

LINDA MERRILL

Education

University of London, University College
Ph.D., History of Art, 1985.

Smith College
A.B., 1981, English, Highest Honors, *summa cum laude*

Employment

Emory University
2008–9, 2002, Instructor in Art History

National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of the Chairman
2006–7, Humanities Administrator, temporary appointment. Essayist for *Picturing America*, an initiative to promote the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture through important works of American art. Co-author, Resource Book for Educators, <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov>

High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia
1998–2000, Margaret and Terry Stent Curator of American Art
2000–4, Guest curator, *After Whistler: The Artist & His Influence on American Painting*
2003, author, exhibition labels for permanent collection reinstallation
2004, special editor, *Andrew Wyeth: Memory & Magic*
2005, author, historical essay for High Museum collections book
2006–7, lead editor, *Cecilia Beaux, American Figure Painter* (2007)

Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
1985–98, Curator of American Art

Hood College, Frederick, Maryland
1991, 1998, Instructor in Art History
1985–6, Instructor in Art History

Centre for Whistler Studies, University of Glasgow, Scotland
1993–2007, Honorary Research Fellow
2003–7, Contributing editor and member of the Editorial Board, *The Correspondence of James McNeill Whistler, 1855–1903*, edited by Margaret MacDonald, Patricia de Montfort, and Nigel Thorp, On-line centenary edition, Centre for Whistler Studies.

Publications

Books:

After Whistler: The Artist & His Influence on American Painting. New Haven: Yale University Press and the High Museum of Art, 2003. General editor and essayist for exhibition catalogue with contributions by Lacey Taylor Jordan, Marc Simpson, Robyn Asleson, John Siewert, Sylvia Yount, and Lee Glazer.

The Peacock Room: A Cultural Biography. Washington, D.C.: Freer Gallery of Art and Yale University Press, 1998. Funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, 1991. Awarded the Historians of British Art Book Prize for the best book in English on British art and architecture in the nineteenth century, 2000.

With Kindest Regards: The Correspondence of Charles Lang Freer and James McNeill Whistler, 1890–1903, editor. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995.

Freer: A Legacy of Art, co-author with Thomas Lawton. Washington, D.C.: Freer Gallery of Art, in association with Harry N. Abrams, 1993.

The Princess and the Peacocks; or, The Story of the Room, co-author with Sarah Ridley, illustrations by Tennessee Dixon. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, in association with the Freer Gallery of Art, 1993.

A Pot of Paint: Aesthetics on Trial in Whistler v. Ruskin. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992; reprint 1993. Partial funding from the Smithsonian Regents' Publication Fellowship, 1998.

An Ideal Country: Paintings by Dwight William Tryon in the Freer Gallery of Art. Washington, D.C.: Freer Gallery of Art in association with The University Press of New England, 1990.

Selected articles, essays, entries

“Seeing is Believing: Whistler’s elaborate Peacock Room defies easy description,” *The Wall Street Journal*, Leisure & Arts Section, p. W16, September 15–16, 2007.

“Charles Augustus Howell” and “Frederick Richards Leyland.” *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.* London: Oxford University Press, 2006.

“The Soul of Refinement: Whistler and American Tonalism” (essay) and “James McNeill Whistler, *Seascape*” (catalogue entry), in Spanierman Gallery, *The Poetic Vision: American Tonalism.* Exhib. cat., Spanierman Gallery, New York, November 2005.

“History of the High,” in *High Museum of Art: Selected Works from the Collection*. Atlanta: High Museum of Art, 2005.

“Whistler & Japan.” *James McNeill Whistler*. Exhib. cat., Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia. In press.

“Christina Spartali.” *Dictionary of Artists’ Models*. London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001.

“Charles Lang Freer.” *The American National Biography*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

“*The First Leaves* by D. W. Tryon.” In *Masterworks of American Paintings and Sculpture in the Smith College Museum of Art*. New York: Hudson-Hills, 1999.

“James McNeill Whistler.” *Encyclopedia of Interior Design*. London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997. Pp. 1382-83.

