
2009 Mendel Fellowship, Lilly Library Grant, Indiana University
Dean’s Incentive Grant, Oklahoma State University
2008  Dean’s Incentive Grant, Oklahoma State University
2006  Getty Research Fellowship, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (1-year residential)
2004  Visiting Committee Fellowship, University of Chicago
2003  Trustees Fellowship, University of Chicago (five-year fellowship)
2000  Tinker Fellowship, University of Chicago
1999  Cambridge Overseas Trust, Cambridge University
1998  College Art Association Professional Development Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS

Books

*Female Piety and Visual Culture in the Early Modern Hispanic World*, co-edited with Niria E. Leyva-Gutiérrez (in progress, volume under contract with Oxford University Press)

*Landscapes of Conversion: Franciscan Politics and Sacred Objects in New Spain* (manuscript in progress)

*Art, Community, and Salvation in New Spain* (in progress, book under contract with Brill Press)

Journal Articles


Selected best article in the 2012 issue of Catholic Southwest and nominated by the Catholic Press Association for best journal article in 2012


Book Chapters


Brief Essays


Published Reviews


Jeanette Favrot Peterson, Visualizing Guadalupe: From Black Madonna to Queen of the Americas (University of Texas Press 2014), for caa.reviews: http://www.caa.reviews.org/reviews/2371


**INVITED ACADEMIC LECTURES, CONFERENCE PAPERS, AND WORKSHOPS**


“Gender, Piety, and the Colonial Archive,” University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, McAllen, Texas, (forthcoming) April 10, 2019


“Theorizing Indigenous Materiality in the Early Modern Americas,” The American Society for Ethnohistory Conference, Oaxaca, Mexico, October 12, 2018

“The Franciscan Renaissance and the Evangelization of Northern New Spain,” San Antonio Museum of Art, April 8, 2018

“Conventual Bodies and the Body of Christ: The Power of Christocentric Piety in the Early Modern Spanish Convent,” University of Manchester, UK, March 22-23, 2018

“Itinerant Images in Spanish America: Art, Object, and Devotion in a Trans-Atlantic/Pacific World,” Masterclass, University of Manchester, UK, March 23, 2018

“Abbess as *Alter Christus*: Delineating Female Sanctity in Spain and Spanish America,” The Dillenberger Lecture, Center for Arts and Religion, Graduate Theological Union, University of California, Berkeley, October 12, 2017

“Thoughts on the Colonial Inventory,” A Feischrift in Honor of Thomas B.F. Cummins, The Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, September 23, 2017

“A Lignum Vitae in New Spain,” The Senses and Art in the Franciscan Tradition Symposium, St Bonaventure University, New York, September 16, 2017


“Racializing Sanctity and Salvation in New Spain,” Oklahoma Conference of Art Historians, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, March 4, 2017

“Converging Cultures: Understanding Art and Devotion in Spanish New Mexico,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Oklahoma State University, February 23, 2017
“Women and the Body of Christ in Spain and Spanish America,” Renaissance Society of America, Boston, March 31, 2016

“Female Piety and Visual Culture in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Hispanic World: An Introduction,” College Art Association, Washington DC, February 3-6, 2016


“Sacred Matters: Materiality and the Miraculous in Viceregal Mexico,” University of Oklahoma, Norman, October 29, 2015


“Transatlantic Sanctity: Perspectives from the Spanish Empire” roundtable (with Katrina Olds, Cory Conover, and Erin Rowe), organized by the Hagiographic Society, Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Vancouver, Canada, October 22, 2015


“La Imagen Franciscana en Querétaro Colonial,” Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), December 3, 2014


“The Imitation of Christ and the Female Body in Ibero-America,” Colonial Authority and Identity in Ibero-America, 2-day interdisciplinary conference, Latin American and Iberian Institute, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, April 10-11, 2013


“Native Conversion and the Reconverted Image in Spanish America,” The Ohio State University, Department of Art History, February 15, 2012


“Mapping Popular Religion: Faith and Space in New Spain and Beyond,” University of New Mexico Latin American and Iberian Institute, Albuquerque, March 7, 2008


“Seeing as Autopsy: The Post-mortem Portrait in Eighteenth-Century Mexico,” Universidad de San Francisco Colonial Latin American Conference, Quito, June 8, 2007


“The Spiritual Economy Reconsidered: Art and Salvation in Spanish America,” Gale Memorial Lecture, Department of Art History, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, April 5, 2007

