

Esther Pasztory
Lisa and Bernard Selz Professor in Pre-Columbian Art History and
Archaeology
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Publications

Books and Exhibition Catalogues

Remove Trouble from your Heart, a memoir. East European Monographs, Columbia University Press. In press (August 2008).

Thinking With Things: Towards a New Vision of Art. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2005.

Daughter of the Pyramids. (a novel) Philadelphia PA: Xlibris, 2003.

West by Nonwest, RES, no.42, 2002. Editor.

West by Nonwest: A Conference Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Pre-Columbian Art History. Metropolitan Museum of Art. Nov. 10-12, 2000. Conference Organizer.

Pre-Columbian Art. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Teotihuacan: An Experiment in Living. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997.

Teotihuacan: Art from the City of the Gods. Exhibition organizer. Exhibition catalogue. Edited by Kathleen Berrin and Esther Pasztory. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1993. Co-Curator of accompanying exhibition.

Feathered Serpents and Flowering Trees: Reconstructing the Murals of Teotihuacan. Exhibition catalogue. Edited by Kathleen Berrin. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1988. Author and consultant for catalogue and accompanying exhibition at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

Aztec Art. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1983. Paperback edition, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1998.

Middle Classic Mesoamerica: A.D. 400-700. Edited by Esther Pasztory. New York: Columbia University Press, 1978.

Aztec Stone Sculpture. Exhibition catalogue. Edited by Esther Pasztory. New York: The Center for Inter-American Relations, 1976.

The Murals of Tepantitla, Teotihuacan. New York: Garland Publishing Inc., 1976.

Articles

“Rare Ancient Featherwork.” Review of the exhibition *Radiance from the Rain Forest: Featherwork in Ancient Peru*, the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In press for January 2009 issue of the *American Journal of Archaeology*.

“Sacrifice as Reciprocity: Aztec and Inca,” in *Adventures in Pre-Columbian Art: Illuminating the Past and Imagining the Future, Essays in honor of Elizabeth Benson*. Julie Jones ed. The Pre-Columbian Society. In press.

“Una interpretación de la cerámica Teotihuacana,” in *Artes de Mexico*, 88 (2008): 60-63, 79-80.

“Teotihuacan: un paradís sur terre,” in *Religions et Histoire*, 7 (2006): 30-37.

“A Civilization Going Mad – The Aztecs in Western Thought,” in *Arqueología e historia del Centro de Mexico- Homenaje a Eduardo Matos Moctezuma*. Leonardo Lopez Lujan, David Carrasco and Lourdes Cue eds. Mexico City: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, 2006. Pp. 637-644.

“Aztec Poetry,” in *The Nahua Newsletter* 35, February 2003, Pp. 20-23.

“Antecedents”, in *Aztecs*, exhibition catalogue. British Museum, 2002-2003. Pp. 93-118.

“Nostalgia for Mud”, in *PARI Journal*. Vol. II, no. 1, Winter 2001. Pp. 17-18 (Polemic Series).

“Editorial: West by nonwest,” in *RES*, 42 (2002): 5-7.

“Truth in Forgery: The Western Concept of Pre-Columbian Art,” in *West by Nonwest*, *RES*, 42 (2002): 159-165.

“The Portrait and the Mask: Invention and Translation,” in *Olmec Art and Archaeology in Mesoamerica*. Article presented at the Olmec Conference at the Center for the Advanced Study of the Visual Arts, 2001. Pp. 265-276.

“The Imaginary West,” in *Pre-Columbian Arts Research Institute Newsletter*, 1999, Pp. 10-11.

“Pre-Columbian Aesthetics,” in *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, Vol. IV. Michael Kelly, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998. Pp. 80-85.

Tükörkép vagy közvetítő. [Mirror or Mediator (Esther Pasztory interviewed by János Gyarmati)] in *Tabula*, no. 1, Ethnographic Museum of Budapest, 1998: 149-160.

“Sámánizmus és északamerikai indián művészet.” [Hungarian translation of “Shamanism and North American Indian Art”, originally published in *Native North American Art History: Selected Readings*, A. Jonaitis and Z.P. Mathews, eds., 1982.] in *Tabula*, no. 1, Ethnographic Museums of Budapest, 1998: 130-148.

“Treason: Comments on the paper of Robert Farris Thompson,” in *RES*, 32 (1997): 35-36.

“Andean Aesthetics,” in *The Spirit of Ancient Peru*. Kathleen Berrin, ed. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1997. Pp. 61-70.

“Aesthetics and Pre-Columbian Art,” in *RES*, 29/30 (1996): 318-325.

“El Arte,” in *Historia Antigua de México*, Vol. III. L. Manzanilla and L.L. Lujan, eds., 1995.

