

Karen Eileen Overbey

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Education

Ph.D. 2003, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
Dissertation: *The Space of the Holy Body: Relics and Reliquaries in Medieval Ireland*
(committee: Jonathan J.G. Alexander, Lucy Freeman Sandler, Catherine McKenna)
M.A. 1995, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
B.A. 1991, University of Illinois-Chicago

Academic Appointments

2013- Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Art and Art History, Tufts University
2007-2013 Assistant Professor (TT), Department of Art and Art History, Tufts University
2004-2007 Assistant Professor (TT), Department of Fine Arts, Seattle University
2003-2004 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Art History, Beloit College

Publications

Books

Sacral Geographies: Saints, Shrines, and Territory in Medieval Ireland. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2012.

Edited Volumes

“Hoarders and Hordes: Approaches to the Staffordshire Hoard,” edited by Karen Eileen Overbey and Maggie M. Williams, special issue, *postmedieval* 7.3 (2016) [in press]

Walk on the Beach, edited by Karen Eileen Overbey and Maggie M. Williams. *Things from the Sea*, vol. 1. New York: Punctum Books, 2016 [in press]

“Active Objects,” edited by Karen Eileen Overbey and Ben C. Tilghman, special issue, *Different Visions* 4 (2014).
<http://www.differentvisions.org>

Transparent Things, edited by Karen Eileen Overbey and Maggie M. Williams. New York: Punctum Books, 2013.

The Bayeux Tapestry: New Interpretations, edited by Martin K. Foys, Karen Eileen Overbey and Dan Terkla. Woodbridge, Suffolk, U.K.: Boydell and Brewer, 2009.

Articles, Essays, Chapters

[with Jennifer Borland] “Diagnostic Performance and Diagrammatic Manipulation in the Folding Physician’s Almanac,” in *The Agency of Things: Art, Religion and Medicine in Early Modern Europe*, ed. Zuzanna Sarnecka (New York: Routledge/Ashgate, publication in progress)

“Passing Time with the Staffordshire Hoard,” in “Hoarders and Hordes: Approaches to the Staffordshire Hoard,” edited by Karen Eileen Overbey and Maggie M. Williams, special issue, *postmedieval* 7.3 (2016) [in press]

“Material Networks: Belt Relics in Early Ireland and Anglo-Saxon England,” in *Insular Cultures*, ed. Mary Clayton, Alice Jorgensen, and Juliet Mullins. *Essays in Anglo-Saxon Studies* 7. Tempe: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2016 [in press]

“Introduction,” in Henry Leutwyler, *Document*. Göttingen: Steidl, 2016

“Seeing Through Stone: Materiality and Place in a Scottish Pendant Reliquary,” *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 65/66 (2015): 240-256

“Decorative Arts,” in *Oxford Bibliographies in Medieval Studies*, ed. Paul Szarmach. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/obo/page/medieval-studies>

[with Anne F. Harris] “Lush Ethics.” In *The Future We Want: A Collaboration*, ed. Jeffrey Jerome Cohen. New York: Oliphant Books, 2014

[with Ben C. Tilghman] “Introduction.” In “Active Objects,” edited by Karen Overbey and Ben C. Tilghman, special issue, *Different Visions* 4 (2014).

“Reflections on the Surface, or, Notes for a Tantric Art History,” In *Transparent Things*, edited by Karen Eileen Overbey and Maggie M. Williams. 1-16. New York: Punctum Books, 2013.

[with Maggie M. Williams] “Introduction: Dear Material Collective.” In *Transparent Things*, edited by Karen Eileen Overbey and Maggie M. Williams, i-iv. New York: Punctum Books, 2013.

“Postcolonial.” In “Medieval Art History Today: Critical Terms,” edited by Nina Rowe, special issue, *Studies in Iconography* 33 (2012): 145-156.

“Taking Place: Relics and Territorial Authority on the Bayeux Embroidery.” In *The Bayeux Tapestry: New Interpretations*, edited by Martin K. Foys, Karen Eileen Overbey and Dan Terkla, 36-50. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2009.

