

KATHERINE C. HUGHES

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EDUCATION

- Middle Tennessee State University**, Murfreesboro, Tennessee Expected 2024
Doctor of Philosophy, Public History, Department of History
Dissertation: “Objects, Agency, & Place: Two Centuries of an Early American Frontier Landscape”
Committee: Drs. Carroll Van West (director), Mary Hoffschwelle, Ashley Riley-Sousa, and Tiffany Momon
- Institute of Classical Architecture & Art**, New York, New York: *Certificate of Classical Architecture* (ongoing)
- Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) Summer Institute**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina Class of 2018
Graduate credit awarded through the University of Virginia’s Graduate Program in the History of Art and Architecture
The Lowcountry: African American Material Culture and Landscapes;
“MESDA’s Edgefield Bowl: The Black and White Landscape of the B. F. Landrum Pottery Site”
- Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Summer Institute**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina Class of 2017
Graduate credit awarded through the University of Virginia’s Graduate Program in the History of Art and Architecture
Backcountry: The Great Wagon Road; “Piedmont’s Portraits: Patrician Image-Making in the Lower Shenandoah Valley”
- Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Summer Institute**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina Class of 2016
Graduate credit awarded through the University of Virginia’s Graduate Program in the History of Art and Architecture
The Upper Chesapeake: “A Vessel of Memory: Thomas Chandler’s Eastern Shore Landscape”
- Sotheby’s Institute of Art**, New York, New York Class of 2014
Master of Arts, Honors, American Fine and Decorative Art
Thesis: “Discovering Drayton: Classical Carving in Colonial Charleston”
- The College of William & Mary**, Williamsburg, Virginia Class of 2012
Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, English Major, Studio Art & Art History Minor
Dean’s List; James Monroe Scholar; Study Abroad in Florence, Italy and Cork, Ireland

EXPERIENCE

- Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University**, Murfreesboro, Tennessee August 2020—present
Graduate Research Assistant
- Conducts regular fieldwork across the state of Tennessee and adjacent regions with an emphasis on 18th, 19th, and early 20th c. landscapes and buildings, particularly those in rural areas and serving underrepresented histories.
 - Inventorying, analyzing, and interpreting material culture from private collections both onsite and at the Center.
 - Creating local history exhibits and public history initiatives with a community-first focus. These include exhibit panels, museum installations, tourism rack cards, informational pamphlets, collections websites, public meetings, and more.
 - Research, writing, and assistance on projects with the National Parks Service, Tennessee Land Trust, National Trust, and others.
 - Research and writing of heritage development plans, museum exhibit text, National Register of Historic Places nominations, cemetery preservation plans, and other work.
 - Project subjects include: Rosenwald schools, historic Black cemeteries, Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights march, Appalachian heritage, Tennessee’s Semiquincentennial commemoration, Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail.
 - Oversees fellow graduate students as lead project manager.
 - TA for HIST 6993/7993: Current Issues in Public History Practice – Truth, Race, and the Southern Landscape, Summer 2022.
- Historic Preservation Fellow* September 2019—April 2020
- Explored how east-coast museums are taking new directions in the exhibition and interpretation of southern material culture, including enslaved life and that of the post-emancipation period.
 - Contributed to research for the National Park Service and Trail of Tears National Historic Trail report and booklet, “Rivers, Rails & Roads: Transportation During the Cherokee Removal, 1837-1839.”
- Black Craftspeople Digital Archive (BCDA)**, digital humanities project August 2022—August 2023
Research Fellow
- Researched and wrote biographies for the “People & Places” component of the BCDA website.

McKissick Museum – University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina

May 2022–July 2023

Curator of Cultural Heritage & Community Engagement

- Directed, organized, and implemented exhibition and program projects, including the grant-funded FOLKFabulous at the SC State Fair and McKissick’s “Diverse Voices” changing gallery.
- Initiated collections research; maintained and built McKissick’s object and archival collections of southern life and material culture; namely, the Folklife Resource Center (FRC) and South Carolina Broadcast Association Archives (SCBAA).
- Directed and conducted oral history research for the FRC.
- Supervised Folklife Program Director and all related folklife programming.
- Managed two graduate assistants working with the FRC and SCBAA and folklife programming; worked with graduate and undergraduate students in teaching, mentoring, and research capacities.
- Served on Exhibitions and Collections committees.

