

CURRICULUM VITAE

Elena Varshavskaya, Ph.D.
 Tel. (860) 376-6291 (home); (860) 908-0349 (cell)
 e-mail: evarshav@risd.edu

EDUCATION***Ph.D. Art History and Art Theory* (2002)**

State Academy of Art, Institute of Fine Arts (Moscow), Russia

Dissertation: *Historic and Heroic Genre in Ukiyo-e Prints (based Kuniyoshi's print set "Taiheiki eiyūden")*; includes annotated translation of lengthy text captions on all fifty prints comprising the set.

***M.A. Art History and Museum Education* (1976)**

Art History Seminar, the State Hermitage Museum (St. Petersburg), Russia

***M.A. Teaching of English and German Languages* (1974)**

Herzen Pedagogical Institute, Leningrad, (now - St. Petersburg), Russia
 Department of Foreign Languages

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**2003 – present: Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Providence, RI*****Senior Lecturer, HAVC***

Courses taught at RISD

- ARTH-H101 History of Art and Visual Culture
- ARTH H102 History of Art and Visual Culture
- ARTH-H591 Japanese woodblock prints of 17th –19th centuries
- ARTH-H525 Japan: Paper, Temples, Prints (annual art history / papermaking travel course)
- ARTH-H708 Oases on the Great Silk Road
- ARTH-H646 Arts in Russia
- ARTH-H454 Russian Architecture and Design
- ARTH-2750 Russian Art in Retrospective

2007 – present: Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), Willimantic, CT***Part-time faculty, Department of Visual Art and Art History***

Courses taught at ECSU

- FYE 100 – Liberal Arts Colloquium "The Way of the Samurai"
- ART 140 – Explorations in Visual Culture
- ART 211 – Art History I: Pre-History to 1400
- ART 212 – Art History II: 1400 to Present
- ART 225 – Asian Art and Culture (middle level writing intensive)
- ART 233 – Graphic Design History (middle level writing intensive)
- ART 316 – Art and Travel: Japan in New York (campus / NYC museum based)
- ART 345 – Museums and Exhibitions (writing comprehensive)

2005 – present: School of Russian and Asian Studies (SRAS), Woodside, CA

Art Program Director – oversight and teaching

Director and instructor of art history / museum studies / art & restoration courses for international university students at the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia
Courses taught in Russia for SRAS:

- ARTH 210 *Arts in Russia*
- ARTH 310 *The Art and Science of Museums*

Supervising student *on-site* research in Russian art history (award winning paper “Russian Art and its Role as a Bridge Between Western and Eastern Art” by Yearin Cho, Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research, 2010; “Socialist Realism Legacy in Art Museum Galleries,” by Alexandra Bull, 2013; “Biography of Wax Effigy of Peter I,” by Maria Edwards, SUNY PhD candidate, 2016)

2002 – 2009: Five College Center for Far Eastern Studies, Smith College, Northampton, MA *Consultant*

Research and interpretation of *ukiyo-e* prints from the Center’s study collection. Development of written educational materials for middle, high school, and college instructors, as well as materials for teachers’ professional development

2000- 2001: The Springfield Art Museums, Springfield, MA

Assistant Curator of Art

Research and exhibition curating of Japanese prints from the Springfield MFA permanent collection, co-curating scheduled exhibitions at the Springfield MFA and G.W. V. Smith Museum, lecturing for community, teachers, and museum docents; responding to queries.

1976-1999: The State Hermitage Museum, Education Department, St. Petersburg, Russia

Senior Researcher and Lecturer

Research of museum collections, participation in curatorial work with the focus on museum education. Elaboration and teaching of Asian art courses for students, schoolteachers and college instructors based on the Hermitage Collections, giving gallery talks; writing teaching aids, development outreach programs for schools and colleges.

1996 summer: Research work in Japan subsidized by The Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies. Tokyo, Kyoto and Matsumoto, Japan

Visiting researcher

The grant was awarded to study the history of Azuchi-Momoyama period (late 16th c.) to enhance understanding of this period’s reflection in *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints of the mid-19th c.

