

# JESSICA STREIT

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## CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor of Medieval and Islamic Art History

## EDUCATION

- 2013**      **Ph.D., Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**  
*Medieval Studies Program*  
Dissertation Title: "Monumental Austerity: The Meanings and Aesthetic Development of Almohad Friday Mosques"
- 2009**      **M.A., Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**  
*Medieval Studies Program*  
Major Fields: Islamic Art, Romanesque Art, Arabic, History of the Crusades
- 2005**      **B.F.A., University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM**  
*Department of Art and Art History*  
Major: Art History (Medieval, Spanish and Early Renaissance)

**TEACHING** (Past positions: Adjunct Faculty at Hamline University from 2014-2015; Online Adjunct Faculty at Front Range Community College from 2013-2015; Graduate Instructor and Teaching Assistant at Cornell University from 2007-2012)

**History of Art: Prehistoric to Medieval**      **College of Charleston**  
A combined visual and historical survey of Western art from prehistoric through medieval times. The techniques, forms, and expressive content of painting, sculpture, and architecture will be studied within the context of the cultural environment in which they were produced. (Last offered Spring 2016)

**Early Medieval and Romanesque Art**      **College of Charleston**  
A study of architecture, sculpture, painting, and minor arts in Western Europe from the 8th through the 12th centuries, including Insular, Carolingian, Ottonian, and Romanesque art. (Last offered Fall 2015)

**Gothic Art**      **College of Charleston**  
A study of Gothic architecture, sculpture, painting, and minor arts in Western Europe from the 12th through the 15th centuries. Concentration will be on the major architectural monuments and their decoration. (Last offered Spring 2016)

**Special Topics: Islamic Art**      **Hamline University**  
This course introduces students to Islamic art and architecture produced between the early 7th century and the end of the 15th century. Spanning geographically from the Western Mediterranean to Western Asia, it emphasizes religious architecture, while also considering secular structures and material culture. (Last offered Winter 2015)

### **Special Topics: The Arts of Spain**

**Hamline University**

This course introduces students to the art and culture of the Iberian Peninsula (modern Spain) from the medieval to modern period. The place-markers for the semester will be the Islamic conquest (711 CE) and Pablo Picasso's cubist period (c. 1920), and the principle goal will be to understand the material in its social, political and historical context. (Last offered Spring 2015)

### **World Mythology (Online Course)**

**Front Range Community College**

This course introduces students to a multidisciplinary approach to world mythology. Common themes are illustrated and connected to religion, philosophy, art, literature, music, and contemporary culture. In addition, students will study various ways of interpreting myth. (Last offered Spring 2015)

### **The Humanities: Medieval to Modern (Online Course)**

**Front Range Community College**

This course examines written texts, visual arts and musical compositions to analyze and reflect the evolution and confluence of cultures in Europe, Asia and the Americas from 1400 C.E. to 1750 C.E. Any two of the three Survey of Humanities courses equal a sequence. (Last offered Fall 2014)

### **Beyond Spanish Mudejar Architecture**

**Cornell University**

For decades, the *mudéjar* architectural style, loosely defined as "Islamic-looking Christian or Jewish art," has fascinated visitors to Spain. Initially, this course introduces students to the major *mudéjar* monuments of Spain, seeking to explain why a Christian or Jewish patron would choose an Islamic aesthetic. Later, it considers other buildings or objects showing clear ties to Spanish Islamic art, yet somehow not typically included in the *mudéjar* category. (Last offered Fall 2012)

### **Questioning Spanish Medieval Art, 700-1492**

**Cornell University**

This course will introduce students to the visual culture of Jews, Christians and Muslims in medieval Spain, starting with the Visigothic period and ending with Ferdinand and Isabel. Students will learn to use observation, description, and historical context to understand more fully how coexistence among religious groups is reflected in both architecture and objects. (Last offered Spring 2012)

## **FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS**

- 2017      **"Growing Almohad Aesthetics: The Mosque of Seville in Context."** In *Studies in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures*. Edited by Adam Bursi and Hamza M. Zafer. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.
- 2016      **"Almohad Religious Spaces."** In *Islamic Architecture*, edited by Cynthia Robinson and Hasan Uddin Khan. *Cambridge World History of Religious Architecture*, edited by Richard Etlin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- 2013      **Almohad Mosques and Twelfth-Century Religious Architecture in the Mediterranean.** Presented at "Beyond the Western Mediterranean: Trade and Exchange of Materials, Techniques and Artistic Production, 650-1500" (London, England; April 2013), organized by the Courtauld Institute of Art.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- 2014      **International Almohadism: Art, Authority and the Rise and Fall of an Islamic Empire.** Presented at Hamline University's International Roundtable Series (Saint Paul, MN; March 2014).
- 2013      **A Rightly-Guided Aesthetic: Pilgrimage and Almohadism at the Mosque of Tinmal (c. 1153).** Presented at "Striding toward Salvation: Medieval and Renaissance

- Pilgrimage in Europe and the Mediterranean” (University Center, MI; February 2013), organized by Saginaw State University.
- 2012**     **Growing Almohad Aesthetics: The Court of Abu Ya`qub Yusuf and the Mosque of Seville.** Presented at the International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamzoo, MI; May 2012), as part of the session “Court Culture in Medieval Iberia,” organized by the Ibero-Medieval Association of North America.
- 2011**     **(De)panning for Legitimacy: The Tinmal and Kutubiyya Mosques in Context.** Presented at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies (Lisbon, Portugal; July 2011), as part of the session “Almohad theology, philosophy and political ideology,” organized by the Spain-North Africa Project.
- 2009**     **Beauty within Reason: Averroes, Maimonides and Almohad Aesthetics.** Presented at the International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamzoo, MI; May 2009), as part of the session “The Three Religious Communities in Medieval Spain,” organized by the American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain.

### **SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- 2007-2008**     Vice-President of the Planning Committee for *Quodlibet*, Cornell University’s student-sponsored and student-organized lecture series

Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA)  
 American Institute for Maghrib Studies  
 College Art Association  
 Spain-North Africa Project (SNAP)

### **GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS**

- 2011-2013**     Graduate Student Conference Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University
- 2010**           Summer Language Study Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University
- 2009**           Conference Travel Grant, Medieval Studies Program, Cornell University
- 2009**           Avalon Fellowship
- 2008**           Summer Language Study Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University
- 2007**           Summer Language Study Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University
- 2006-2007**     Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2005**           Summa Cum Laude Graduating Honors, University of New Mexico
- 2001-2003**     Amigo Scholarship, University of New Mexico

### **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

- Spanish**       Fluent reading, writing and speaking
- Arabic**        Advanced reading competency, conversational speaking
- French**        Advanced reading competency
- Romance**      Advanced reading competency
- Latin**         Reading competency