Case Antiques, Inc. Auctions and Appraisals, Knoxville and Nashville, Tennessee

November 2020–April 2022

Nashville Office Operations

- Managed office operations in Nashville satellite office, including correspondence with clients, shippers, conservators, artists, and others; administrative paperwork; general maintenance of office.
- Conducted and assisted with client and site visits for appraisal.
- Catalogued objects for auction, including fine and decorative art, folk art, books and manuscripts, historic items.
- Phone bidder during auctions for high-level clients.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York

September 2018–September 2020

Peggy N. Gerry Research Scholar, supported by the Decorative Arts Trust; The American Wing

- Assisted in every aspect of exhibition development and production for the landmark traveling show *Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina* (MMA, Fall 2022) including: new research; organizing loan paperwork, conservation examinations, and photography of exhibition objects; developing and maintaining exhibition files; authoring catalogue entries and object labels; correspondence and meetings with museums, libraries, archives, and private collectors; coordinating research trips; working directly with the three lead co-curators, as well as across MMA departments and divisions (exhibitions & design; the President’s office; education; programming; conservation; scientific analysis; grants & fundraising; donor relations; libraries & research).
- Organized an advisory convening of outside scholars to discuss the interpretation and presentation of the first exhibit at The Met’s American Wing to focus on African American artisans.
- Permanent-collection curatorial tasks within the American Wing, including researching and creating case installations, acquisitions, deaccessions, and collections management.
- Lead tours and talks in galleries for museum members and guests on Old Edgefield District stoneware and southern ceramics.
- Created an in-house online database of 19th-century Edgefield face vessels, consisting of both images and related information.
- Assembled library collection focused on Southern history and Southern ceramics for the American Wing Library.

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia

August 2017–August 2018

Mellon Curatorial Fellow in Historic Interiors; Collections, Conservation, and Museums Division

- Wrote furnishing plans and signage for outbuildings at the Governor’s Palace, with a focus on the enslaved and indentured servants.
- Conducted tours and sourced images for “Building Detectives” program at the Robert Carter House, with an emphasis on the enslaved who lived and worked at the house, and Robert Carter as both enslaver and abolitionist.
- Research related to interior spaces and accompanying programming within the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area.
- Coordinated an architectural history tour of New Kent County, Virginia for the 70th annual Colonial Williamsburg Antiques Forum.
- Planned and assisted with the movement of antique objects to provide for their proper storage, study, and exhibition.
- Worked closely with curators in assisting with Historic Area needs, including installations, closings/openings, and seasonal changes.
- Attended bi-weekly accessions meetings with the Collections, Conservation, and Museums division.
- Responded to routine research requests.

Ralph Harvard Inc., New York, New York

July 2014–May 2015, May 2016–Fall 2018

Research and Project Manager

- Interiors research for the period restoration of an 18th c. Virginia plantation.
- Managed residential & commercial design projects, ranging from a 19th c. New England bed to an 18th c. Charleston house.
- Assisted with researching, editing, and organizing lectures and multi-day tours on architectural and design history, for organizations including the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, and Wilton House Museum.

Ralph Harvard Inc., Research and Project Manager, continued.

- Supervised office administration, including correspondence and coordination with vendors, clients, auction houses, and shippers; scheduled calendars; maintained on- and off-site inventories; managed website; handled all other inquiries.
- Hired and trained four new employees, creating new orientation and organization systems.
- Executed creation of three themed exhibitor booths for the 2015 and 2017 Winter Antiques Show, New York.

