

# Sean Nesselrode Moncada

Rhode Island School of Design  
Theory and History of Art and Design, Division of Liberal Arts  
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## EDUCATION

- 2017      Ph.D., Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, NY  
Art History and Archaeology
- Dissertation: "The Harvest of Modernity: Art, Oil, and Industry in the  
Venezuelan Twentieth Century"
- Committee: Edward J. Sullivan (advisor), Robert Slifkin, Fabiola López-Durán
- Specialization: Modern and Contemporary Art of Latin America  
Additional Fields: Modern and Contemporary Art of Europe and the U.S.A.
- 2012      M.A., Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, NY  
Art History and Archaeology
- Qualifying Paper: "The Painting Devoured: *Homenaje a la necrofilia* and the  
Corporealization of *Informalismo*"
- Readers: Edward J. Sullivan, Robert Slifkin, Robert Lubar
- 2009      B.A., Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA (Phi Beta Kappa)  
Art History; English Literature

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Fall 2017–present      Assistant Professor, Theory and History of Art and Design  
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
- Summer 2016      Instructor, Department of Art History  
New York University, New York, NY

Spring 2014            Instructor, Department of Art History  
New York University, New York, NY

Fall 2012             Grader, Department of Art History  
New York University, New York, NY

## HONORS AND AWARDS

2019                  Honorable Mention, Triennial Dissertation Award, Association for Latin  
American Art, College Art Association

2013                  Peter C. Marzio Award for Outstanding Research in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Latin  
American and Latino Art, International Center for the Arts of the Americas  
at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

2009                  Phi Beta Kappa, Swarthmore Chapter

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2018                  Liberal Arts Research, Collaboration, and Events Grant, Division of Liberal  
Arts, Rhode Island School of Design

2017                  New Faculty and Research Development Grant, Rhode Island School of  
Design

2016–2017          Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Science, New  
York University

2015–2016          Doctoral Fellowship, Center for the Humanities, New York University

2015                  Dissertation Travel Grant, IFA Alumni Association, Institute of Fine Arts,  
New York University

2013–2015          Estrellita B. Brodsky Fellowship for Latin American Art History, Institute of  
Fine Arts, New York University

2012–2014          Connoisseurs Circle Fellowship, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

- 2012–2013 The Forum on Forms of Seeing, Institute of Fine Arts and Graduate School of Arts and Science, New York University
- 2012 Shelby White and Leon Levy Travel Grant, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
- 2012 Mellon Student Grant, *Image and Ontology in Comparative Perspective*, IFA/Mellon Research Initiative, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
- 2010–2012 Sheldon Solow Scholarship, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Manuscript

*Refined Material: Petroculture and Modernity in Venezuela.* (In preparation.)

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2018 "La revelación de *Petróleo crudo* de Rolando Peña: una nueva imagen de Venezuela / The Revelation of Rolando Peña's *Crude Oil*: A New Image for Venezuela." *Caiana: Revista de historia del arte y cultura visual del Centro Argentino de Investigadores de Arte* 11 (Spring 2018): 224–37. caiana.caia.org.ar.
- 2017 "Refining Amuay: Creole Petroleum and Judibana, 1946–1955." *Architectural Theory Review* 21, no. 3 (2017: Designing Commodity Cultures): 302–29.
- 2015 "Oil in the Abstract: Designing Venezuelan Modernity in *El Farol*." *Hemisphere: Visual Cultures of the Americas* 8 (2015): 56–79.
- 2014 "Defining the Aesthetic(s) of Negation in *El Techo de la Ballena*." *Caiana: Revista de historia del arte y cultura visual del Centro Argentino de Investigadores de Arte* 4 (Spring 2014): 1–8. caiana.caia.org.ar.

## Edited Journals

- 2020 *Vistas: Critical Approaches to Modern and Contemporary Latin American Art 2: Realisms: Politics, Art, and Visual Culture in the Americas* (New York: Institute for Studies on Latin American Art [ISLAA], 2020).

## Book Chapters

- 2020 "Gego: Variações sobre o design." In *Gego: A linha emancipada*, edited by Adriano Pedrosa, translated by Célia Euvaldo, 102–17. São Paulo: Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, 2020. Exhibition catalogue.
- 2018 "The Painting Devoured: El Techo de la Ballena and the Destruction of Venezuelan Informalism." In *New Geographies of Abstract Art in Postwar Latin America*, edited by Mariola V. Alvarez and Ana M. Franco, 41–65. London: Routledge, 2018.
- 2016 "Un arte de los cuerpos / An Art of Bodies." In *Poner el cuerpo*, np. Buenos Aires: Herlitzka + Faria, 2016. Exhibition brochure. Republished in *Artishock: Revista de arte contemporáneo*, June 22, 2016. [artishockrevista.com](http://artishockrevista.com). (Co-author with Aimé Iglesias Lukin.)
- 2012 "Jesús Soto's Materializations and Dematerializations." In *Soto Unearthed: A 1968 Film and Selected Early Works*, 15–20. New York: BOSI Contemporary, 2012. Exhibition catalogue.