“James McNeill Whistler and Japan,” with Ann Yonemura. *American Art Review*, June/July 1995.

“Whistler and the ‘Lange Lijzen.’” *The Burlington Magazine*, October 1994.

“Conspiring against Whistler.” *Tate: The Art Magazine*, October 1994.

“Whistler’s Peacock Room Revisited.” *The Magazine Antiques*, June 1993.

“James McNeill Whistler.” *The Eighteen Nineties: An Encyclopedia of British Literature, Art and Culture*, edited by George A. Cevasco. New York: Garland Publishing, 1993.

Selected papers and public lectures

“‘An Aestheticism of Our Own’: Oscar Wilde in Cincinnati.” Tenth Annual Arts & Crafts Conference, organized by the University of Minnesota. Cincinnati Art Museum, June 20, 2008.

“Whistler and the City of Light.” For the symposium accompanying the exhibition *Americans in Paris, 1860–1900*. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, November 16, 2006.

“The Voice of the Aesthete: Whistler versus Wilde.” In conjunction with the exhibition *The Etchings and Drypoints of James McNeill Whistler from Syracuse University Art Collection*. Taft Museum, Cincinnati, January 19, 2000.

“Peacocks with a Past.” Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, October 15, 1998.

“Trials and Tribulations: Whistler in 1878.” Alan McNab Memorial Lecture, in conjunction with the symposium *New Light on James McNeill Whistler*. The Art Institute of Chicago, June 5, 1998.

“Competing Connoisseurs: Collecting Contemporary American Art at the Turn of the Century.” For the conference *Radical Departures: Aspects of the Modern in American Painting, 1876-1939*. New York University, May 9, 1998.

“‘The Dilettante Stalks Abroad’: Whistler versus Wilde.” Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., November 1997; Art Seminar Group, Baltimore, February 1998.

“Genius on the Wings of Ambition: Whistler in 1864.” For the symposium held in conjunction with the exhibitions *James McNeill Whistler*, National Gallery of Art, and *In Pursuit of the Butterfly: Portraits of James McNeill Whistler*, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C., June 1995.

“Patterns of Patronage: Leyland, Freer, and the Medici.” International Whistler Symposium, Tate Gallery, London, December 1994.

“The Gentle Art of Patronage: Charles Lang Freer and James McNeill Whistler.” Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Lecture, Bowdoin College, February 1993; The Phillips Collection, in conjunction with the exhibition *Augustus Vincent Tack: Landscape of the Spirit*, June 1993.

“Truth and Consequences: The History and Conservation of Whistler’s Peacock Room.” Mellon Program in the History of Art Objects, lecture and graduate seminar, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., March 1993.

Selected exhibitions curated

After Whistler: The Artist & His Influence on American Painting. High Museum of Art, Atlanta, and The Detroit Institute of Arts. November 2003–June 2004. Exhibition organizer and curator.

John Twachtman: An American Impressionist. High Museum of Art, Atlanta, February 26–May 21, 2000. Exhibition curator.

American Art circa 1900. High Museum of Art, Atlanta, February 26–May 21, 2000. Exhibition organizer and curator.

Winged Figures by Abbott H. Thayer. Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., June 1999–June 2001. Exhibition organizer and curator.

Whistler & Japan, with Ann Yonemura. Freer Gallery of Art, May 1995–February 1996. Exhibition organizer and co-curator.

Symposia and colloquia organized

Frames of Reference: Whistler & American Art. In conjunction with the exhibition *After Whistler: The Artist and His Influence on American Painting*. High Museum of Art, Atlanta, November 15, 2003.

Aesthetic Value in the Gilded Age. With the National Museum of American Art. In conjunction with the exhibition *The Art of Thomas Dewing: Beauty Reconfigured*, National Museum of American Art. Freer Gallery of Art, September 28, 1996.

Whistler Scholars' Colloquium. With the Centre for Whistler Studies, University of Glasgow. In conjunction with the exhibitions *Whistler & Japan*, Freer Gallery of Art, and *James McNeill Whistler*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Freer Gallery, June 1, 1995.