“Piety and Patronage in Northern New Spain,” Palace of the Governors Lecture Series, Santa Fe, April 4, 2007

“Image and Icon in Colonial Latin America—Case Studies from the Franciscan Missions,” Academy of American Franciscan History, University of California, Berkeley Graduate Theological Union, March 10, 2007


“Landscapes of Conversion: Franciscan Politics and Sacred Objects in Late Colonial Mexico,” Latin American Studies Association, Las Vegas, October 11, 2004

“Seeing Double: Iterable Monuments and Imperial Power,” International Colloquium in Art History, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, San Luis Potosí, Mexico, November 20, 2001


“Reading the Aztec Capital: Urban Narration in Ancient Tenochtitlan,” College Art Association, Los Angeles, February 9, 1999

SCOLARLY EVENTS ORGANIZED

Conference Panels

Art and Mission (co-chaired with Dr. Carmen Fernández), four panels organized for the Comite International d’Histoire de l’Art, São Paulo, Brazil, (forthcoming) September 2020

Global Missions and Artistic Exchange in the Early Modern World (co-chaired with Dr. Katherine M. McAllen), College Art Association, New York City, February 14, 2019

Female Piety and Visual Culture in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Hispanic World, College Art Association, Washington DC, February 3-6, 2016


Transcultural Migrations: Indigenous Americans and Mestizos in Early Modern Europe (co-chaired with Dr. Ray Hernández-Durán), College Art Association, Chicago, February 12, 2010

Vision and Visuality in Spanish America (co-chaired with Dr. Carmen Fernández), Universidad de San Francisco Colonial Americas Conference, Quito, June 6, 2007

Art and Religion in Pre Columbian and Colonial Mexico, Latin American Studies Association, Las Vegas, October 11, 2004

Academic Programs at Oklahoma State University

Artist Visit and Graduate Seminar Leader (“Haunted Images”), featuring Crystal Campbell, sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences Norris Grant and OSU’s Center for Africana Studies, September 26, 2018

Art History Student Symposium for undergraduate art history majors, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Allie Terry-Fritsch, Associate Professor of Art History, Bowling Green State University, Ohio. Oklahoma State University, April 2016
College of Arts and Sciences Lecture Series, “The Intellectual Conquest of the Spanish Frontier,” featuring Dr. Santa Arias, Associate Professor of Latin American and Colonial Studies, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Kansas. Oklahoma State University, April 5, 2012

College of Arts and Sciences Lecture Series, “Constantinople, Ctesiphon and Chang’an: Sacred Spaces, Urbanism and Cross-Cultural Interaction at the Cusp of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds,” featuring Dr. Matthew Canepa, Assistant Professor of Art History, Department of Art History, University of Minnesota. Oklahoma State University, April 2, 2012

“C’était Paris en 1970:’ Amateur Photography, Urbanism, and Photographic History,” featuring Catherine E. Clark, PhD Candidate, Department of History and Visual Studies, University of Southern California. Oklahoma State University, February 17, 2012

Art History Student Symposium for undergraduate art history majors, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Ray Hernández, Associate Professor of Art History, University of New Mexico. Oklahoma State University, 2011

Art History Student Symposium for undergraduate art history majors, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Tanya Paul, Curator of European Art, Philbrook Museum of Art (Tulsa). Oklahoma State University, April 25, 2010

College of Arts and Sciences Lecture Series, “Sacred Journeying and Difficult Middles in the Early Modern Spanish World,” featuring Dr. Kenneth Mills, Professor and Chair of the History Department, University of Toronto. Oklahoma State University, March 9-14, 2010

MUSEUM AND CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

Oklahoma State University Museum of Art, August-October 2015
Print Beyond Pop: American Lithography After 1960, Faculty Supervisor

Art Institute of Chicago, August 1995 – July 1997
MacArthur Foundation Museum Fellow, Department of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas
The World of the Maya Artist: Painted Ceramics from the Late Classic Period (May 1997), Curator

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1994-1995
Public Programs Coordinator, Department of Education

TEACHING

Graduate
Haunted Images: Between Presence and Absence in Art and Architecture
Museum Exhibitions (seminar and practicum)
Icons and Icons
Art of Conversion: Sixteenth-Century Mexican Art and Architecture
Rome: Eternal City in Art and Film
Converging Cultures: Art and Devotion in Spanish New Mexico

