

FUArt Alumni Newsletter

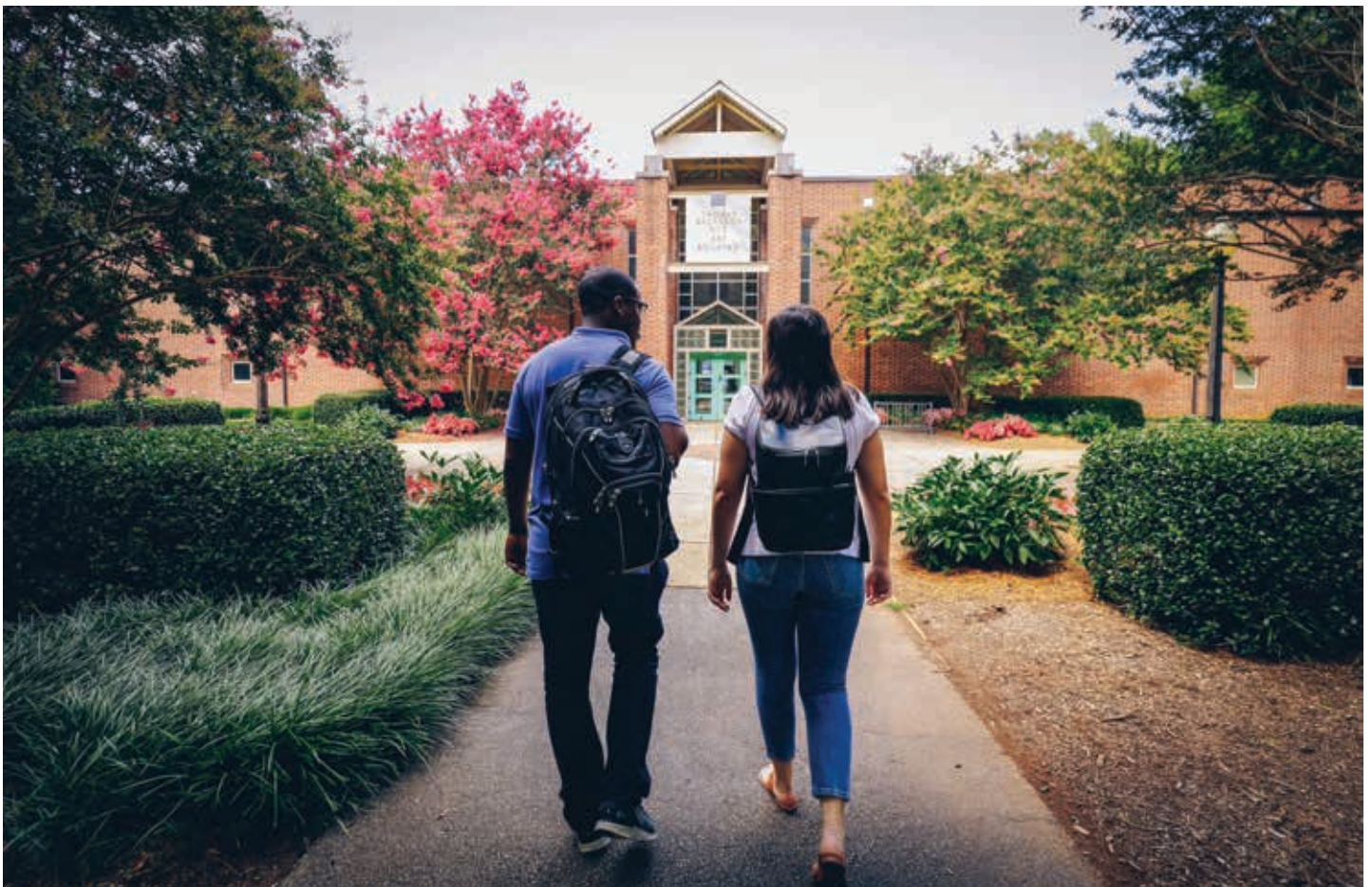
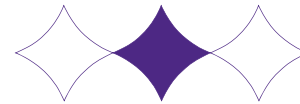
Fall 2024

Welcome Home!