## Articles

- 2017 "Panorama petrolero: El regreso de Cruz-Diez a *El Farol*." *Revistas de arte latinoamericano*. Fundación Espigas, Buenos Aires. 2017. [revistasdeartelatinoamericano.org](http://revistasdeartelatinoamericano.org).
- 2014 "Dislocations and Decapitations: On the Venezuelan Responses to 'Revolución.'" *post: Notes on Modern and Contemporary Art Around the Globe*. The Museum of Modern Art. February 2014. [post.at.moma.org](http://post.at.moma.org).
- 2013 "Art for Partisan Life: Nonobjectivity Translated to Buenos Aires, 1944–48." *ICAA Documents Project Working Papers 3* (November 2013): 3–13.

## Reviews

- 2016 "Art History in the Wilderness." *Shift: Graduate Journal of Visual and Material Culture* 6 (Fall 2016). [shiftjournal.org](http://shiftjournal.org).
- 2015 "Art, and a Museum, in Flux." *ifacontemporary*. October 2015. [ifacontemporary.org](http://ifacontemporary.org).
- "Design for the Future in Latin America, Both Past and Present." *ifacontemporary*. March 2015. [ifacontemporary.org](http://ifacontemporary.org).
- 2014 "In the Shadow of Utopia: *Beyond the Supersquare* at Bronx Museum of Arts." *ifacontemporary*. September 2014. [ifacontemporary.org](http://ifacontemporary.org).
- 2012 "*Caribbean: Art at the Crossroads of the World* at El Museo del Barrio, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and Queens Museum of Art." *Contemporary Art Consortium @ the IFA*. November 2012. [ifacontemporary.org](http://ifacontemporary.org).

## PRESENTATIONS

### Conference Papers

- 2018 "Killing the Well." *Super/Natural: Excess, Ecologies, and Art in the Americas*. The Annual Symposium of Latin American Art (Institute for Studies on Latin American Art [ISLAA] and the John Rewald Endowment). Institute of Fine Arts, New York University and the Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY. April 19–20.
- 2016 "Oil, Abstracted: Carlos Cruz-Diez Returns to *El Farol*." *Export Commodity Cultures: Designing Latin America*. Latin American Studies Association. New York, NY. May 27–30.
- 2015 "An Ice Rink in the Tropics: Hotel Humboldt and Venezuela's Modernist Landscape." *Latin American Hotels: Visions of Modernity, Spaces of Negotiation*. Latin American Studies Association. San Juan, PR. May 27–30.
- 2013 "The Secularized Guadalupe: Mexican National Identity at the Beginnings of Muralism." *The Frick Symposium on the History of Art*. Institute of Fine

Arts, New York University and The Frick Collection, New York, NY. April 19–20.

"The Practice of the Company: Venezuelan Oil Camps and the Mapping of Modernity." *Mapping: Geography, Power, and the Imagination in the Art of the Americas*. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, NY. March 7–8.

"A Dystopia Embodied: *Homenaje a la necrofilia* and the Corporealized Object." *Arts of Transition: Visual Culture, Democracy, and Disillusionment in Latin America*. College Art Association. New York, NY. February 13–16.

2012 "Geographies Both Physical and Digital." Graduate Student Panel. *Latin American Art Bibliography Symposium: A Continuing Conversation*. New York Public Library and Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, NY. October 4–5.

"The Generative Image: *Ex-voto a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*." *Image and Ontology in Comparative Perspective*. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, NY. April 28–29, 2012.

"Soto in the Epicenter: The Galerie Denise René and the Kinetic Tendency in Paris." *Soto and His Contemporaries in Paris: A Graduate Student Symposium*. Maison Française, New York University, New York, NY. February 3.

### Invited Talks

2017 "Photographing Modernist Caracas, from Synthesis to Synthetic." *South and About! Gatherings on Latin American and Caribbean Art*. Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, NY. April 11.

2015 "Oil in the Abstract: Designing Venezuelan Modernity in *El Farol*." *Hemisphere Symposium*. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM. October 23.

"The Oil Republic as Tabula Rasa." *Works-In-Progress Series*. Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, NY. November 2.

2012 "On Soto, 1968." *SOTO 1968*. BOSI Contemporary Gallery, New York, NY. November 4.

### Invited Seminars and Workshops

2018 "Extractive Precarities: The Aesthetics and Economics of Petroculture in Venezuela." *Precarity, Resistance, and Contemporary Art from the Americas*. Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA. October 19–20.

2017 "Panorama petrolero: El regreso de Cruz-Diez a *El Farol*." *Ficciones metropolitanas: Revistas y redes internacionales en la modernidad artística latinoamericana* (J. Paul Getty Foundation and Centro Espigas—Instituto de Investigaciones sobre Patrimonio Cultural). Universidad Nacional de San Martín and Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina. May 8–9.