1994 – 1995: Oriental Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia

Lecturer on Japanese art

Courses taught:

- Arts of Japan, parts I & II (two semesters)
- Japanese traditional woodblock prints
- Buddhist art, introduction

CURATORIAL RECORD

- 2013 – 2019, Dec (ongoing)** Curating, together with RISD students, of ukiyo-e prints exhibition projects: *The Tokaido Journey with Two Brushes* (Spring, 2013); *The Living Torrents: Hokusai's Journey around Waterfalls of Various Provinces* (Winter Session, 2014) and *"Wish You Were Here," – Hiroshige* (Fall, 2014); *Earthly Pleasures* (Fall, 2017), *Sukima: Vertical Glimpses of the Floating World* (June-December 2018), *Boating in the Floating World* (Fall 2018), *Asakusa: Gateway to the Floating World*, including planning, research, editing didactic labels, editing student catalogue entries and organizing student symposium at the **RISD Museum**
- 2015, Dec** ECSU, instructing student curation of exhibition *Our Generation* <http://www.windhamarts.org/2015/12/eastern-students-curate-art-exhibit-our-generation/>
- 2004 – 2019 (ongoing)** Curating SRAS art students' annual show / conference *Under the Hermitage Vaults*, summer Program finale at the **Hermitage Museum, Russia**
- 2009 – 2010** Curating Japanese prints section of the multidisciplinary exhibition *Samurai: The Art of War*, including selection of prints, research, writing didactic labels, **the State Artillery Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia**
- 2003 – 2004** Curating Japanese prints exhibition *Happiness and Longevity. Deities of Good Fortune in Japanese Prints*; from RISD Museum collection, the **RISD Museum, RI**
- 2000, Dec** Curating Japanese prints exhibition *A Way in the Snow*, including planning, selection of objects, research, writing didactic labels, putting together gallery brochures, providing docent training and gallery talks. **The Springfield Art Museums, MA**
- 2000, Oct** Curating Japanese print exhibition *Tales of the Warrior*, including planning, research, writing didactic labels, gallery brochures, organizing two seminars with acclaimed specialists as guest speakers. **The Springfield Art Museums, MA**
- 2000, June** Co-curating a Chinese cloisonné exhibition *Style and Symbol*, including selection of objects and composing didactic labels; **The Springfield Art Museums, MA**
- 1983, May - June** Co-curating a Japanese print and netsuke exhibition, including research, composing didactic labels, writing an introductory paper for the catalogue, providing public lectures. **The Hermitage Museum, Russia**

RESEARCH and SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. *Mundanity of a Small Town on the Tokaido Road as an Advertisement Tour de Force*. **CAA 2019, Abstracts**.
- ❑ *Silk Road and Shaping of Regional Buddhist Iconography: Invariant Core and Permissible Variations* (field study in Dunhuang, Turpan, Kuqa, Urumqi, sabbatical leave, spring 2018)
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. *Roundel Patterns of the Silk Road: Still Rolling?* Session "Ariadne's Thread: Understanding Eurasia through Textiles," **CAA 2018, Abstracts**. http://conference.collegeart.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018_CAA_Annual_Conference_Abstracts.pdf
- ❑ Preparation of materials on Elizaveta Dorfman for I. Galeev's "*Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin's School*," 2 volumes, Galeev Gallery, Moscow, 2016
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. "*Wish you were here... - Hiroshige*." Article for the **online version of Manual, the RISD Museum magazine**. March, 2015
http://risdmuseum.org/manual/336_wish_you_were_here
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. "*Zhen'ka the Pioneer*": *Children Illustrated Book in Early Soviet Class Struggle*. Research article commissioned by **Princeton University Library Project** on Soviet Children's Book, submitted January 2015 (in progress)
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. *Investigative report on the alleged works by Vasily Shukhaev*. Research commissioned by **Eastern Connecticut State University**, 20 pages, 2013
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. *Legends of Samurai Valor from "The Tale of the Grand Pacification"*. Prints by Utagawa Kuniyoshi. Hyperion, St. Petersburg, Russia, 2013. **Book**, 235 P.
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. Critical review of Alexander Voitsekhovskiy's works for the show at Porto Franco Art Parlor, San Francisco, CA. Exhibition brochure, 2010
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. *Elizaveta Dorfman: Forgotten Artist of 1920s*. Web publication in Russian, 2010
http://faculty.risd.edu/evarshav/Lilya_Dorfman.html
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. *Protagonists of the late 16th century historic drama in woodblock prints by Kuniyoshi*. In *Japanese Mosaics*, collection of articles In Memoriam of V.N. Goregliad. –Institute of Oriental Studies. Russian Academy of Science, Hyperion St. Petersburg, 2009, pp. 76-106
- ❑ Commissioned annotated translation from Japanese of the text on the print for Hendrick Luehl "Four variations of Ōboshi Yoshikane in Kuniyoshi's series *Forty-seven Loyal Retainers*" –, Andon (Bulletin of the Society for the Japanese Art, The Netherlands), v. 83, 2008, pp. 36, 38.
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. *Portraits of Valiant Samurai in the prints by Ichiyūsai Kuniyoshi*. – Publishing house 'Arca', the Hermitage Museum, 2008. Annotated postcard selection.
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. Guidance manuals for the Hermitage Museum gallery talks on China, Tibet and Mongolia, series of three pamphlets. The Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia, 2007, three issues, pp. 1-14; 1-10; 1-10.
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. *Heroes of the Grand Pacification. Kuniyoshi's Taiheiki eiyūden* – Hotei Publishing (imprint of Brill), the Netherlands. 2006. **Book**, 192 pp.
- ❑ E. Varshavskaya. *The Secret Folk Hero. The Image of Toyotomi Hideyoshi in the Collective Consciousness of Townspeople*. – The Annual B. B. Piotrovsky Memorial Conference. The Hermitage. St. Petersburg, Russia. Proceedings. 2002, pp. 32-35