Historic Charleston Foundation, Charleston, South Carolina

June 2015—June 2016

Curatorial Research Assistant

- Conducted research for exhibitions, publications, loans, acquisitions, collections records, and general curatorial inquiries.
- Special focus projects included the Aiken-Rhett House History Center and the Nathaniel Russell House Soft Furnishings Project.
- Assisted with preparation and installation of the traveling exhibit *An Eye for Opulence* at the Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, and the Nathaniel Russell House gallery exhibit, *Sampling History: The Paint Archaeology of Susan L. Buck*.
- Managed organization of second annual symposium, *Breaking Ground and Building Bridges: New Research on Charleston's Material Culture*.
- Managed organization of annual Art & Architecture Study Series.
- Prepared presentations, agendas and minutes for Collections Committee meetings.
- Lead special-interest curatorial and behind-the-scenes tours.
- Supported and assisted cooperative Foundation programs such as the Festival of Houses and Gardens, the Charleston Antiques Show and other special events.
- Supervised undergraduate student intern.

Acting Nathaniel Russell House Manager

January 2016—April 2016

- Managed daily operations of Historic House Museum.
- Scheduled and lead group and special interest tours, including K-12 school groups.
- Served as staff liaison to the Nathaniel Russell House Committee, organized meetings, and prepared agendas and minutes.
- Assisted the Collections Manager.
- Facilitated and assisted with after-hours programs and events.
- Managed daily retail operations.

New-York Historical Society, New York, New York

February 2014—June 2014

Decorative Arts Curatorial Intern

- Worked closely with the Decorative Arts Curator on various projects, including the re-evaluation of objects in the Luce Center Collection.

Christie's, New York, New York

January 2014—March 2014

500 Years, European Decorative Arts Intern

- Conducted sale and marketing related research for departmental specialists; assisted in cataloging of property for upcoming sales.

Winter Antiques Show, New York, New York

January 2014—February 2014

Lead Show Management Intern

- Represented Sotheby's graduate class as one of two lead interns, working closely with the Executive Director and senior show staff.
- Scheduled and managed seventeen interns to perform internal show administrative duties and support for seventy-three exhibitors.
- Extensively assisted exhibitor Elle Shushan by interacting with clients, providing sales support, and overseeing running of booth.

The American Art Fair, New York, New York

November 2013—December 2013

Staff Member

- Assisted in preparation and execution of annual fair, ensured all specialists, collectors, & guests received a quality experience.

The Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County, Glen Cove, New York

March 2013—August 2013

Administrative Assistant to the Education Department

- Managed 500+ Holocaust and anti-bullying education programs for 30,000+ students, law officials, teachers, & private groups.
- Oversaw and scheduled 100+ volunteers, including Holocaust survivors, educators, docents, and interns.
- Revised scholarship application for annual \$2500 student scholarship, resulting in increased number of applicants.

Anthropologie, Greenvale, New York

June 2011—March 2013

Senior Sales Associate (October 2012 – March 2013); Visual Design Intern (Summer 2011)

- Processed and organized product shipments; acted as supervisor in Shipment Manager's absence; fully reorganized stockroom.

PUBLICATIONS

Chapter in an upcoming university press publication with the Black Craftspeople Digital Archive
“The Material Culture Landscape of 19th-Century Edgefield Pottery”

Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina, (2022) Yale University Press, New Haven
Contributing author
Catalogue publication accompanying exhibition of the same title, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York

The Magazine Antiques, (August 2020)
“Talking Inventory: Lovable Leos”

The Magazine of the Decorative Arts Trust, (Winter 2020), The Decorative Arts Trust, Media, Pennsylvania
“Emerging Scholar Report: First Year at The Met: Examining Edgefield Stoneware at The Met”

Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Volume 38 (2017), digital publication, MESDA, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
“A Vessel of Memory: Thomas Chandler’s Eastern Shore Landscape”

SELECT EXHIBITIONS

Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award Winners, March 2023–June 2023
McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, Columbia

Highlights from the Permanent Collection: Edgefield Pottery, September 2022–March 2023
McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, Columbia

Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina, Fall 2022–Spring 2023
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York
traveling through 2024 to the MFA Boston, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta
Curatorial Fellow, supported by the Decorative Arts Trust, and Independent Contractor

Sewn Through Time: Sweetgrass Basketmakers Reimagine a Tradition, August 2022–May 2023
McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, Columbia

Peggie Hartwell’s Story Quilts: A Retrospective, October 2022
FOLKFabulous@the Fair, South Carolina State Fair
McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, Columbia