[with Martin Foys and Dan Terkla] “Introduction: Fifty Years of (Re)Producing the Bayeux Tapestry.” In *The Bayeux Tapestry: New Interpretations*, edited by Martin K. Foys, Karen Eileen Overbey, and Dan Terkla, xii-xvi. Woodbridge, Suffolk, U.K.: Boydell and Brewer, 2009.

“Female Trouble: Ambivalence and Anxiety at the Nuns’ Church, Clonmacnois.” *Celtic Studies Association of North America Yearbook* 7 (2008): 93-112.

“Locating the Book: The Domnach Airgid Shrine in Medieval Ireland.” In *Tributes to Jonathan J.G. Alexander: The Making and Meaning of Illuminated Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts, Art, and Architecture*, edited by Susan L’Engle and Gerald B. Guest, 487-495. London: Harvey Miller, 2006.

“(Art)History Underground.” *Foilsíú* 4 (Spring 2004): 147-163.

“Mapping the Sacred: Time, space, and politics in the stories of the saints.” *Foilsíú* 1 (Spring 2001): 133-144.

Book Reviews

“Sacred Traditions: New Work on Saints, Irish and Otherwise.” Review of *Studies in Irish Hagiography: Saints and Scholars*, edited by John Carey, Máire Herbert, and Pádraig Ó Riain, and *Medieval Hagiography: An Anthology*, edited by Thomas Head. *Foilsíú* 2 (Spring 2002): 103-109.

Publications in Progress

Broken Things: Materiality, Embodiment, and Medieval Objects [book project; work in progress]

“Post Anglo-Saxon: St Kenelm in Image and Performance” [article; work in progress]

[with Rachel Dressler] “From Romanesque to Gothic,” special issue of *Different Visions* [in preparation]

Conferences and Lectures*Invited lectures and conferences*

- 2016 [scheduled]“Medieval Irish Masterpieces in Modern Reproduction,” Exhibition and Symposium, Spurlock Museum, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
Invited Lecture: “Crafting Presence and Memory: Luxury Metalwork in Medieval Ireland”
- Smart Lecture Series, University of Chicago
Invited Lecture: “Moving Pictures and Spaces of Knowledge in Late Medieval England”
- “The Celts: History, Culture, Legend,” Humanities West Public Program, San Francisco
Invited Lecture: “Making Celtic Art: Materials and Meaning from the Iron Age to the Internet”
- “Celtic Revival: Authenticity and Identity,” London, The British Museum
Invited Lecture: “Bell Relics, Bell Shrines, and the Presence of the Past”
- 2015 41st New England Medieval Conference, “Slow Catastrophe,” Northeastern University
Invited Paper: “The Long Slow Life and Death of the Staffordshire Hoard”
- “Agency of Things: New Perspectives on European Art of the 14th-16th Centuries,” University of Warsaw/National Museum of Poland, Warsaw
Paper: “Manual Medicine”
- Art History Speaker Series, Elon University
Invited Lecture: “A Material Sense of Space”
- 2014 3rd Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, “On the Beach,” Santa Barbara Seminar and Flash Exhibition participant: “Walk on the Beach/Things from the Sea”
- Department of Art, Graphic Design, and Art History Art History, Oklahoma State
Invited Lecture: “Pilgrimage, Place, and Performance: the Life of St Kenelm, Medieval to Modern”
- The Medieval Institute Conference, “Medieval Art History After the Interdisciplinary Turn,” University of Notre Dame
Paper: [with Jennifer Borland] “Folding and Unfolding the Physician’s Almanac”
- 2013 Carleton College, Department of Art and Art History
Invited Lecture: “Fashion for Holiness: An Eighth-Century Belt Shrine and Other Medieval Clothing Relics”
- Biennial Conference of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, Dublin
Paper: “Material Networks: Belt and Clothing Relics in Early Ireland and Anglo-Saxon England”
- 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Panelist: “The Future We Want: A Collaboration”
- Delaware Valley Medieval Association Symposium
Invited Roundtable Participant: “Past and Future of Medieval Studies”
- 33rd Annual Conference of the Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University
Flash Session: “England Under Glass”