“An Image is Worth a Thousand Words: Teotihuacan and the Meanings of Style in Classic Mesoamerica,” in *Latin American Horizons*, Don S. Rice, ed. Washington D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, 1993. Pp. 113-146.

“Abstraction and the Rise of a Utopian State at Teotihuacan,” in *Art, Ideology and the City of Teotihuacan*, Janet Berlo, ed. Washington D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, 1993.

“The Natural World as Civic Metaphor at Teotihuacan,” in *The Ancient Americas: Art from Sacred Landscapes*. Exhibition Catalogue, Richard Townsend, ed. Chicago: Art Institute of Chicago, 1992. Pp. 135-146.

“Strategies of Organization in Teotihuacan Art,” in *Ancient Mesoamerica*, 2:2 (1991), 247-248.

“Still Invisible: The Problem of the Aesthetics of Abstraction in Pre-Columbian Art and Its Implications for Other Traditions,” in *RES*, 1990-91: 105-36.

“El poder militar como realidad y retórica en Teotihuacan,” in *La Epoca Clásica: Nuevos Hallazgos, Nuevas Ideas*, A. Cardos de Mendez, ed. Mexico City: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, 1990. Pp. 181-204.

“Identity and Difference: The Uses and Meanings of Ethnic Styles,” in *Cultural Differentiation and Cultural Identity in the Visual Arts*. Studies in the History of Art 27, Center for Advanced study in the Visual Arts. S. J. Barnes and W.S. Mellon, eds. Washington D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 1989. Pp. 15-40.

“The Aztec Tlaloc: God of Antiquity,” in *Smoke and Mist: Mesoamerican Studies in Memory of Thelma D. Sullivan*. BAR International Series, 402. J.K. Josserand and K. Dakin, eds. London, 1988.

“Texts, Archaeology, Art and History in the Templo Mayor: Reflections,” in *The Aztec Templo Mayor*, Elizabeth H. Boone, ed. Washington D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, 1987.

“El Arte Mexica y la Conquista Española,” in *Estudios de Cultura Nahuatl*, 17 (1984): 101-126.

“The Function of Art in Mesoamerica,” in *Archaeology*, 37:1 (1984): 18-25.

“Art of Aztec Mexico: Treasures in Tenochtitlan” National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. exhibition review. *Art Journal* (1983): 390-393.

“Pre-Columbian Art of Latin America,” in *Encyclopedia of World Art: Supplement*. World Art in Our Times, B.S. Myers, ed. New York, McGraw Hill Book Co., 1983. Pp. 133-144.

“Three Aztec Masks of the God Xipe,” in *Falsifications and Misreconstructions in Pre-Columbian Art*, Elizabeth Boone, ed. Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, 1982.

“Shamanism and North American Indian Art,” in *Native North American Art History: Selected Readings*, A. Jonaitis and Z.P. Mathews, eds. Palo Alto: Peek Publications, 1982. Pp. 7-30.

“Masterpieces in Pre-Columbian Art,” in *XLII Congrès International des Americanistes*. VII, (1976): 377-390. Paris, 1980.

Book Review of Pre-Columbian Architecture of Mesoamerica by Doris Heyden and Paul Gendrop, in *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 59 (1977): 655-656.

Book Review of The Mural Painting of Teotihuacan by Arthur G. Miller, in *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 57 (1974): 118-120.

“The Iconography of the Teotihuacan Tlaloc,” in *Studies in Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology*, no. 15, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, 1974.

“The Xochicalco Stelae and a Middle Classic Deity Triad in Mesoamerica,” in *Actas del XXIII Congreso Internacional de Historia de Arte*, Granada, Vol. 1 (1973): 185-215.

Book Review of Prehistoric and Primitive Art by L. Pericot-Garcia, J. Galloway and A. Lommel, in *Archaeology*, Vol. 26 (1973): 76-77.

“The Gods of Teotihuacan: A Synthetic Approach in Teotihuacan Iconography,” in *Atti del XL Congresso Internazionale degli Americanisti*, Rome, Vol. 1 (1973): 147-159.

“The Historical and Religious Significance of the Middle Classic Ball Game,” in *Religion in Mesoamerica, XII Mesa Redonda*, Mexico: Sociedad Mexicana de Antropología, 1972. Pp. 441-455.

“Hieratic Composition in West African Art,” in *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 52 (1970): 299-306.

Catalogue entries dealing with Pre-Columbian and Oceanic art, in *Early Chinese Art and the Pacific Basin*. Douglas Fraser, ed. New York: 1968. Pp. 23-26, 44-45, 78-80, 92, 102, 108.

Selected Lectures, 1980-Present

“What One Should Know about Ancient American Art.” Keynote address, First Triennial Conference of the Association of Latin American Art, New York, October 26, 2007.

“Sacrifice as Reciprocity: Aztec and Inca.” The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington conference in honor of Elizabeth Benson, Washington, 2006.