Tanner Rosenwald School, Summer 2022–ongoing
Tanner Community Center, Newport, Tennessee
Student curator for the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU

Rutherford County Courthouse Museum, Fall 2021–ongoing
Rutherford County Courthouse, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Curatorial assistant for the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU

Shiloh Rosenwald School, Spring 2021-ongoing
Shiloh Community Restoration Foundation, Notasulga, Alabama
Student curator for the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU

Sampling History: The Paint Archaeology of Susan L. Buck, Winter 2015-Summer 2016
Nathaniel Russell House Gallery, Historic Charleston Foundation, Charleston, South Carolina

LECTURES (invited unless otherwise noted)

November 2022

Black Builder and Craftspeople Symposium, Preservation North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina
“Emerging Scholar Research Panel”

November 2022 *virtual due to Covid-19*

The 50th Anniversary American Ceramic Circle Symposium, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York
“From Edgefield to East Fork: My Journey to Find a Vessel for More”

October 2022

MESDA Conference, “The South Carolina Midlands”, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, hosted in Columbia, South Carolina
“Old Edgefield District Stoneware”

January 2022 *accepted proposal*

Southern Humanities Conference, Southern Humanities Council, Memphis, Tennessee
“The Death of Ann: Murder or Suicide? Witnessing Violence Against the Enslaved in 19th Century Edgefield, SC”

November 2021 *virtual due to Covid-19*

Wilton House Museum Virtual Lecture Series, Wilton House Museum, Richmond, Virginia
“Plantation Pottery: The 19th-Century Stoneware of Edgefield District, South Carolina”

June 2021 *virtual due to Covid-19*

Friends of the American Wing Lecture Series, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland
“19th-Century American Stoneware”

January 2021 *virtual due to Covid-19*

Friends of the Owens-Thomas House and Slave Quarters, Telfair Museums, Savannah, Georgia
“Plantation Pottery: The 19th-Century Stoneware of Edgefield District, South Carolina”

September 2020 *virtual due to Covid-19*

Polk’s America Lecture Series and Podcast, President James K. Polk Home and Museum, Columbia, Tennessee
“Southern Stoneware in Polk’s America”

Spring 2020 *cancelled due to Covid-19*

Guest Lecture, CHP Fellow, Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
“Interpreting and Exhibiting (Southern) History at The Met: Edgefield Stoneware”

Spring 2020 *virtual due to Covid-19*

Guest Lecture, CHP Fellow, History of Modern Design class, Art History Department, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
“The Art of (Slave) Labor: Old Edgefield District Stoneware”

February 2020

Newport Emerging Scholars Colloquium, Decorative Arts Trust and Newport Preservation Society, Newport, Rhode Island
“Edgefield Stoneware in The Met’s American Wing”

January 2020

Emerging Scholars Colloquium, Decorative Arts Trust and Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, New York, New York
“Edgefield Stoneware in The Met’s American Wing”

October 2019 *accepted proposal*

The 104th Annual Meeting & Conference, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, “Black Migrations”
Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Charleston, South Carolina
“‘Southern Make’: An American Story – The Movement of Edgefield District Stoneware (Panel on Migrations and Material Culture Throughout the Lowcountry)”

September 2019

Historic Shepherdstown & Museum 2019 Speaker Series
Historic Shepherdstown & Museum, Shepherdstown, West Virginia
“Piedmont’s Portraits: Patrician Image-Making in the Lower Shenandoah Valley”

March 2019 *accepted proposal*

The Ninth Annual Lemon Project Symposium, "Celebrating Legacies, Constructing Futures: Four Hundred Years of Black Community and Culture", The Lemon Project, The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia
"Objects and Places: Telling the Truth and its Consequences" (Round Table Panel)

February 2019

The 71st Annual Colonial Williamsburg Antiques Forum, "Hidden Treasures: New Findings and Rediscoveries"
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia
"MESDA's Edgefield Bowl: The Black and White Landscape of the B. F. Landrum Pottery Site"

February 2019

Morning Mixer: Careers in the Art World, Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York, New York
Featured Invited Speaker

October 2018 *accepted proposal*

The Fifth Annual Slave Dwelling Project Conference, "Slavery, Resistance & Community"
The Slave Dwelling Project and Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
"MESDA's Edgefield Bowl: The Black and White Landscape of the B. F. Landrum Pottery Site"