Greetings from the faculty, staff, and students of the Furman Art Department! It has been another wonderful year, full of exciting programs, research, and adventures. We are so happy to share much of the work we've been doing over the last year with you, and of course, we would love to hear from you as well! If you are planning to visit Furman for Homecoming, we would love to see you. In addition to our usual tent that will be set up during Saturday's Homecoming and Reunion Village, we will also have the Thompson Art Gallery open on Saturday so that folks can come see our latest exhibition, *Found Family: Queerness and Community in the South*. If you won't be on campus this year, please fill out our alumni survey and tell us all about your latest accomplishments and adventures. We hope you'll be in touch!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MayX Programs	2-3
Undergraduate Research and Projects	4-6
Furman Fellows	7
Gallery and Art Events	8-9
Faculty Updates	10-11

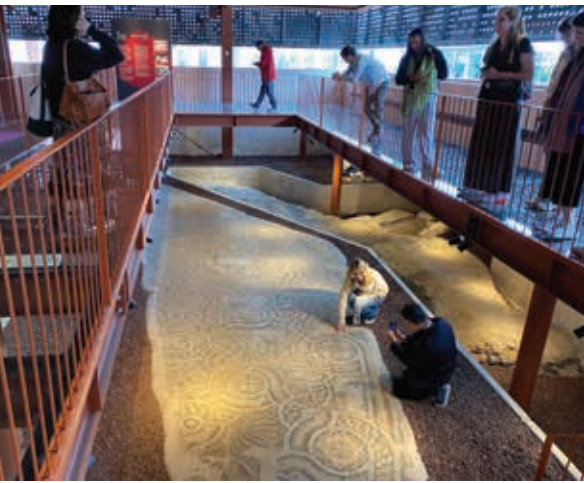


May Experience

◆ Art & Empires

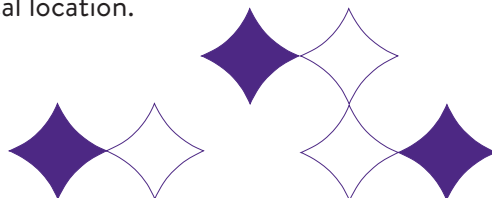


For a second year in a row, Professors Kylie Fisher and Mike May spent three weeks abroad with 20 Furman student as part of their MayX course, Art & Empires. The class traveled to London, Paris, and Amsterdam where they visited numerous museums, religious spaces, and public monuments to interrogate how such sites functioned as imperial projects. While visiting these spaces, students engaged in drawing exercises to reflect on the narratives that are shaped about global cultures through artistic representations.



◆ Religion & Art

Professors Terri Bright (Art) and Claude Stulting (Religion) joined forces to lead sixteen Furman students on a three-week May experience in Turkey. The group visited religious and cultural sites in Istanbul, Izmir, and Ankara with day trips that included archaeological sites, museum visits, and several days of sailing on the Aegean. The students (and Professor Bright) produced a portfolio of photographic images, and experienced first-hand the melding of Byzantine and Ottoman religious/artistic traditions in one geographical location.



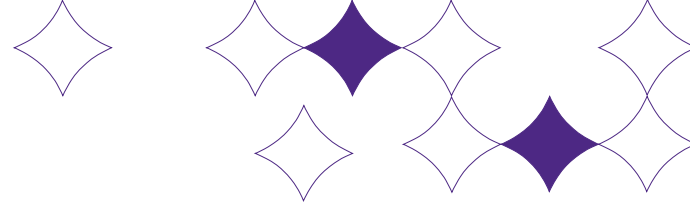


◆ Museums and Medicine

Along with a dozen students, Dr. Sarah Archino (Art History) and Dr. Carmela Epright (Philosophy) used museums and libraries across New York City as a “rehearsal space” for interpreting complex, sometimes contradictory visual information. Many of the students who participated are planning for careers in the medical field, where such skills of observation and communication are vital. By talking through the processes of looking, we can all become better aware of our biases, the ways we reach conclusions, and learn to be more comfortable with differences of opinion.