2015 "Caracas a través de sus signos: fotografiar la vida sintética." *Making Life in Latin American / Latino Art*. Connecting Histories / Grounds for Comparison: Neo-Vanguards and Latin American / U.S. Latino Art, 1960–1990 (J. Paul Getty Foundation and University of Texas at Austin). Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. June 22–26.

2014 "La revelación de *Petróleo Crudo* de Rolando Peña: una nueva imagen de Venezuela." *Exhibiting and Narrating Latin American / Latino Art*. Connecting Histories / Grounds for Comparison: Neo-Vanguards and Latin American / U.S. Latino Art, 1960–1990 (J. Paul Getty Foundation and Center for Latin American Visual Studies, University of Texas at Austin). Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina. June 2–6.

"Towards a Definition of Petromodernism: The Case of *El Farol*." *Between Historiography and the Archive: New Challenges and Perspectives in Latino-American Art History* (International Center for Arts of the Americas at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and Center for Latin American Visual Studies, University of Texas at Austin). Research Seminar. International Center for the Arts of the Americas at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX. March 24–25.

- 2013 "Defining the Aesthetic(s) of Negation in El Techo de la Ballena." *Synchronicities. Connecting Histories / Grounds for Comparison: Neo-Vanguards and Latin American / U.S. Latino Art, 1960–1990* (J. Paul Getty Foundation and University of Texas at Austin). Research Seminar. Universidad de Bogotá Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Bogotá, Colombia. June 3–7.
- "Rolando Peña and the Alchemy of Venezuelan Oil." *The Forum on Forms of Seeing Annual Symposium*. Graduate Workshop. New York University, New York, NY. April 26.

### Invited Presentations

- 2018 Discussant. *Cuerpos explícitos: Violence and Desire in Latin American / Latinx Performance Art, 1970 to the Present*. Latin American Studies Association. Barcelona, Spain. May 23–26.
- 2016 "Refining the Nation's Bodies: Creole in Amuay, 1946–55." *Latin American Bodies: On Modernism*. Graduate Seminar (Instructor: Fabiola López Durán). Rice University, Houston, TX. September 27.
- 2012 "Realisms." *Modern Art*. Undergraduate Guest Lecture (Instructor: Pepe Karmel). New York University, New York. November 21.
- "Soto and His Materials." Gallery Talk. *Soto: Paris and Beyond, 1950–1970*. Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, NY. February 15.

### Conferences, Panels, and Colloquia Organized

- 2018 "The Voice of Venezuela: Betsayda Machado y La Parranda El Clavo." Concert, community workshop, and artist discussion in translation. Division of Liberal Arts, Rhode Island School of Design; and FirstWorks, Providence, RI. March 18–29.
- 2017–2020 RISD Art History Research Colloquium. Theory and History of Art and Design, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI.



- 2017 *Beyond the Symbolic: Art and Social Engagement in the Americas*. The Annual Symposium of Latin American Art. Institute of Fine Arts, New York University and Institute for Studies on Latin American Art (ISLAA) New York, NY. April 14–15.
- Passages and Crossings: The Sea in Contemporary Art of the Global South*. College Art Association. New York, NY. February 12–15. (Co-Chair with Allison K. Young.)
- 2016 *Realisms: Politics, Art, and Visual Culture in the Americas*. The Annual Symposium of Latin American Art. Institute of Fine Arts, New York University and Institute for Studies on Latin American Art (ISLAA), New York, NY. April 30.
- 2015 Moderator. *Jaime Davidovich: Pioneer in Video and Conceptual Art*. Latin American Forum. Institute of Fine Arts, New York University and Institute for Studies on Latin American Art (ISLAA), New York, NY. March 11.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2020 Peer reviewer, *The Latin Americanist*, Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies
- 2018 Peer reviewer, *University of Toronto Art Journal*, University of Toronto, Toronto
- Juror, *The Americas*, Clark Sawyer Seminar on Race and Indigeneity in the Americas and Art at Watson Series, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Brown University
- 2017–2019 Coordinator, “Race and Ethnicity in Art and Visual Culture” Providence-area Reading Group, Association for Critical Race Art History, [acrah.org](http://acrah.org)
- 2017 Coordinator, “Race and Ethnicity in Art and Visual Culture” New York–area Reading Group, Association for Critical Race Art History, [acrah.org](http://acrah.org)
- 2016 Contributor, “Race and Ethnicity in Art and Visual Culture” Bibliographies, Association for Critical Race Art History, [acrah.org](http://acrah.org)

Peer reviewer, *Nierika: Revista de Estudios de Arte*, Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City

Editorial Committee, *Shift: Graduate Journal of Visual and Material Culture*, [shiftjournal.org](http://shiftjournal.org)

2015–2016 Graduate Assistant, Presidential Honors Scholars Program, Graduate School of Arts and Science, New York University, New York, NY

2012–2017 Coordinator, Latin American Forum, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, NY

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Alliance of Museums  
Association for Critical Race Art History  
Association for Latin American Art  
College Art Association  
Latin American Studies Association  
U.S. Latina/o Art Forum

## LANGUAGES

Spanish (fluency)  
Portuguese (reading)  
French (reading)  
German (reading)