- 2012 International Center of Medieval Art & Les Enluminures, New York
Invited lecture: "Byzantium and the West: Jewelry in the First Millennium" (with Elizabeth Williams, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU)
- 2nd Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, "Cruising the Ruins," Boston
Paper: "The Edge of the Material: Garnets and Gold in the Staffordshire Hoard"
- Medieval Club of New York
Invited lecture: "Post-Anglo-Saxon: St Kenelm in Pictures and Performance"
- 2011 Graduate Medieval Association Annual Workshop, New York University
Invited lecture: "Off the Books: Iconography and Medieval Objects"
- 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Panelist: "The Job Market for Medieval Art Historians"
- February 2011, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore
Colloquium participant: "Treasures of Heaven"
- 2010 Disputing the Global Symposium, Tufts University
Paper: "Global Time: Temporality and the Past in Global Art History"
- 1st Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, "After the End," Austin, TX
Paper: "Tantric Art History; or, Reflection, Transparency, and Desire"
- 17th International Medieval Congress, Leeds
Panelist: "How Other is the Other, and Where is the Other? A Roundtable Discussion"
- AHRC Research Network, Leeds University
Workshop participant: "Postcolonising the Medieval Image"
- 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Panelist: "Key Concepts in Medieval Art History (A Roundtable)"; Paper: 'Post-Colonial'
- Medieval Academy Annual Meeting, New Haven
Paper: "Seeing Through Skin: Gems, Jewels, and Crystals on Medieval Reliquaries"
- 2009 German-American Frontiers of Humanities Symposium, Postdam, Germany
Symposium Participant: "Sovereign Bodies, Subject Bodies"
- College Art Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles
Paper: "Meta-space, relics, and the devotional imagination"
- 2008 The Irish College, sponsored by The Wild Geese, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield CT
Keynote: "Myth, Memory and the Medieval Past in Irish Art"
- Fall Symposium, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Tempe AZ
Keynote: "Relics and Ritual: performing the absent bodies of Irish saints"
- The 28th Harvard Celtic Colloquium
Paper: "Clothes Make the (Holy) Man: Clothing Relics in Medieval Ireland"
- 2007 42st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Paper: "Re-Placing the Saints: Anglo-Saxon Cults and Post-Conquest Devotions"
- 2006 The 26th Harvard Celtic Colloquium
Paper: "Dearbfoigall and the Politics of Patronage, Medieval and Modern"

- International Medieval Congress, Leeds
Paper: "Relics and Referents in the Bayeux Tapestry"
- 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Paper: "Desperately Seeking Dearbforaill" [with Lahney Preston-Matto]
- 2005 Academic Day Convocation, Seattle University
Keynote: "Visualizing the Body"
- 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Paper: "Still Imagining? The Irish Borders of Art History"
- 93rd Annual Conference of the College Art Association, Atlanta
Paper: "Crozier and Crises of Authority in Medieval Ireland"
- 2004 ACIS Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, Princeton University
Paper: "Art and Desire: Visual Culture and Irish Studies"
- Beloit Art League
Invited lecture: "Bones, Books and Bells: The Cult of Saint Patrick"
- 2003 Celtic Representations Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder
Keynote: "Medieval Ireland in the Modern Imagination"
- 5th GRIAN Conference on Irish Studies, New York, March 2003
Keynote: "(Art)History Underground"
- Columbia University Irish Studies Roundtable
Invited lecture: "St Manchan's Shrine: Politics, Patronage and Iconography"
- 2002 The 22nd Harvard Celtic Colloquium
Paper: "Holy Ground: the Places and Politics of St. Manchan's Shrine"
previous version presented at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, July 2001
- 2001 Colloquium of the New York Doctoral Consortium, Fordham University
Paper: "Sacred Spaces, Political Traces: The *Domnach Airgid* Shrine in Medieval Ireland"
- 2000 14th Irish Conference of Medievalists, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Paper: "Bell Shrines and the Performance of Monastic Identity"
- 2nd GRIAN Conference on Irish Studies, New York
Paper: "Mapping the Sacred: time, space, and politics in the stories of the saints"
- 1999 34th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Paper: "The 'Place' of Iona in the Irish Life of Colum Cille"
- Celtic Studies Association of North America Annual Meeting, New York
Paper: "Container/Contained: Bells, Bell-Relics & Bell-Shrines in Medieval Ireland"
- 1st GRIAN Conference on Irish Studies, New York, March 1999
Paper: "Constructing Communal Identity: The *Domnach Airgid*"

