

Department of the History of Art
University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2024

ARTH 5780-301: Seminar in Art of the United States:
Art in Philadelphia in the 19th Century

Tues 1:45-4:45

Professor Michael Leja
e-mail: mleja@upenn.edu
Office: Jaffe 201

This seminar will examine Philadelphia's golden age as an art center, from the time of Charles Willson Peale and William Rush in the late 18th century to that of Thomas Eakins and Cecilia Beaux in the early 20th. Traditional fine arts and new mass visual media (lithography, photography, illustrated magazines) will be explored. Some of our classes will be held at museums, libraries, and archives in Philadelphia, where students will become familiar with the immense research resources held in the city. Each student will devise an original research project early in the term and develop it over the course of the semester.

This course will participate in the Teaching Alliance between Penn and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Requirements:

- informed participation in weekly discussions
- several short progress reports on an evolving research project
- a final paper of about 15 pages grounded in primary research
- a final presentation to the seminar of the substance of the final paper

Many readings will focus on primary sources; useful reference works include:

Baltzell, E. Digby, *Puritan Boston and Quaker Philadelphia* (Boston, 1979), especially "Boston and Philadelphia and the American Mind" and "Art and Architecture," 281-334.

Johns, Elizabeth, "Thoughts on the Historiography of Art in Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia," in *Philadelphia's Cultural Landscape*, 188-195.

Piola, Erica, ed., *Philadelphia on Stone* (Library Company of Philadelphia, 2012).

Scharf, John Thomas & Thomas Westcott, *History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884* (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts, 1884), especially "Art and Artists," in vol 2, 1029-1075.