May 2018

MESDA Design Seminar, "A Place to Call Home", Old Salem Museums & Gardens, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
"Piedmont's Portraits: Patrician Image-Making in the Lower Shenandoah Valley"

February 2018

The Ninth Henry D. Green Symposium of the Decorative Arts, "Belonging: Georgia and the Region in the National Fabric"
Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia
"A Vessel of Memory: Thomas Chandler's Eastern Shore Landscape"

February 2017

The 69th Annual Colonial Williamsburg Antiques Forum, "Early American Craftsmanship: Influence and Innovation"
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia
"A Vessel of Memory: Thomas Chandler's Eastern Shore Landscape"

October 2016

MESDA Southern Material Culture & Decorative Arts Conference, "Celebrating 50 Years of Southern Ceramic Studies"
Old Salem Museums & Gardens, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
"A Vessel of Memory: Thomas Chandler's Eastern Shore Landscape"

HONORS & AWARDS

- Accepted into the inaugural Curatorial Digital Leadership program by Culture24 and Association of Art Museum Curators (2022-23)
- Bart McCash Memorial Scholarship, Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History (2021)
- May Dean Eberling Scholarship, Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History (2021)
- American Ceramic Circle 2018 Symposium scholarship, hosted by the Detroit Institute of Arts (2018)
- Mariner Ceramics Scholarship to attend the MESDA Summer Institute, "The Lowcountry" (2018)
- Maxfield Scholarship to attend the 2018 Mount Vernon Decorative Arts Symposium (2018)
- Frank L. Horton Scholarship to attend the MESDA Summer Institute, "The Great Wagon Road" (2017)
- Frank L. Horton Scholarship to attend the MESDA Summer Institute, "The Upper Chesapeake" (2016)
- Scholarship to attend the Victorian Society of America's 40th Anniversary London Summer School in England (2014)
- Dewey Lee Curtis Scholarship to attend The Decorative Arts Trust Spring Symposium, *Bermuda: Decorative Arts, Architecture, History* (2014)
- Scholarship to attend the Sewell C. Biggs Winterthur Furniture Forum, *Philadelphia Furniture: New Inquiries & Insights* (2014)
- Scholarship to attend the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art's Winterim Intensive in New York City (2014)
- Elizabeth Callis Scholarship to attend the 64th Annual Colonial Williamsburg Antiques Forum (2012)
- Spotswood Society, docent and tour guide—lead interpretive tours of the historic Sir Christopher Wren Building and William & Mary's Historic Campus, and aided in maintaining the building's integrity as an historic site (2011-2012)
- Awarded \$3000 summer research scholarship for independent work on the history of illustration techniques; attended class at the Rare Book School at UVA – "Introduction to the History of Illustration" (Summer 2011) as a W&M James Monroe Scholar (2009-2012)

SKILLS

- Object handling, cleaning, storage, and care (particularly ceramics, textiles, furniture)
- Collections database software, including The Museum System and PastPerfect
- Archival standards and practices
- Digital History
- Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, &c.
- Public speaking; tour leader
- Adobe Creative Suite
- Blackboard
- G Suite
- Microsoft Office Suite
- WordPress; Squarespace; blogging
- Valid U.S.A. driver's license
- Classically trained vocalist with a background in theatre and dance performance

ORGANIZATIONS

- American Alliance of Museums
- American Association for State and Local History
- American Ceramic Circle (Book Award Committee, 2018–present)
- American Historical Association
- Association of Art Museum Curators
- Association for the Study of African American Life and History
- Association for Graduate Students of History, MTSU (Ph.D. representative, 2021-2022)
- Decorative Arts Trust
- William & Mary Alumni Chapter Boards – New York (2012–2015) and Charleston (2015–2016)
- Institute of Classical Architecture & Art
- National Council on Public History
- National Trust for Historic Preservation (U.S.)
- Royal Oak Foundation
- Southeastern Museums Conference
- Southern Historical Association
- Tennessee Association of Museums
- Victorian Society of America
- Young American Friends of the Georgian Group