

Raino Isto

curriculum vitae

Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Art History and Archaeology
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EDUCATION

- 2014–present Ph.D., dissertation proposal defense complete in Art History, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland (dissertation title: *Monumental Endeavors: Sculpting History in Southeastern Europe, 1960–2016*)
- 2018 Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory, Department of English
- 2012–2014 M.A., in Art History, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland (thesis title: *In It We Should See Our Own Revolution Moving Forward, Rising Up’: Socialist Realism, National Subjecthood, and the Chronotope of Albanian History in the Vlora Independence Monument*)
- 2004–2008 B.A., in Politics and Art History, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- 2013–present University of Maryland Graduate Writing Fellow
- 2016–2018 Coordinator, The Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland
- 2015–2016 Writing and Research Advisor for Undergraduates, University of Maryland
- 2012–2015 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland
- 2011–2012 Communications Coordinator, Umpqua Valley Arts Association
- 2009–2011 TEFL Volunteer, Peace Corps Albania
- 2006–2007 Curatorial Intern, Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University

PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 “The Dictator Visits the Studio: The Vlora Independence Monument and the Politics of Albanian Monumental Sculpture, 1962–1972,” *Third Text* 32:2 (July 2018)
- Editor, *Lana Topiaries: A Morphology of Nature as Artificial Form* (forthcoming 2018)
- False Monarchy*, exh. cat. (College Park, MD: Stamp Gallery, 2018)
- 2017 “What Matters is Revolution at the Historical Moment of Radical Contemporaneity’: Interview with Marina Grzinic,” *ARTMargins Online*, May 2017, <http://www.artmargins.com/index.php/interviews-sp-837925570/796-what-matters-is-revolution>

PUBLICATIONS cont'd

- 2017 “‘An Itinerary of the Creative Imagination’: Bunk’Art and the Politics of Art and Tourism in Remembering Albania’s Socialist Past,” *Cultures of History Forum*, May 2017, <http://www.cultures-of-history.uni-jena.de/politics/albania/an-itinerary-of-the-creative-imagination-bunkart-and-the-politics-of-art-and-tourism-in-remembering-albanias-socialist-past/>
- Inextinguishable Stars: The Politics of the Celestial in Olson Lamaj’s Works* (Tirana: Miza Gallery, 2017)
- Editor, *Collective Monument*, exh. cat. (College Park, MD: Stamp Gallery, 2017)
- “Arti Bashkëkohor në Hapësirën Publike: Një Intervistë me Pleurad Xhafën,” *Peizazhe të Fjalës*, January 21, 2017, <https://peizazhe.com/2017/01/21/arti-bashkekohor-ne-hapesiren-publike/>
- 2016 “Dynamisms of Time and Space: The Synthesis of Architecture and Monumental Sculpture in Socialist Albania’s Martyrs’ Cemeteries,” *Eesti Kunstimuuseumi Toimetised* (Tallinn: Eesti Kunstimuuseum, 2016), 40–55
- “The Politics of Street Art in Albania: An Interview with Çeta,” *ARTMargins Online*, October 2016, <http://www.artmargins.com/index.php/interviews-sp-837925570/782-the-poli...>
- “The Monument as Ruin: Natality, Spectrality, and the History of the Image in the Tirana Independence Monument,” *[SIC]—A Journal of Literature, Culture, and Literary Translation* 7:1 (Summer 2016)
- “Disa Mendime mbi Artin Bashkëkohor në Shqipëri: Nga Çështja e Historisë në Çështjen e Realizmit,” *Peizazhe të Fjalës* (April 2016), <http://peizazhe.com/2016/04/25/mbi-artin-bashkekohor-ne-shqiperi/>
- “Organic (Un)Ground in the Time of Biopower and Hyperobjects: Conceptualizing a Global Posthumanism in the Work of Xu Bing and Gu Wenda,” *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* 2:2+3 (2016), 195–215
- 2015 “Review of *Grafika e Realizmit Socialist në Shqipëri/ Socialist Realist Graphic Art in Albania*,” *ARTMargins Online*, July 2015, <http://www.artmargins.com/index.php/4-books/765-socialist-realist-graphic-art-in-albania-book-review>
- “Sali Shijaku’s *Zëri i Masës* and the Metaphysics of Representation in Albanian Socialist Realist Painting,” in *Workers Leaving the Studio. Looking Away from Socialist Realism* (New York: Punctum, and Tiranë: Galeria Kombëtare e Arteve and Department of Eagles, 2015), 25–39
- “Bestiary,” in *Streams of Being: Selections from the Art Museum of the Americas*, exh. cat. (College Park, MD: The Art Gallery, 2015), 12–13
- “‘We Raise Our Eyes and Feel as if She Rules the Sky’: The *Mother Albania* Monument and the Visualization of National History,” in *Lapidari* (New York: Punctum, 2015), 73–80