Summer Research

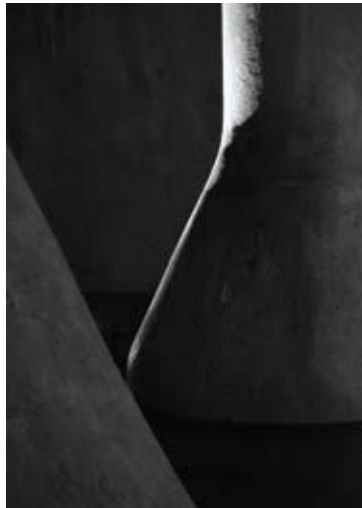


Engulf / Expose / Unearth / Squish

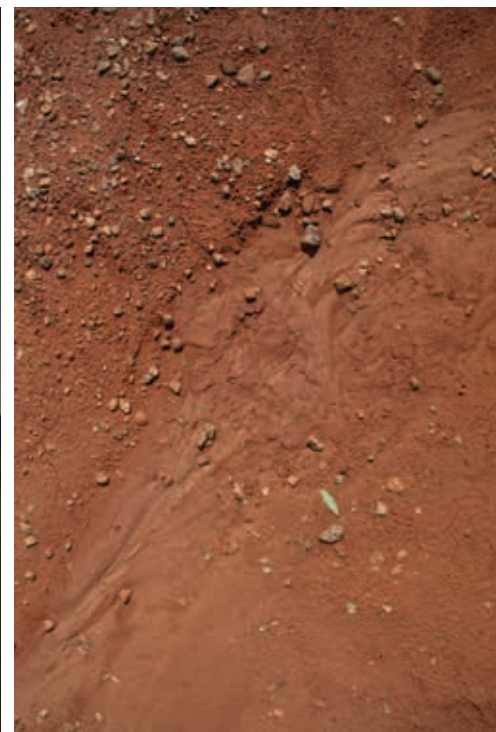
Summer Research Exhibition with students **Anna Timbes** and **Stella Peters**



Engulf / Expose / Unearth / Squish is an exhibition featuring new works by Summer 2024 Student Research Fellows: Stella Peters '25 and Anna Timbes '26, alongside their faculty mentors: Terri Bright and Kevin Kao. Working in close collaboration for two months, the faculty-student teams conducted artistic research through disciplinary-specific studies and practices in photography and sculpture, creating a body of work guided by distinct themes of land, body, site, and sensation.



Engulf / Expose / Unearth / Squish is titled from a compilation of four words, each chosen by an artist to reflect their individual approaches to artistic research during the summer. A shared theme of place emerges through the exhibition, interpreted in a variety of ways. Anna Timbes explores sustainability through her photography and documentation of South Carolina farmers and urban development, portraying the engulfing consequences of industrialization on the local ecosystem. Stella Peters creates semi-representational ceramic sculptures that dissect the female form, exposing the perceptions of gender and body. Terri Bright reframes the subterranean Basilica Cistern in Istanbul, unearthing beauty and stillness within this popular tourist destination. Kevin Kao folds phobia as manifestations: squishing clay and other found materials into humorous dark figures looming through the space.



Summer Research Project Explores Local Queer Art

This summer, art history professor, Kylie Fisher and Studio Art and Politics & International Affairs Major, Alex Aradas '26 researched the Queer arts scene in and around Greenville. Partnering with the newly established Queer Arts Initiative (QAI), Fisher and Aradas built a Queer Arts Directory to promote the biographies and creative work of LGBTQIA+ artists living in the Upstate. Fisher and Aradas also surveyed public murals in the Upstate to make recommendations to the QAI Steering Committee about how to diversify local public art to include the region's LGBTQIA+ stories and identities. Fisher and Aradas's summer research also culminated in the juried exhibition, *Found Family: Queerness and Community in the South*, which is on view in the Thompson Art Gallery this fall. This exhibition features the work of 14 different artists from across the Southeast and brings visibility to Queer identities and experiences in our region. The closing reception will take place on November 15 at 5:30 p.m.



Special Collections Summer Internship



Over the summer, Ainsley Miller '25, looked at Furman University's physical art collection and the way Furman collects physical, visual art in traditional mediums like paintings, drawings, and etchings. She specifically sought to examine the ratio of male to female artists, and representations within these physical pieces. Since she believes Furman to have a unique, and somewhat non-traditional collection, she wanted to investigate how some of these factors may have impacted what Furman has collected over the years, and ask additional questions about the future of the collection, such as, "are we collecting and accepting art that is representative

of the campus, staff, faculty, and the universities values?" She found the male to female ratio of artists in traditional collections seems to be drastically skewed, and therefore, wanted to see if Furman's collection was representative of this trend, and how identifying this trend could impact the ways in which art is collected in the future. Ainsley worked with records, detailing hundreds of works, to determine trends and make suggestions for the future of the collection.