“Aztec Art at the Guggenheim Museum.” John Carter Brown Library, meeting in New York, 2005.

“Our Changing notions of Aztec Art.” Guggenheim Museum, Symposium as part of *The Aztec Empire* exhibit, New York, October 2004.

“The Fancy Stuff: Western Perspectives on Andean Art.” John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Spring 2003.

“The Past as Theme Park: Mesoamerican Architecture and Primitivism.” Inaugural lecture in honor of the Lisa and Bernard Selz professorship in Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology, Columbia University, October 2002.

“J.F. Waldeck in Search of the Exotic.” Sainsbury Research Center, November 2001.

“Teotihuacan and the Maya.” UCLA Fowler Museum, Los Angeles, October 1996.

“A Portrait of Teotihuacan.” Musée de la Seita, Sotheby’s Paris, October 1995.

“Lady Bountiful: The Goddess of Teotihuacan.” Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, in conjunction with the symposium “Goddesses of the Western Hemisphere: Women and Power,” September 1993.

“The Painted City: The Role of the Arts at Teotihuacan.” Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, in conjunction with the symposium “Mysterious City of the Gods: Teotihuacan” June, 1993.

“Body Parts: Social and Religious Ideology at Teotihuacan.” Society for American Archaeology, Pittsburgh, April 1992; College Art Association, Seattle, February 1993.

“The Politics and Romance of Death.” University Seminar of Thanatology, Columbia University, April 1991.

“The Peoples and Arts of Mesoamerica.” (Two half-hour programs) World Wise cable television series, March 1988.

“Identity and Difference: The Uses and Meanings of Ethnic Styles.” Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, Washington D.C., Conference on Cultural Differentiation and Cultural Identity in the Visual Arts, March 1987.

“The Art of Teotihuacan: A Pre-Columbian Tradition of Abstraction.” Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University, November 1986.

“The Teotihuacan Composite Center: An Analysis of its Structure.” Society for American Archaeology, New Orleans, April 1986.

“The Greenstone Art of Teotihuacan.” Associates of Primitive and Pre-Columbian Art, Columbia University, January 1986.

“Teotihuacan and its Mural Painting Tradition.” De Young Museum, San Francisco, January 1984.

“Presences and Absences in Inca Stonework.” Douglas Fraser Memorial Symposium on Primitive and Pre-Columbian Art, Columbia University, April 1983.

“The Function of Art in the Pre-Industrial State: Mesoamerica.” Arts Council Lecture, University of California, Los Angeles, February 1983.

“Aztec History and Religion,” “Architecture and Sculpture of the Aztec Capital, Tenochtitlan,” “The Elite and Popular Arts,” and “The New Excavations and Aztec Offerings,” comprising the Aztec lecture series in conjunction with the exhibition “Aztec Mexico: The Discovery of the Great Temple,” American Museum of Natural History, New York, July 1982.

“Art of the Aztec Empire.” St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO, February 1982.

“Aztec Art and the Spanish Conquest.” American Society for Ethnohistory, San Francisco, October 1980.

Teaching Experience

Lisa and Bernard Selz Professor in Pre-Columbian Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University, 1997- present.

Professor, Columbia University, 1986-1997.

Associate Professor with tenure, Columbia University, 1983-1995.

Visiting Professor and Arts Council Chair, University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Art, Design and Art History, Spring Semester, 1983.

Assistant Professor, Columbia University, 1971-1982.

Instructor, Columbia University, 1968-1970.

Classes Offered – (P – Previously, C – Currently)

UNDERGRADUATE

- Pre-Columbian Art History and Architecture (C)
- Art Humanities (P)
- Primitive Art (P)

GRADUATE LECTURES

- Mesoamerican Art and Architecture (C)
- Andean Art and Architecture (C)
- Mesoamerican Architecture (P)

Multiple Modernities (C) Team taught course originated by me in 2006.
 Contemporary Nonwestern art in a global context- I give the theoretical overview.

GRADUATE SEMINARS

Chichen Itza and its Sacred Well (C)
 The Construction of Andean Art (C)
 The Literature of Pre-Columbian Art (C)
 The Classical and the Exotic: 19th Century Discovery of Ancient Monuments (C)
 Aztec Art and Sacrifice (C)
 Modern Art Outside the West (P)
 Indigenous Art / Western Collector (Folk and Tourist Art) (P)
 Proseminar (Methods and Theory) (P)
 Shamanism and the Arts of Asia and the Americas (P)
 The Mesoamerican Ball Game (P)
 The Arts of Teotihuacan (P)
 Pre-Columbian Architecture and City Planning (C)
 Maya Art (P)
 Postclasssic Sculpture in Mexico (P)
 South American Indian Art (P)
 Quetzalcoatl (P)
 Erotic Themes in Pre-Columbian Art (P)
 The Function of Art in tribes, Chiefdoms and States (P)
 Art and the Imitation of Nature (P)
 Inca Art (P)
 Mesoamerican Goddesses (P)
 Sacrifice: Theory and Representation (P)
 Theories of Evolution of Art (P)

Professional Activities / Affiliations / Service

Ancient Mesoamerica

Member of the Board

The Art Bulletin

Former member, Advisory Committee (served multi-year term)

Dumbarton Oaks Institute and Museum, Washington, D.C.

