

Kaylee Spencer  
Curriculum Vitae

**CONTACT**

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**CITIZENSHIP**

US and EU

**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. Art History (2007) University of Texas at Austin  
Dissertation: *Framing the Portrait: Towards an Understanding of Elite Late Classic Maya Representation at Palenque, Mexico*
- M.A. Art History (2000) University of California at Riverside, Riverside, CA
- B.A. Art History (1998) Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, MN

**ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS**

- 2017 – Current, Full Professor, Art Department, [University of Wisconsin – River Falls](#), WI
- 2022 – Current, Consultant and Project Manager, [Museo Modelo](#), Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 – 2022, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Wisconsin – River Falls, WI
- 2019 – 2020, Chancellor’s Administrative Fellow, University of Wisconsin – River Falls, WI
- 2013 – 2016, Chair, Art Department, University of Wisconsin – River Falls, WI
- 2012 – 2017, Associate Professor, Art Department, University of Wisconsin – River Falls, WI
- 2007 - 2012, Assistant Professor of Art History, Art Department, University of Wisconsin – River Falls, WI
- 2005 – 2007, Co-Director and Curator, Ephemeral Space Gallery, Minneapolis / St. Paul. MN.

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS CURATED**

- 2024 *UWRF Alumni Exhibition*, (curated with Hannah Freeman and Eoin Breadon), Gallery 101, University of Wisconsin - River Falls, WI
- 2023 *UWRF Glass Legacy*, (curated with Eoin Breadon) Gallery 101; University of Wisconsin River Falls; Foci-The Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, and Bergstrom-Mahler Museum, Neenah, WI.

- 2022 *Celebrating Her Legacy: Mary Barrett, 1929 – 2017*, (curated with Brett Kallusky), University of Wisconsin-River Falls, WI
- 2021 *Process: The Video Installations of Mackenzie Serwa*, (curated with Eoin Breadon), Gallery 101, University of Wisconsin – River Falls, WI
- 2020 *Oshki Anishinaabeg Miikawaadiziwag: Young Anishinaabe Are Beautiful*, (consultant and coordinator) Hunt + Capture and Deer River High School, Deer River, MN
- 2020 [Just Yesterday](#), (coordinated with Diane Mullin, Weisman Art Museum, and Solve Advertising Agency) Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, MN
- 2019 *Coupling: the Ceramic and Glass Sculptures of Chad Holliday and Chloe Rizzo*, (curated with Eoin Breadon), Gallery 101, University of Wisconsin River Falls.
- 2015 *The Border / La Frontera: Byron Brauchli, Anthony Marchetti, and Laura Migliorino*, (co-curated with Brett Kallusky), Gallery 101, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, WI
- 2011 *Lacey Criswell and Amanda Hankerson, From Sturgis to Testy Festy: Documenting Ephemeral Communities*, (co-curated with Travis Nygard and Linnea Wren). Gallery 101, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, WI, traveling, Ripon College, Ripon, WI, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN
- 2009 *Rob McBroom: Your Ad Here*, Gallery 101, University of Wisconsin-River Fall, WI
- 2007 *Mush, Mush, Masculinity!*, (co-curator, Ephemeral Space), ACVR Warehouse, Saint Paul, MN
- 2007 *Ephemerality*, (co-curator, Ephemeral Space), Tonnage Studios, Minneapolis, MN
- 2006 *[Id] me*, (co-curator, Ephemeral Space), Argyle Zebra Gallery, St. Paul, MN

### **COURSES TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERISTY OF WISCONSIN – RIVER FALLS**

ART 100 Intro to Visual Art

ART 211 World Art History Survey I

ART 212 World Art History Survey II

ART 213 Mod. & Contemporary Art Hist.

ART 249 Professional Practice Seminar I

ART 289 Special Topics: The Art of Colonial Latin America

ART 289 Special Topics: Modern & Contemporary Art of Latin America

ART 291 The Arts of Asia (g)

ART 308 History of Design

ART 321 Gender and Art

ART 392 Pre-Columbian Art

### **INTERNATIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCES**

Power, Persuasion, and Beauty (London and Paris)

ARTscope (London and Paris)

Studio Intensive (Curuamilla, Chile)

Mexico: Cultural Experience (Mexico City, Guadalajara, Taxco, Guanajuato)