Furman Fellows

Two of our Studio Art majors from the class of 2025 have received one of the Furman University's highest honors. Furman Fellowships are awarded each year to recognize senior's accomplishments, contributions, and potential, with a \$10,000 award to pursue their academic, creative, and professional pathways.

To apply, each of this year's awardees proposed a project that they will lead during their senior year and ultimately present at Furman Engaged, the university's annual campus-wide celebration of high-impact learning experiences, in April 2025.



A Studio Arts and Theatre double major, David T. Jones will develop a fashion collection, “Everyman: Son of Eros,” as a modern reinterpretation of the morality play “Everyman.” The show will collaborate with various fields including sustainability studies, theatre arts, art history, sociology and anthropology, and aims to engage audiences with sustainable clothing practices. “Where the original represents everyone, the modern interpretation does not. I want to explore this idea of being alien from what society tells you to be and that reminder permeating the world surrounding you,” Jones said.

A Biology and Studio Art double major, Torrey Kridel's project is “The Integration of Art,” a juried art exhibition solely for undergraduate students. Juried exhibitions are highly respected in the art world, but it can be difficult for undergraduates to compete with seasoned artists. “This project aims to foster community and (create) opportunities for shared experiences among participating artists through workshops and a midpoint critique... [and provides an opportunity to show] they can be successful with an art career and open up conversations around the intentional choices between different disciplines,” Kridel said. “Students will also walk away with a powerful portfolio showpiece.”



Sleep When You're Dead

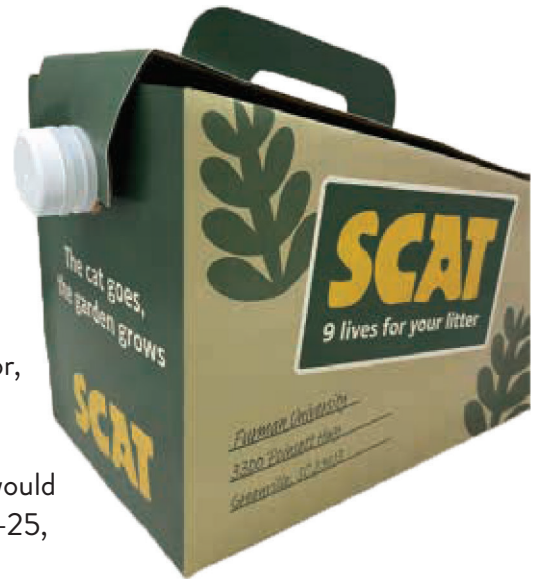
24-Hour Graphic Design Competition

Brewin' lots of Din-ffeine!

Once again, Prof. Ross McClain continues to run the Sleep When You're Dead 24-hour Brand Marathon. Teams of 2-3 students are given 24 hours to devise a branding solution to a creative brief based on relevant products in the marketplace. Then, at the end of the 24 hours (yes, we stay up all night!), the teams present their work to a panel of judges comprised of design and marketing professionals. The judges will provide critical feedback for the students on their concept, execution, strategy, and presentation. Students can win monetary awards of Gold, Silver, and Bronze

Are you looking for an opportunity to engage during Dins Day? The SWYD 24-hour Brand Marathon is a perfect way to financially support a career readiness program/event that continues to benefit Furman Art majors. Your participation and support are integral to the success of this event and the future of our students.

If you'd like to be a part of this transformative event as an advisor, mentor, judge, or financial supporter, contact Ross at ross.mcclain@furman.edu. We would love your support on January 24-25, 2025.



Upcoming Events

2024-2025 Thompson Art Gallery Schedule

August 27 - September 13

Engulf / Expose / Unearth / Squish
Faculty/Student Summer Research Show
Artist Reception: August 29 at 6 p.m.

September 23 - November 15

Found Family: Queerness and Community in the South
Furman Queer Arts Initiative Juried Exhibition
Closing Reception: November 15 at 5:30 p.m.