Senior Fellow on the Board, 1986-1992 term

U.S. National Committee for the History of Art

Member, 1984- present

University Seminar in the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas, Columbia
 University

Chair and Organizer, 1971- 2005

Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University

Chairman, 1990-92, 1994-96

- West by Nonwest*. Symposium at Metropolitan Museum of Art,
Chairman and organizer.
- “Art and Identities in the Americas” Symposium, Columbia University, Nov. 20, 1993
Chairman and organizer.
- “Teotihuacan: City of the Gods” Exhibition at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco,
1993. Wrote the script for an educational film and publicity programs.
- “Mysterious City of the Gods: Teotihuacan” and “Goddesses of the Western Hemisphere:
Women and Power” Symposia, June 12, 1993 and Sept. 26, 1993. Both in
association with the exhibition “Teotihuacan: City of the Gods.” Co-Chairman,
organizer (with Dr. Kathleen Berrin).
- “New Approaches to the Study of Style and Aesthetics in Mesoamerican Art” College
Art Association Meeting, Feb. 15, 1985. Chairman and organizer.
- “Douglas Fraser Memorial Symposium on Primitive and Pre-Columbian Art” Columbia
University, April 15-16, 1983. Chairman and organizer.
- “Art and the Growth of the Teotihuacan State” Symposium at the University of
California, Los Angeles, Mar. 5, 1983. Co-organizer (with Dr. Cecelia Klein).
- “Maya Hieroglyphic Writing Workshop” Katheryn Josserand, University of Florida,
1998, Peter Mathews, Harvard University, 1982.
- “Mesoamerican Figurines: Their Archaeological Contexts and Iconographic Meanings”
Symposium. Columbia University, April 25, 1981. Chairman and organizer.
- “Problems in the Iconography of Postclassic Mesoamerican Art” Symposium at the XLIII
International Congress of Americanists, Vancouver, Canada, August 11-17, 1979.
Chairman and organizer.
- Consultant on Teotihuacan murals at the De Young Museum, San Francisco, 1978-1990.
- “Aztec Stone Sculpture” Exhibition at the Center for Inter-American Relations, New
York, December 8, 1976- January 30, 1977. This show was organized and the
catalogue was written by my students in a graduate seminar.
- “The Middle Classic Period in Mesoamerica”
Symposium. Columbia University, April 14, 1973. Chairman and organizer.

Personal Data

Education:

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, New York, NY

Ph.D Art History, Major Field: Pre-Columbian Minor Field: Arts of Africa,
Oceania and the Americas; Ancient Chinese Art, 1971

Dissertation: The Murals of Tepantitla, Teotihuacan

M.A. Thesis: Varieties of Hieratic Composition in Nigerian and Cameroons
Sculpture

BARNARD COLLEGE, New York, NY

B.A. Art History, June, 1965

VASSAR COLLEGE, Poughkeepsie, NY

Undergraduate work, 1961-1963

Languages:

French, German, Hungarian, Spanish

Awards and Honors:

Julian J. Rothbaum Prize, 1997

Best book published by the University of Oklahoma Press for *Teotihuacan, An Experiment in Living*.

Medal, the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico 1986

Presented on the occasion of the return of the looted Teotihuacan murals to Mexico from the collections of the San Francisco de Young Museum

Charles Rufus Morey Book Award Citation Committee of the College Art Association, 1984 – Special Citation for *Aztec Art*

Fellowships:

Sainsbury Research Center Visiting Scholars, fall 2001

Guggenheim Fellowship, 1987-1988

American Council of Learned Societies, 1984

Field Work at Teotihuacan.

Mellon Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University, 1980-1982

Senior Fellow.

Council for Research in the Humanities, Columbia University, 1976

Research in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico.

American Philosophical Society

Research in Mexico and Guatemala.

Forthcoming Works and Projects

The Exotic and the Classical in Mexico: Jean Frederick Waldeck

Inca Cubism: Reflections on Andean Art

The Past as Theme Park: Polemics on Pre-Columbian Art.

Teaching Projects:

Multiple Modernities – a collaborative teaching project on Modern art outside the West with other non-Western Art History faculty at Columbia University. I am the organizer and anchor of a course taught by 6 faculty members. This pioneering effort may result in an edited book.