## PUBLICATIONS

- (2024) Spencer, Kaylee, Travis Nygard, and Linnea Wren. Caching the Natural and Supernatural Worlds: An Analysis of a Maya Cache Vessel Lid, in *Ceramics of the New World*, eds. Michael Carrasco and Maline Werness-Rude, Springer, New York. Under contract.
- 2018 Wren, Linnea, Cynthia Kristan-Graham, Travis Nygard, and Kaylee Spencer (eds.). *Landscapes of the Itza: Archaeology and Art History of Chichen Itza and Neighboring Sites*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- 2018 Wren, Linnea, Kaylee Spencer, and Travis Nygard. To Face or to Flee from the Foe: Women in Warfare at Chichen Itza. In *Landscapes of the Itza: Archaeology and Art*, eds. Linnea Wren, Cynthia Kristan-Graham, Travis Nygard, and Kaylee Spencer, pp. 259 - 287. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- 2017 Spencer, Kaylee. Reviews of "Engaging Ancient Maya Sculpture at Piedras Negras, Guatemala," by Megan O'Neil (2012, University of Oklahoma Press: Norman) and "Space and Sculpture in the Classic Maya City," by Alexander Parmington (2011, Cambridge University Press, New York), *CAA Reviews* June 2017.
- 2015 Nygard, Travis, Linnea Wren, and Kaylee Spencer. Contemplating Carvings at the Feet of Warrior Queens: Using Mixed Methodology to Understand Sculpture at Yo-okop. In *The Maya of the Cochuah Region: Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives on the Northern Lowlands*, ed. J. Shaw. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.
- 2015 Wren, Linnea, Travis Nygard, and Kaylee Spencer. Establishing and Translating Maya Spaces at Tonina and Ocosingo: How Indigenous Portraits were Moved, Mutilated, and Made Christian in New Spain. In *Memory Traces: Analyzing Sacred Space at Five Mesoamerican Sites*, eds. C. Kristan-Graham and L. Amrhein. University Press of Colorado, Boulder.
- 2015 Werness-Rude, Maline, and Kaylee Spencer (eds.) *Maya Art, Architecture and Activity: Space and Spatiality*. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.
- 2015 Werness-Rude, Maline, and Kaylee Spencer. Imagery, Architecture, and Activity in the Maya World: An Introduction. In *Maya Art, Architecture and Activity: Space and Spatiality*, pp. 1 – 105. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.
- 2015 Spencer, Kaylee. Locating Palenque's Captive Portraits: Space, Spectatorship, and Identity in Classic Maya Art, pp. 229 – 270. In *Maya Art, Architecture and Activity: Space and Spatiality*, eds. M. Werness-Rude and K. Spencer. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.
- 2015 Spencer, Kaylee. Book Review of *The Complete Codex Zouche-Nuttall: Mixtec Lineage Histories and Political Biographies*, by Robert Lloyd Williams. University of Texas Press, Austin, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, vol. 71(1) pp. 115-116.
- 2011 Spencer, Kaylee, and Mathew Dooley. "Mapping the Unidentifiable," *Cartographic Perspectives* 70: 55-56.
- 2009 Review: "Rapture," at Midway Contemporary. *City Pages*, January 28, 2009.

- 2007 Review: "Frida Kahlo," at the Walker Art Center. *City Pages*, October 24, 2007.
- 2007 Review: "Dialogue on the Wall," at the Form and Content Gallery, *City Pages*, August 15, 2007.
- 2007 Review: "In Her Own Right: Minnesota's First Generation of Women Artists," Minnesota Museum of American Art, St. Paul. *City Pages*, July 18, 2007.
- 2007 Review: "A Day in Pompeii," at the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul. *City Pages*, June 27, 2007.
- 2007 Review: "A Mirror of Nature: Nordic Painting 1840-1910," at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis. *City Pages*, June 20, 2007.
- 2006 Spencer, Kaylee, and Linnea Wren (eds.) *The Monkey Scribe, The Newsletter of the Maya Society of Minnesota*. Vol. XXVIII, No. 1, Fall.
- 2004 Wren, Linnea, and Kaylee Spencer, "Periodization of the Arts," in the *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*. New York, Charles Scribner Publishing.
- 2003 "Giovanni Bellori," in *Key Writers on Art: From Antiquity to the Nineteenth Century*. Ed. by C. Murray, London: Routledge Press, pp. 95-100.
- 2002 Spencer, Kaylee, and Linnea Wren, "Religion, Cosmology, and Art," in *Handbook to Life in the Ancient Maya World*. Ed. by Lynn V. Foster. Cambridge: Facts on File, Inc., pp. 157-199.
- 2002 Spencer, Kaylee, and Linnea Wren, "Arithmetic, Astronomy, and the Calendar," in *Handbook to Life in the Ancient Maya World*, in *Handbook to Life in the Ancient Maya World*. Ed. by Lynn V. Foster. Cambridge: Facts on File, Inc., pp. 257-277.
- 2001 Wren, Linnea, Kaylee Spencer, and Krysta Hochstetler, "Political Rhetoric and the Unification of Natural Geography, Cosmic Space, and Gender Spheres," in *Landscape and Power in Ancient Mesoamerica*. Ed. by Rex Koontz, Kathryn Reese-Taylor, and Annabeth Headrick. Boulder: Westview Press, pp. 257-277.
- 1998 Wren, Linnea, Krysta Hochstetler, and Kaylee Spencer (contributors) "Maria Izquierdo," in *Beyond Belief: Modern Art and the Religious Imagination*. Ed. by Rosemary Crumlin, Melbourne: National Gallery of Victoria, pp. 88-89.
- 1998 Wren, Linnea, Kaylee Spencer, and Krysta Hochstetler, "Ritual Dance: Spirituality in Ancient Maya Culture," *Arts: The Arts in Religious and Theological Studies*, Tenth Anniversary Issue. Vol. 10, No.1, pp. 28-35.
- 1998 Spencer, Kaylee, "The Hero Twins and Maya Creation: An Examination of Sacred Space, Ethnography, and Iconography," in *Proceedings of the National Conference on Undergraduate Research*. Ed. by Robert D. Yearout. Ashville: The University of North Carolina, pp. 42-46.

#### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS**

- 2023 T. Nygard, L. Wren, and K. Spencer, "Interpreting an Ancient Maya Masterpiece, Palenque's Oval Palace Tablet: A Case Study Using UNESCO's Intercultural Competences Tree. Annual Conference of the Midwest Art History Society. Milwaukee, WI.

- 2023 K. Spencer, "Classic Maya Cache Vessel Texts and the Stories they Tell," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Portland, OR.
- 2022 K. Spencer and L. Wren, "The Maize God and Ritual Containers," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Chicago, IL.
- 2019 K. Spencer and M. Werness-Rude, "Head on a Platter: A Reexamination of a Classic Maya Cache Vessel Lid," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2018 T. Nygard, K. Spencer, and L. Wren, "Transforming Tezcatlipoca: Aztec Obsidian in Christian Europe," SECAC, Birmingham, AL.
- 2018 M. Werness-Rude and K. Spencer, "A Good Footing: The Importance of Plaza Design in the Northern Maya Lowlands," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Washington D.C.
- 2018 K. Spencer and M. Werness-Rude, "Stepping into History: Maya Stairs as Sites of Memory," Annual Conference for the College Art Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2018 Kaylee Spencer and Maline Werness-Rude, "Critical Steps: Staircase and Staircase Design in the Northern Maya Lowlands," Maya Society of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.
- 2017 K. Spencer and M. Werness-Rude, "Maya Architecture in the Northern Lowlands," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, B.C.
- 2016 K. Spencer and M. Werness-Rude, "Spatial Arrangements at Chichen Itza," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando, FL.
- 2016 K. Spencer, "Activating Architecture: Performance and Experience in the Ancient Maya World," The Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI.
- 2016 M. Werness-Rude and K. Spencer, "Architectural Framing in the Northern Maya Lowlands," Presented at the Maya Meetings at Texas, Austin, TX.
- 2015 K. Spencer and M. Werness-Rude, "Columns and Ideology-Building in the Northern Maya Lowlands," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, CA.
- 2015 M. Werness-Rude and K. Spencer, "Staircases and Experiences in the Northern Lowlands: The Architecture of Political Control." Presented at Papers in Honor of Linda Schele — In the Realm of the Vision Serpent: Decipherments and Discoveries in Mesoamerica. Cal State, LA, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2015 K. Spencer, Linnea Wren, and Travis Nygard, "The Portraits of Tonina and Ocosingo: How Images of Maya Monarchs were Moved to Make Meanings in New Spain," Midwest Art History Society 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting. St. Paul, MN.
- 2015 Panelist for discussion following screening of *Dance of the Maize God*, a film by David LeBrun. Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.
- 2014 K. Spencer "Locating Palenque's Captive Portraits: Space, Spectatorship, and Identity in Classic Maya," Institute of Fine Arts – Veracruz, Xalapa, Mexico.
- 2014 Panel Discussant, "Maya Artists and their Audiences," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, TX.