January 13 - February 7

Curatorial Course Show
Artist Reception: January 23

February 17 - March 28

Artist in Residence Exhibition
Artist Reception: TBA

April 7 - May 10

Senior Show
Artist Reception: April 11



EMPTY BOWLS

Bowl-Making Day
September 28, 10A - 4P

Ceramics Room & Roe Building Courtyard
2-Hour Demos & Sessions:
10 AM, 12 PM, & 2 PM

Empty Bowls is a global grassroots effort to combat hunger and raise awareness about food insecurity.

Through a series of community events, participants create ceramic bowls, which are then sold at a ticketed dinner on October 24, 2024. Proceeds from the sales are donated to Project HOST, a non-profit organization fighting food insecurity in the greater Greenville area. This empty bowls is organized by Donovan Pottery based in Greenville.

The FU Art Department is hosting a bowl-making event on Saturday September 28 from 10 AM - 4 PM. Stop by the Ceramics Room and Roe Building Courtyard to make a bowl that will be donated for charity. Space is limited, please register to participate.

FUart Department of Art
donovan pottery



Register for more information



Empty Bowls Fundraising Dinner

On October 24th at 5:30 p.m., Project Host is partnering with Donovan Pottery for the Empty Bowls initiative, offering a unique convergence of local art and culinary talent to fight hunger. This event invites the community to engage in pottery-making workshops leading up to the dinner, where participants can craft bowls that will later serve as the vessels for a gourmet three-course meal prepared by Chef Mike Sibert, the 2024 Chef Ambassador from White Wine & Butter, and the Project Host culinary team. These bowls, emblematic of the fight against hunger, are kept by participants as a reminder of the community's collective effort. Students participated in a bowl-making day on September 28th, providing both majors the opportunity to aid their community, and non-majors a chance to learn a new skill while doing the same.

Tickets to the dinner are available for purchase on the Project Host website.

Faculty Updates



Welcome to Dana Potter

Dana Potter is a designer, artist, and educator specialized in printmaking, UX/UI, and augmented reality. For six years, Potter has worked as the Senior User Experience Designer for Fortepan US, a national public resource for vernacular photography. With Fortepan, she designs interactive web-based tools for viewing and sharing historic photos, including an Exhibit tool that allows users to create a webpage for telling stories (funded by National Archives) and Mainstreet 360° that allows users to navigate a contemporary virtual street-view overlaid with geolocated historic photos (an NEH project). Potter is the graphic designer for and co-coordinator of Open Air Media Festival, an outdoor media arts program hosted at PS1 in Iowa City (funded by the NEA and Andy Warhol Foundation). As a studio artist her work investigates the mechanics, visualizations, and applications of biometric technologies including eye-trackers, computer-mouse movement recordings, and facial recognition. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking from the University of Knoxville and is an Assistant Professor of Studio Art at Furman University, SC.

Congratulations to Kevin Kao

The Furman University Board of Trustees approved promotion and tenure for Art Professor, Kevin Kao, in May of 2024. He now holds the rank of Associate Professor at Furman University. Kevin Kao is an artist and educator creating work addressing individuality, the body, and the collective experience. Drawing from a background in biology and ecology, he sculpts figure-ish forms as an intersection of nature, taste and objectification. He maintains an active artistic practice and exhibits work nationally, including a recent solo exhibition, with *Breath*, at the Kranzberg Arts Center in 2021. Born in California, Kao has lived and worked across the country, attending the University of Tennessee, Knoxville for graduate studies. Prior to joining Furman in Fall 2021, he served on faculty at McKendree University and Coker College. At Furman, he is responsible for teaching and developing the curriculum within the 3D disciplines of the Art Department. He particularly enjoys teaching ceramics and sculpture as necessary frameworks for students to comprehend and represent the world around them.