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

- 2018 “Desire’s Surface: Rowena Morrill’s Fantasy Illustration and the Late Capitalist Rhetoric of Embodiment,” *Popular Culture Association National Conference*, Indianapolis, March 28–31, 2018
- “Horizons of Negation: Armando Lulaj’s NEVER and the Grounds of Collective Historical Experience in Postsocialism,” *Collective Memory, Social Action, and Uses of History* HGSA conference, University of Maryland, College Park, March 9, 2018
- 2017 “Don’t Buy Leeks, Buy Dynamite’: Urban Transformation, Dissident Public Culture, and the Works of the Albanian Street-Art Collective Çeta,” at *Critiquing Culture: Social Movements and Resistance* conference, George Mason University, October 7, 2017
- “Welcome, Dear Workers’: Figuring the Working Class in Contemporary Albanian Art,” at *Worked Up: Labor, Literature, and Culture* conference, University of Maryland, College Park, March 18, 2017
- “Weak Monumentality: A Theoretical Proposition,” at *Monumental Form/Memorial Time: A Graduate Symposium in the History and Practice of Art and Architecture*, Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, March 10–11, 2017
- 2016 “Modeling Reality’: Writing the History of (Socialist) Albanian Sculpture—The Case of Odhise Paskali,” at *Art History and Socialism(s), 1940s-1960s* conference, Tallinn, Estonia, October 28–29, 2016
- “The Dictator Visits the Studio: Enver Hoxha’s Letter to the ‘Monumental Trio’ and the Politics of Socialist Albanian Sculpture in the 1960s and 70s,” at *Contested Spheres: Actually Existing Artworlds Under Socialism* conference, Budapest, Hungary, May 27–28, 2016
- “After Life, After Flesh: Putrefaction and Blackened Materiality in the Work of Nader Sadek, Or, Complicity with Necrotic Materials,” at *Philadelphia Museum of Art Graduate Student Symposium on the History of Art*, Philadelphia, April 8–9, 2016
- “The Spiral of Flesh: Materiality, Anatomy, and Decay in Paolo Girardi’s Album Covers,” at *Common Threads in Arts & Humanities: A Collaborative Research Symposium*, University of Maryland, College Park, March 10, 2016
- “Between Two Easts: Albania, the USSR, China, and the Ontology of a Transnational Socialist Reality in Postwar Albanian Visual Art,” at *College Art Association* annual conference, Washington, DC, February 3–6, 2016
- 2015 “Dynamisms of Time and Space: The Synthesis of Architecture and Monumental Sculpture in Socialist Albania’s Martyrs’ Cemeteries,” at *Shared Practices: The Intertwinement of the Arts in the Culture of Socialist Eastern Europe*, Kumu Art Museum Conference, Tallinn, Estonia, October 22–24, 2015