- 2014 L. Wren, T. Nygard, and K. Spencer, "Establishing and Translating Maya Spaces at Tonina and Ocosingo; How Indigenous Portraits were Moved, Mutilated, and Made Christian in New Spain," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, TX.
- 2013 K. Spencer, T. Nygard, and L. Wren, "What do Art Historians Contribute to the Maya Picture? Approaches to Understanding Maya Art," Beaker and Brush Series, the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.
- 2012 K. Spencer, "Activating the Built Environment: Architectural Sculpture and Ritual among the Classic Maya, The Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI.
- 2012 L. Wren, T. Nygard, and K. Nygard, "To Face or to Flee from the Foe: Women in Warfare at Chichen Itza, Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Memphis, TN.
- 2011 K. Spnecer, T. Nygard, L. Wren, and A. Hankerson, "Sculptural Mutilation at Palenque and Tonina: Rethinking the Evidence, SECAC, Savannah GA.
- 2011 M. Dooley and K. Spencer, "Mapping Captivity: Ancient Maya Portraits of Prisoners of War," the Annual Meeting of the North American Cartographic Information Society, Madison, WI.
- 2011 "Locating Palenque's Portraits: Space, Spectatorship, and Identity in Classic Maya Art," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Sacramento, CA.
- 2011 K. Spencer, "Sustaining Royal Maya Identities: A Study of Shifting Environments and Late Classic Portraiture," the Annual Conference for the College Art Association, New York, NY.
- 2010 K. Spencer, "Embodying Slippage: An Exploration of Captive Portraits and Spectatorship in Classic Maya Art," the Maya Society of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.
- 2009 K. Spencer, "Identity and Captivity in Usumacinta-region Art of the Ancient Maya," Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta, GA.
- 2008 K. Spencer, "Mimesis and Alterity in Late-Classic Portraiture at Palenque," the 41st Annual Chacmool Conference, Calgary, AB.
- 2007 K. Spencerm "Matters of the Head and Why Heads Matter: Revisiting the Portraits of Palenque,". Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, BC.

#### **PANELS AND CONFERENCE SESSIONS ORGANIZED**

- 2022 Chair, "Classic Maya Ceramics, Iconography, and Dyes," The Annual Conference for the Society of American Archaeology, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Chair, "Composite Art in the Colonies of Europe: Stealing, Smiting, Enshrining, Erasing, Re-carving, and Recontextualizing," the Annual Conference of the College Art Association, New York, NY.
- 2012 Chair "Administrative Abuses and Faculty Resistance in the Fine Arts: Case Studies in Academic Labor," Sponsored by the Radical Art Caucus for the College Art Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2011 Co-Chair (with M. Werness-Rude), "New Perspectives on Old Issues Part II:

Spatial Constructs, The Conference for the Society of American Archaeology (SAA),  
Sacramento, CA.

### **GRANTS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2019 (Summer) Faculty Research Grant for archival research and writing at UCLA
- 2017 (Spring) Sabbatical Award
- 2016 Award for Outstanding Faculty Member for Teaching Excellence in the College of Arts and Sciences
- 2015 B. Kallusky, K. Spencer, and B. Ficek-Swenson (co-organizers/curators) Year of Mexico Activity Grant for *The Border / La Frontera*: Byron Brauchli, Anthony Marchetti, and Laura Migliorino. Gallery 101, University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- 2015 Faculty Research Grant, University of Wisconsin – River Falls – in support of archival research at the Benson Latin American Collections, University of Texas – Austin.
- 2014 Robert P. Knowles Endowment in International Education Grant.
- 2014 Professional Development Grant, University of Wisconsin – River Falls. For travel to Veracruz, Mexico
- 2013 Professional Development Grant, University of Wisconsin – River Falls. For travel to the College Art Association (CAA) in New York, NY
- 2012 Award for Outstanding Faculty Member for Excellence in Advising in the College of Arts and Sciences
- 2012 Professional Development Grant, University of Wisconsin – River Falls. For travel to the College Art Association (CAA) in Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 Travel Grant, North American Cartographic Information Society. For travel to the North American Cartographic Information Society's Annual Meeting in Madison, WI
- 2010 Professional Development Grant, University of Wisconsin – River Falls. For travel to the College Art Association (CAA) in New York, NY
- 2009 Professional Development Grant, University of Wisconsin – River Falls. For travel to the Society for American Archaeology Conference in Atlanta, GA

### **SERVICE TO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY**

- 2022 Member, Search and Screen Committee, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Division of Academic Affairs
- 2021 – 2022 Dean's Office Recruiting Presenter, Campus Close-Up Days, Campus Profile Events, Admitted Student Day
- 2019 – 2022 Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Awards Committee
- 2018 – 2021 Member, College of Arts and Sciences Promotions Committee
- 2022 Member, Search and Screen Committee, Professional Advisor, Division of Student Success
- 2021 Member Search and Screen Committee, Professional Advisor, Division of Student Success
- 2018 – 2021 Chair, University Curriculum Committee