- E. Varshavskaya. *The influence of the Esoteric Buddhist iconography on the development of musha-e, the military genre in ukiyo-e graphics* – “East – Russia – West.” World Religions and Art. The Hermitage. St. Petersburg, Russia. Proceedings. 2001, pp. 27-31.
- E. Varshavskaya. *Tales of the warrior: Japanese prints by Kuniyoshi*. – Springfield Library and Museums Quarterly. Autumn, 2000, pp. 8-9.
- E. Varshavskaya. Letter to the Editor. – Impressions, No. 22, no p. The Journal of the Ukiyo-e Society of America
- E. Varshavskaya. *Pictorial formulae of martial attributes in warrior prints by Kuniyoshi*. – Andon (Society for the Japanese Art, the Netherlands), v. 60, 1998, pp. 3-22.
- E. Varshavskaya. *Celestial Globe as an Attribute of a Military Strategist*. – Ibid, v. 55, 1996, pp. 17-25.

PRESENTATIONS

- **2019, Japanese Material Culture in Ukiyo-e Art: Learning the Language of Objects.** Session Chair. **CAA Annual Conference, 2019. New York City.**
- **2019, Mundanity of a Small Town on the Tokaido Road as an Advertisement Tour de Force.** **CAA Annual Conference, 2019. New York City.**
- **2018, Roundels of the Silk Road: Still Rolling?** **CAA Annual Conference, 2018. Los Angeles.**
- **2014, June.** ‘Co-authorship in Ukiyo-e: Hiroshige and Kunisada in the print set “Along the Tokaido Tract with Two Brushes.” Japanese culture seminar, **Consulate-General of Japan, St. Petersburg, Russia**
- **2012, June.** ‘In Defiance of Censorship’ – clandestine treatment of banned historic topics in ukiyo-e woodblock prints in Tokugawa Japan. Japanese culture seminar, **Consulate-General of Japan, St. Petersburg, Russia**
- **2011, July.** ‘A Moment in Time.’ Paintings by St. Petersburg artist Valery Rabchinsky. Address at the exhibition of the same title. **The State Museum of St. Petersburg History, SPb, Russia**
- **2007, January.** ‘Fifty Samurai’, woodblock prints by Kuniyoshi. **Opening address and presentation** at the exhibition of the same title. **Leger Museum, Delft, the Netherlands.**
- **2006, October.** ‘Storm, Siege, Secret Sales and Spoils: the Hermitage Museum in the 20th-21st centuries.’ Lecture for departments of Slavic Studies, Art History Studies and Museum Studies, **Connecticut College, New London, CT.**
- **2006, March.** ‘Loyalty and Revenge in Japanese Woodblock Prints from the Five College Center Study Collection.’ **Seminar for the Massachusetts art- and social science teachers.**
- **2006, February.** *Japanese woodblock prints: general introduction* (based on the exhibition at the RISD Museum and the collection of the Five College Center for East Asian Studies, Smith College). **Seminar for Rhode Island art- and social science teachers.**
- **2004, April.** *Forty-seven Loyal Retainers in Japanese prints* (based on collection of the Five College Center for Far Eastern Studies). **Seminar for Rhode Island art- and social science teachers.**
- **2004, February.** *Happiness and Longevity: popular deities of good fortune in Japanese prints.* **Gallery-talk at RISD Museum for the Rhode Island art- and social science teachers.**