Panels and Conferences Organized/Chaired/Moderated (recent)

- 2016 91st Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Boston
Panel Organizer and Moderator: "Water Worlds and Seascapes"

- Panel Organizer and Moderator: "Ruins: A Roundtable"
Panel Co-Organizer: "Material Ecologies"
- 2015 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Panel Co-Organizer: "Medieval Art: From Romanesque to Gothic" (Roundtable)
Panel Co-Organizer: "Looking Forward, Looking Back: The ICMS at 50" (Roundtable)
- 2014 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Panel Co-Organizer: "Portable Culture: Objects and Ideas across the Northern Seas, 500-1500 (A Roundtable)"; session sponsored by the American Society of Irish Medieval Studies
- 3rd Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, Santa Barbara
Conference Organizing Committee
- 3rd Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, Santa Barbara
Panel Co-Organizer: "Things From the Sea: A Material Ecology"
- 2013 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Panel Chair: "Time and the Medieval Object"
- 2012 2nd Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, Boston
Conference Organizing Committee
- 2nd Biennial Meeting of the Babel Working Group, Boston
Panel Co-Organizer: "Hoarders and Hordes: Approaches to the Staffordshire Hoard" (2 panels)
- 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Panel Co-Organizer: "Active Objects I: Optics and Transparency" and "Active Objects II: Agency and Phenomenology" (2 panels); sessions sponsored by the International Center for Medieval Art
- 2010 17th International Medieval Congress, Leeds
Panel organizer: "Crossing Boundaries: Object Networks and Visual Cultures"
- 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Panel Chair: "The Power and Praxis of Relics I: Expanding the Definition and Analysis of 'Contact' Relics"
- 2008 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Panel Organizer: "Ireland, Invasions, Migrations" (4 panels); sessions sponsored by the American Society for Irish Medieval Studies
- 2007 42st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Panel Co-Organizer: "Insular Art and Artifacts: Contexts and Approaches"

Grants/Fellowships/Awards

- 2014 Samuel H. Kress Foundation, Summer Teachers Institute in Technical Art History, Conservation Center, Institute of Fine Arts
- 2012 Faculty Fellowship, CELT (Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching), Tufts University
- 2011 Summer Scholars Grant [directing undergraduate research], Tufts University
- 2009 German-American Frontiers of Humanities Symposium Grant, Humboldt Foundation/American Philosophical Society
- 2008 Faculty Research Award, Summer Research Grant, Tufts University
- 2007 Teacher of the Year, College of Arts and Sciences, Seattle University
- 2005 NEH Summer Seminar, *The Bayeux Tapestry and the Making of the Anglo-Norman World*
- 2004 Dean's Outstanding Dissertation, New York University, Institute of Fine Arts, Nominee

2002-2003	Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, New York University
2001-2002	Council of Friends Fellowship, New York University
	Institute of Fine Arts Fellowship, New York University
1999-2001	Berenson Fellowship, New York University
	Lila Acheson Wallace Fellowship, New York University
1999	Golden Dozen Teaching Assistant Award, School of Arts and Sciences, New York University
	<i>Island: Arts from Ireland</i> Travel Award, The Kennedy Center
1997-1998	B. Sonnenberg Memorial Fellowship, New York University
	Institute of Fine Arts Fellowship, New York University
1996-1999	Robert Lehman Fellowship, New York University
1995-1997	Lila Acheson Wallace Fellowship, New York University
1994-1995	Levy Summer Travel Fellowship, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