- 2016 – 2018, Member, Academic Policies and Procedures Committee
- 2014 – 2018 Member, Undergraduate, Research and Creative Activity Committee
- 2012 Chair of Graduate Thesis Committee, Jason McIntyre, “Figures and Abstraction” MSE – Fine Arts
- 2008 – 2011 Member, Academic Programs and Policies Committee
- 2008 – 2011 Member, University Curriculum Committee

### **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS ATTENDED**

- 2023 Trauma Informed Pedagogies, University of Wisconsin, River Falls.
- 2023 Mind over Monsters, Sarah Rose Cavanaugh, University of Wisconsin, River Falls.
- 2023 Thinking about the Olmec World from the Pacific Coast, Julia Guernsey and Michael Love, the Maya Society of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.
- 2019 Designing the Future of Liberal Education, University of Wisconsin - River Falls.
- 2018 Canvas Mentors Program, University of Wisconsin - River Falls.
- 2018 Teaching Diversity Effectively, University of Wisconsin - River Falls.
- 2013 The Serpent Story: Deciphering a Major Maya Kingdom, Simon Martin, Maya Society of Minnesota, Institute for Advanced Study, and the Science Museum of Minnesota.
- 2013 Maya Mural Paintings: The Bonampak and San Bartolo Murals, Heather Hurst, Maya Society of Minnesota, Institute for Advanced Study, and the Science Museum of Minnesota.
- 2013 Hieroglyphic Workshop: The Art and Inscriptions Exhibited in “Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed, Nick Hopkins, Maya Society of Minnesota, Institute for Advanced Study, and the Science Museum of Minnesota.
- 2013 Masonry, Memory and Meaning in Inka Rockwork, Carolyn Dean, Maya Society of Minnesota, Weisman Art Museum and Hamline University, Minneapolis/St. Paul.
- 2012 *Mexican Divinatory Almanacs*, (William Barnes, St. Thomas University, St. Paul, MN), Maya Society of Minnesota, MN, Feb. 3-4, 2012
- 2011 The Mirador Basin: The Cultural and Natural Legacy in the Cradle of Maya Civilization, Maya Society of Minnesota, Saint Paul.
- 2010 Understanding the Maya Codices: Deities, Rituals, and Sacred Time, Gabrielle Vail, Maya Society of Minnesota, Saint Paul.
- 2009 Performing Rulership during the Late Preclassic: Landscape, Themes, and Symbols from the Pacific Piedmont, Julia Guernsey, Maya Society of Minnesota, Saint Paul.
- 2008 Ancient Maya Agriculture and Land Management: Assessing Ancient Maya Sustainability, Scott Fedick, Maya Society of Minnesota, Saint Paul.
- 2007 The American Mediterranean: The Veracruz Gulf Coast and Mesoamerican Civilization, Rex Koontz, Maya Society of Minnesota, Saint Paul.
- 2007 Hieroglyphic Inscriptions of Palenque: New Interpretations and Questions Surrounding Texts from the Age of K'inich Janaab Pakal and His Sons, Michael Carrasco, Maya Society of Minnesota, St. Paul.



2007 Philosophy & Practice: The Preservation and Conservation of Native American Materials, Midwest Conservation Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Joseph Horse Capture, Minneapolis.

### **FIELDWORK**

- 2014 Space and Spatial Analysis in the Northern Lowlands (photographed monuments and collected data at archaeological sites in Campeche, Yucatan, and Quintana Roo, Mexico).
- 2010 Palenque Portrait Project (Photography and data collection at Palenque, Toniná, Ake, Izamal, and National Museum in Merida, Mexico (Summer)
- 2008 Usumacinta-region Portrait Documentation Project (photographed Maya monuments in Central Mexican collections: Museo Nacional de Antrpología, Mexico City; Alhondiga de Granaditas Regional Museum, Guanajuato; Museo de Arte Prehispanico, Tepoztlán; and Teotihuacan (Jan)

### **LANGUAGES**

English (native speaker)  
Spanish (reading: fluent; speaking: intermediate)  
German (speaking and speaking: intermediate)  
Italian (beginning reading and speaking)  
Yucatec Mayan (beginning reading and speaking)  
Hieroglyphic Mayan (beginning reading)

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

Maya Society of Minnesota (since 2004)  
College Art Association (since 2007)  
Society for American Archaeology (since 2007)