Undergraduate
In the Shadow of Pompeii (study abroad course taught in Italy, with a focus on Nocera and Naples)  
Converging Cultures: Art and Devotion in Spanish New Mexico (intensive course in Taos, NM)  
Iconoclasm in the Ancient World (Honors College seminar)  
Arts of Spain and New Spain, 1500-1750 (seminar)  
Art History Senior Seminar: Art in Context (seminar)  
Rome: Eternal City in Art and Film (seminar)  
Art of Conversion: Sixteenth-Century Mexican Art and Architecture (seminar)  
Arts of Spain and the Spanish World (pre-Historic to contemporary)  
History of Latin American Art I (pre-Columbian to 17thC)  
History of Latin American Art II (18thC to contemporary)  
History of Baroque Art (Italian, Dutch, Flemish, French, Spanish World)  
History of Classical Art (archaic Greek to Byzantine)  
Survey of Art History I (Palaeolithic to Late Medieval)  
Introduction to Art History for Non-Majors (pre-Historic to contemporary)  
The Science of Art (co-taught with Smith Holt, OSU Doel Reed Center, Taos, New Mexico)  
Liberal Studies Senior Thesis (seminar and tutorial)  

**Doctoral Supervision**

Dissertation Committee Member, Emmanuel Ortega, “The Reception of Autos-de-Fe in Eighteenth-Century New Spain: Image, Text and Practice,” Department of Art and Art History, University of New Mexico  
Defense: June 23, 2017  

Dissertation Committee Member, Randall Loudamy, “Life After Conquest: The First 100 Years of Cortés’ Marquesado del Valle,” History Department, Oklahoma State University  
Defense: November 15, 2013  

Dissertation Committee Member, Brendan Bradley, “Visual Rhetoric in Transcultural Communication: The Engravings of Diego Valadés,” Department of Art and Art History, University of New Mexico  
Defense: November 5, 2008  

**M.A. Supervision**

Advisor, Catarina de Araujo, 19thC Brazil, 2018-present  
Advisor, Katlyn Smith, Colonial Latin America, 2017-2018  
Advisor, Olivia Huffstetler, Colonial Latin America, 2016-2018  
Advisor, Sarah Pons, Baroque Spain, 2014-2016  
Committee Member, Sara Armas, Netherlandish prints, 2016-2017  
Committee Member, Amy Nies, Medieval Spain, 2013-2015  

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Refereed journal article submissions for *Colonial Latin American Review, Hispanic American Historical Review*, and the *Journal of Curatorial Studies*  

College Art Association Jury Member, Art History Special Exhibition Travel Fund, 2019  

**SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY**
University Positions
Faculty Council Research Committee, 2016-2018
President, Hispanic-Latino Faculty and Staff Association at Oklahoma State University, 2014-2017
Faculty Liaison, Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association at Oklahoma State University, 2017-present
OSU Museum of Art, Faculty Advisory Board, 2014-2015

College of Arts and Sciences Positions
Newberry Consortium Representative, 2018-present
Norris Grant Committee Chair, 2018-present
Norris Grant Committee Member, 2010-present
Search Committee, Religious Studies, 2018-2019

Departmental Positions
Art History Graduate Advisor, 2018-present
Art History Program Coordinator, 2011-2013; 2015-2018
MA in Art History Committee, 2007-present
Reappointment, Promotion, Tenure Committee, 2011-present (recessed 2012-2013)
Search Committee, Graphic Design, Fall 2018
Search Committee, Department Chair, 2012-2013
Search Committee, Chair, Early Modern European Art History, 2010-2012
Search Committee, East Asian Art, 2010-2011
Search Committee, Department Chair, 2009
Search Committee, American Art, 2008-2009
Scholarship Committee, 2007-2008, 2012-present
Gallery Committee, 2016-present
Curriculum Committee, 2008-2009

Professional Associations
College Art Association
Renaissance Society of America
Latin American Studies Association
Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies
Sixteenth Century Society
Association for Latin American Art
American Society for Ethnography
California Mission Studies Association

Community Service

Yale University
New Haven, CT
Association of Yale Alumni, Board of Governors, elected, 2017-2020
Association of Yale Alumni, At-Large Delegate, appointed, 2015-2017
Yale Alumni Art League, charter member, 2015-present
Yale Latino Alumni Advisory Council, appointed, 2013-present
Yale Alumni Schools Committee, admissions interviewer for OK, 2015-present
1stGenYale, Oklahoma Chair