Faculty Achievements

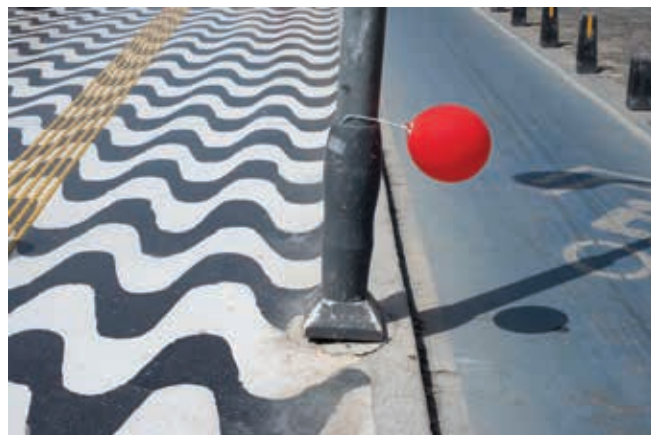


◆ **Kevin Kao** has an outdoor sculpture at the Neue Welt offsite in Nashville, Tennessee. This work will be on view until the end of 2024. This work is part of a series, Caryatids, which started as an exploration of the hair forms on seemingly genderless faces. Like the Ancient Greek Caryatid porch adorning the Erechtheion on the Acropolis, the work positions the figure as a conjecture of structure and space. In this iteration, the figure beckons as pillar and vessel, supporting and holding inferences of the monumental. Similar to the other work Kao creates, the ideal is replaced with an alternative – an Other.

Serving. Upcoming Solo Exhibition: Kevin Kao. April 4-June 1, 2025 at Artspace in Raleigh, NC



◆ **Terri Bright** has been busy editing and printing new photographs from her travels to Turkey. She exhibited in several group exhibitions throughout the Fall and Spring, including a 4-person show with two summer research students and Professor Kao. This Fall her work can be seen at the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (Airport 2024). In addition to teaching and making new work, she is busy doing college visits with daughter Harper who will be off to college next academic year.



◆ Michael May 2024 Exhibitions

42nd Annual Juried Art Competition, Pickens County Museum, Pickens, SC

Pots-n-Prints National Juried Exhibition, Nancy Fyfe Cardozier Gallery, University of Texas Permian Basin, Odessa, TX

Earth, Air, Fire, Water, Modern Visual Arts Gallery, Bethlehem, PA

2nd Place in Artists of the Upstate 2024, Greenville, City Hall, Artisphere 2024, Greenville, SC

Support Furman Art

Are you interested in donating to the Art Department? Use the link below to give to the Furman Art Department. In the "designation" field, select "other" and in the "other" field, specify Art Department. Thank you for your support!

<https://alumni.furman.edu/donate>

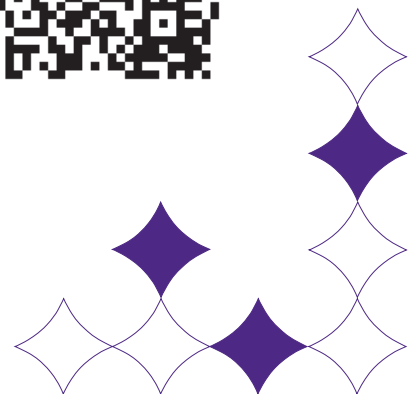


Alumni Survey

We want to hear from you! Click on the QR code to the right and fill out the alumni survey. Don't have time. . . Just drop us a quick line at (864) 294-2995 and let us know where you are and what you're up to.



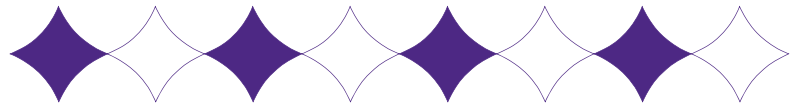
FUART
Furman University Department of Art



Faculty Achievements



◆ **Sarah Archino** continues to research and write on the teaching of visual literacy, serving as the Faculty Associate with Furman's Faculty Development Center. This year, she will also publish a short book on Marcel Duchamp with the Duchamp Research Centre and a book chapter on *The Colbert Report* and its use of parafiction to explore issues of campaign finance reform.



◆ **Kylie Fisher** is excited to announce that her article, "Possessing the Past through Print: Sixteenth-Century Engravings of Imagined Antiquities" was published in the most recent volume of *Sixteenth Century Journal*. This article explores three series of ornamental prints of antique-inspired vases and ewers that have often been characterized as spurious representations of antiquities marketed toward unsuspecting print collectors. Yet, she argues that sixteenth-century printmakers in Rome sought to capitalize on the desire among local antiquarians to cultivate a kind of spiritual bond with the ancient city by inventing antiquities. Her study upends traditional assumptions about how secular prints functioned for early modern viewers by asserting that profane content like representations of fictive antique objects could inspire cultural belief and veneration. These images allowed knowing collectors to recuperate a lost—even if imagined—past, thereby contributing to Rome's mythmaking as its popular epithet: the "Eternal City."