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA cont'd

- 2015 “‘An Itinerary of the Creative Imagination’: Bunk’Art, Avant-Garde Practices of Memory-Production, and the Touristic Experience of the Socialist Past in Contemporary Albania,” at *Sites of Memory of Socialism and Communism in Europe* international conference, Münchenwiler, Switzerland, September 3–6, 2015
- 2014 “The Coalescence of Albanian History: Socialist Realism, Nationalism, and the Vlorë Independence Monument,” at *Imagining Alternative Modernities* Sawyer Conference, Ohio State University, Columbus, October 11, 2014
- “A Specter is Haunting Tirana, the Specter of *Pavarësia*,” at *The Middle Atlantic Symposium in the History of Art*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, March 8, 2014
- 2013 “From Communist Utopia to Tourist Network: The Transformation of Albania’s Bunkers,” at *The Ideal and the Real: Contemporary Positions in Art Criticism*, Critical Studies Thesis Symposium, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, May 4, 2013
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EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Artist, *Performative Exhibition: Center for Integration*, organized by Collectif Patriotisme and Tirana Art Lab, Tirana Art Lab, Tirana, Albania, July 24–July 29, 2018
- Coordinator, *Capital Lives*, curated by Kat Mullineaux, Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, May 30–July 4, 2018
- Coordinator, *Media Lux*, Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, April 2–May 19, 2018
- Artist, *BACK and FORTH: Art Honors Curated Exhibition*, Herman Maril Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, February 2–February 23, 2018
- Curator, *False Monarchy*, Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, January 24–March 17, 2018
- 2017 Coordinator, *(Sub)Urban*, curated by Matthew McLaughlin, Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, October 30–December 16, 2017
- Co-curator, *Unto Itself: Kameelah Janan Rasheed*, Herman Maril Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, September 29–October 6, 2017
- Artist, *That’s When You Bring In [Crisis Humanities]*, curated by Alison Singer, public installation, University of Maryland, College Park, August 28, 2017
- Coordinator, *New Arrivals 2017: Contemporary Art Purchasing Program Acquisitions*, Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, August 28–October 14, 2017

EXHIBITIONS cont'd

- 2017 Coordinator, *I'm Fine*, curated by Sarah Schurman and Tasiana Paolisso, Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, June 5–July 28, 2017
- Artist, *How Painfully Awkward of a Conceptual Artist Are You? Take the Quiz Now!*, Laboratory Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, April 8, 2017
- Coordinator, *Midpoint '17*, Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, March 29–May 22, 2017
- Curator, *Collective Monument*, Stamp Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, January 25–March 11, 2017
- Artist, *Swift Fantasies*, curated by Gretchen Stricker, Laboratory Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, February 22–March 2, 2017
- 2016 Artist, *Building Conceptual Art through Diligence and Frugality*, Laboratory Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, December 12–21, 2016
- Artist, *As Soon As I Open My Eyes I See A Monument*, curated by Bart Pushaw, Laboratory Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, October 12–21, 2016
- Artist, *Cabinet: An Exhibition of Obsolete Furniture*, curated by Cecilia Wichmann, Laboratory Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, April 6–27, 2016
- 2015 Co-curator, *Lo Ch'ing: The Poetry of Postmodern Landscape*, online exhibition, University of Maryland, College Park, <http://the-poets-brush.artinterp.org/omeka/>
- Co-curator, *Streams of Being: A Selection from the Art Museum of the Americas*, The Art Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, <http://streamsofbeing.artinterp.org/omeka/>
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HONORS, GRANTS, and FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018–2019 Predoctoral Fellowship, Getty Research Institute
- 2018 American Councils Title VIII Research Grant, Albania and Macedonia
- 2017 James F. Harris Arts and Humanities Visionary Scholarship, University of Maryland
- 2017 John Dorsey Prize for Outstanding Curatorial Practice (with Cecilia Wichmann)
- 2016 Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland
- 2015 Mark H. Sandler Award, University of Maryland
- 2012–2016 Flagship Fellowship, University of Maryland

COURSES TAUGHT

As Instructor

- 2015 “Art and Society in the West from the Renaissance to the Present,” University of Maryland, College Park
2013 “Art of the Modern American World,” University of Maryland, College Park

As Teaching Assistant

- 2015 “Art and Society in the Ancient American World,” University of Maryland, College Park
2014 “Art and Society in the West from the Renaissance to the Present,” University of Maryland, College Park
2013 “Art and Society in Ancient and Medieval Europe to the Mediterranean,” University of Maryland, College Park
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LANGUAGES

Albanian (reading and spoken: advanced)
French (reading: intermediate)
German (reading: intermediate)
Serbo-Croatian (reading: intermediate)
Macedonian (reading: intermediate)

COMMITTEES

- 2017–2018 College of Arts and Humanities Dean’s Graduate Advisory Board
2015–2018 University of Maryland Art Library Advisory Board
2015–2016 Graduate Art History Association Faculty Liaison
2013–2015 Graduate Art History Association Guest Lecture Coordinator
2013–2014 Undergraduate Art History Symposium Coordinator
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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Congress of Conceptual Art Int’l
The Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies
Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association