- **2003, October.** *Classicism in St. Petersburg Architecture.* Guest speaker for the course *Russian Culture: The Modern Age.* **Yale University.**
- **2002, March.** *Japanese woodblock prints by the Utagawa artists* (from the collection of the Five College Center for East Asian Studies). **North East Regional Conference on the Social Studies. Boston, MA.**
- **2002, February.** *The secret folk hero (image of Toyotomi Hideyoshi in the collective consciousness of townspeople).* **The Annual B. B. Piotrovsky Memorial Conference. The Hermitage. St. Petersburg, Russia.**
- **2001, June.** *Wrathful deities of Buddhism and the influence of their iconography on the formation of the heroic genre in ukiyo-e graphics.* **International conference “The East – Russia – The West”. World Religions and Art. The Hermitage. St. Petersburg, Russia.**
- **2000, December.** *Japanese woodblock prints by Kuniyoshi.*
Museum a la carte program. The Springfield Art Museums, MA
- **2000, October.** *Unification of Japan through the lens of “Taiheiki eiyu den” series.*
Seminar on warrior prints by Kuniyoshi. The Springfield Art Museums, MA
- **2000, January.** A set of Japanese woodblock prints as a specific art form: to the problem of composition. **Far Eastern Seminar. The Hermitage. St. Petersburg, Russia.**
- **1998.** *Martial attributes in the warrior prints by Kuniyoshi.* **Kuniyoshi Centennial Exhibition. International Symposium. Rijksmuseum. Amsterdam, The Netherlands.**
- **1997.** *The Hermitage in the 20th century.* **The College of William and Mary. Williamsburg, VA**
- **1997.** *Back from Confinement: 74 unknown, missing or forgotten masterpieces revealed at the Hermitage.* **UNC-Chapel Hill, NC.**
- **1996.** *The land of Scythians and the Silk Road oases: a periphery of the great ancient civilizations of the East.* **Mount Holyoke College. South Hadley, MA.**
- **1995.** *Ritual elements in tea ceremony.* **Conference ‘Temple in Culture.’ The Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia**
- **1995.** *Russian excavations along the Great Silk Road.* **Smithsonian Institution. Washington, D.C.**
- **1995.** *The history of the Far Eastern and Central Asian collections in the State Hermitage Museum in Russia.* **The Asia Society, Washington Branch. Washington, D.C.**
- **1995.** *The deserted city of Khara-Khoto.* **USA National Geographic Society. Washington, D.C.**
- **1995.** *A portrait of a military commander Takenaka Shigeharu by Kuniyoshi.* **V. F. Levinson-Lessing Memorial Conference. The Hermitage, Russia**
- **1994.** *On one Russian private netsuke collection.* **Paris - Edo Netsuke Convention. Paris, France.**
- **1994.** *Two heroes of the Japanese civil wars of the end of the 16th centuries in the prints by Kuniyoshi.* **The Annual B. B. Piotrovsky Memorial Conference. The Hermitage. St. Petersburg, Russia**

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- ❑ Global Engagement for Curricular Development grant, RISD, 2018, Providence, RI
- ❑ Humanities Fund, RISD Liberal Arts Division, 2005. Providence, RI
- ❑ Massachusetts Cultural Council, 2000. Malden, MA
- ❑ Ota Memorial Museum for Ukiyo-e Studies, 1999. Tokyo, Japan
- ❑ The Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies, 1996. Kyoto, Japan
- ❑ Attingham Society Scholarship, 1992. London, UK

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- ❑ Japanese Art Society of America (JASA), New York, NY
- ❑ Society for Japanese Arts, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- ❑ Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies of Harvard University
- ❑ CAA