Service

University Service, Tufts University

2014-	Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Art & Art History
2012-2013	Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Committee
2012-2013	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Art & Art History
2012-2013	Faculty Advisor, Undergraduate Art History Society
2011-2013	Academic Review Board, World Civilizations Subcommittee Chair
2011-2012	Transfer of Credit Representative, Department of Art & Art History
2010-2011	Caviness Thesis Prize Committee
2010-2011	Committee on Student Life
2010-2011	Search Committee, Islamic Art
2008-2009	Art History Advisor, Museum Studies Program
2008-2009	Graduate Studies Subcommittee for Departmental Self-Study
2008-2012	Pre-Major Academic Advisor
2007-2008	Search Committee, Armenian Art History

University Service, Seattle University

2007	Search Committee, Photography
2007	Search Committee, Director of Instrumental Music
2007	Search Committee, Feminist Philosophy
2006-2007	Assistant Chair, Department of Fine Arts
2006-2007	Director, Core Curriculum Assessment Committee, Department of Fine Arts
2006	Search Committee, Modern/Contemporary Art History
2005-2007	Arts Department Library Representative
2005-2007	Organizer, Annual Student Art Show
2005-2007	Advisory Board, Women's Studies Program
2005	Faculty Juror, S.E.C. Annual Scholastic Competition
2004-2007	Advisory Board, Medieval Studies Program

Professional Service

2016-ongoing	Editorial Board, <i>North American Journal of Celtic Studies</i>
2016-ongoing	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Different Visions: A Journal of New Perspectives on Medieval Art</i> (Open Access)
2016-2019	Membership Committee, International Center of Medieval Art
2014-2016	Publications Committee, International Center of Medieval Art
2014-2016	Planning Committee, Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting
2014-2017	Board of Directors, International Center of Medieval Art
2014	Advisory Committee, Project Andvari (NEH sponsored DH project)
2012-2014	Conference Organizing Committee, Babel Working Group
2012-2013	North American Representative, American Society of Irish Medieval Studies
2012-2013	Tufts Representative, Boston Area Visual Culture Consortium

2012	Juror, Undergraduate Research Symposium, organized by the Boston Area Visual Culture Consortium
2011-2014	Chair, Digital Resources Committee, International Center of Medieval Art
2005-2010	Editorial Board, <i>Eolas: Journal of the American Society of Irish Medieval Studies</i> Executive Committee, American Society of Irish Medieval Studies
2004-2006	Member-at-Large, Celtic Studies Association of America
2004	Planning Committee, ACM Conference on Pedagogy in Medieval Studies
2001-2005	Editorial Board, <i>Foilsú: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Irish Studies</i>
2000-2004	Board of Directors, The GRIAN Association
1999-2003	Conference Organizing Committee, The GRIAN Association

Manuscript reviews

Book Manuscripts for Ashgate Publishing (Burlington, VT)

Journal Articles for *Manuscripta*, *Journal of Medieval History*, *Different Visions*, *Eolas*, *Medieval Feminist Forum*

Edited Volumes for Brill Publishers (Leiden)

Textbooks for Routledge (New York)

Professional Affiliations

The Material Collective

College Art Association

International Center for Medieval Art

Medieval Academy of America

BABEL Working Group

American Society of Irish Medieval Studies

Celtic Studies Association of North America

Hagiography Society

Courses Taught (Selected)

Medieval Materiality

Medieval Maps and Diagrams: Marking Time and Space

Relics and Reliquaries

Medieval Dress Codes

Early Medieval Art

Arts of Medieval Pilgrimage

Medieval Architecture

Romanesque and Gothic Art

Celtic and Early Irish Art

Vikings!

Theories and Methods in Art History

Medieval Hagiography: Text and Image

Medieval Ireland: Warriors, Saints, and Scholars

Art & Society in 20th-century Ireland