

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**SALLY M. PROMEY**

**I. ACADEMIC AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

**EDUCATIONAL SUMMARY**

Ph.D., History of Culture, University of Chicago, 1983-1988.

Major Fields: American Art History/History of American Religion and Culture.

Minor Field: Theory and Method.

M.Div., Yale University, 1975-1978.

Major Field: The Visual Arts and Religion.

B.A., Hiram College, 1971-1975.

Major Fields: Art History, Religious Studies.

Minor Field: Studio Art.

**CURRENT POSITION**

Deputy Director and Professor of Religion and Visual Culture, Institute of Sacred Music.

Professor of American Studies, Program in American Studies, Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Secondary appointment in Department of Religious Studies.

Yale University.

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Chair and Professor, Department of Art History and Archaeology, University of Maryland,

July 2005-December 2006; Affiliate Faculty Member, Department of American Studies,  
University of Maryland, 1996-2006.

Professor, Department of Art History and Archaeology, University of Maryland, 2000-2005.

Associate Professor, Department of Art History and Archaeology, University of Maryland, 1997-2000.

Assistant Professor, Department of Art History and Archaeology, University of Maryland, 1991-1997.

Lecturer, Department of Art History, Northwestern University, University College, 1989-1991.

**II. CURRENT RESEARCH AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

**AREAS OF RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION**

- The historical study of relations among art, religion, and culture in the United States.
- The public display of religion.
- Visual culture studies.
- Aesthetic/cultural hierarchy and its various historical configurations.
- “Iconoclastic” episodes in American culture, including ambivalence, suspicion, contention, and suppression of images and objects.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books Authored**

●*Painting Religion in Public: John Singer Sargent’s “Triumph of Religion” at the Boston Public Library*, Princeton University Press, 1999 (American Academy of Religion, Award for Excellence in the Historical Study of Religion, 2000).

●*Spiritual Spectacles: Vision and Image in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Shakerism*, Indiana University Press, 1993 (Charles C. Eldredge Prize, 1994; CHOICE Outstanding Academic Book, 1993).

**Books Edited**

●*The Visual Culture of American Religions*, co-editor, David Morgan. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

**Chapters in Books**

- “Mirror Images: Framing the Self in Early New England Material Piety,” in *Figures in the Carpet: Discovering the Human Person in the American Past*, ed. Wilfred McClay, Eerdmans, forthcoming 2007.
- “Taste Cultures and the Visual Practice of Liberal Protestantism, 1940-1965,” in *Practicing Protestants: Histories of the Christian Life in America*, ed. Laurie Maffly-Kipp, Leigh Schmidt, and Mark Valeri, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006, 250-293.
- “Situating Visual Culture,” in the *Blackwell Companion to American Cultural History*, ed. Karen Halttunen, Blackwell, in press.
- “The Public Display of Religion,” in *The Arts of Democracy*, ed. Casey Blake, joint publication by Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press and Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, a revised and updated version of an essay first published in 2001, in press.
- “Etienne Henry Gilson (1884-1978),” *The A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts: Fifty Years* (Washington, DC: Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, 2002), 39-43.
- “Resurrecting Vision: The Pictorial Imagination of Shaker Revival,” in *Heavenly Visions: Shaker Gift Drawings and Gift Songs*, France Morin, editor, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001, 65-91, book accompanying exhibition of Shaker visionary images at the Drawing Center (NYC); and the Armand Hammer Museum (Los Angeles), 2001.
- “Pictorial Ambivalence and American Protestantism,” in *Crossroads: Art and Religion in American Life*, Alberta Arthurs and Glenn Wallach, editors, New York: The New Press, 2001, 189-231.
- “Interchangeable Art: Warner Sallman and the Critics of Mass Culture” in David Morgan, editor, *Icons of American Protestantism: The Art of Warner Sallman*, Yale University Press, 1996, 148-80. (CHOICE Outstanding Academic Book, 1996.)
- “‘Triumphant Religion’ in Public Places: John Singer Sargent and the Boston Public Library Murals” in Jay P. Dolan and James P. Wind, editors, *New Dimensions in American Religious History*, Eerdmans, 1993, 3-27.

#### **Exhibitions Curated and Exhibition Catalogues Authored**

- Exhibiting the Visual Culture of American Religions*, with David Morgan, Valparaiso, IN, Brauer Museum of Art; and New York, NY, Gallery of the American Bible Society, 2000-2001, catalogue published by the Brauer Museum of Art, 2000.

#### **Articles in Refereed Journals**

- “Seeing the Self ‘in Frame’”: Early New England Material Practice and Puritan Piety,” *Material Religion*, volume 1, number 1, March 2005, 10-47.
- “The ‘Return’ of Religion in the Scholarship of American Art,” a state-of-the-field essay, *The Art Bulletin*, volume 85, number 3, September 2003, 581-603.
- “The Afterlives of Sargent’s *Prophets*,” *Art Journal*, volume 57, number 1, March 1998, 31-44.
- “Sargent’s Truncated *Triumph*: Art and Religion at the Boston Public Library, 1890-1925,” *The Art Bulletin*, volume 79, number 2, June 1997, 217-250.
- “The Ribband of Faith: George Inness, Color Theory, and the Swedenborgian Church,” *The American Art Journal*, volume 26, numbers 1 and 2, 1994, 44-65.
- “Celestial Visions: Shaker Images and Art Historical Method,” *American Art*, volume 7, number 2, Spring 1993, 78-99.

#### **Manuscripts in Progress**

- Religion in Plain View: The Public Aesthetics of American Belief*, a book-length treatment of the public display of religion from the eighteenth century to the present. Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship 2005, deferred to 2007.
- Written on the Heart: Protestant Visual Culture in the United States*, a history of the subject from the seventeenth century to the present, a refereed commissioned volume under verbal agreement with John Corrigan, American Religious History series editor, University of Chicago Press.
- Sargent Hall: A Handbook*, a book-length public educational volume commissioned by the Boston Public Library subsequent to the 2002-2004 restoration of Sargent’s *Triumph of Religion*.

### **III. AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS**

#### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- Senior Historian in Residence (by invitation), Terra Summer Residency Program, Terra Foundation for American Art, Giverny, France, July 2004.
- Kirwan Faculty Research and Scholarship Prize, University of Maryland, 2002.
- Regents' Faculty Award for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity, Board of Regents, University System of Maryland, 2001.
- American Academy of Religion, Award for Excellence in the Historical Study of Religion, 2000, for *Painting Religion in Public: John Singer Sargent's "Triumph of Religion" at the Boston Public Library* (1999; paperback 2001).
- Lilly/Center for Teaching Excellence Teaching Fellow, University of Maryland, 1995-96.
- Charles C. Eldredge Prize of the National Museum of American Art, for Distinguished Scholarship in American Art, 1994, awarded to *Spiritual Spectacles: Vision and Image in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Shakerism* (1993).
- CHOICE Outstanding Academic Book, American Library Association, 1993, *Spiritual Spectacles: Vision and Image in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Shakerism*.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

- Guggenheim Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, awarded 2005, deferred to 2007.
- Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellowship, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, 2003-2004.
- American Academy of Religion Individual Research Grant, 2003-2004.
- American Historical Print Collectors Society Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, July/August 2001.
- Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2000-2001.
- [Paul Mellon Senior Fellowship, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, declined, 2000-2001.]
- College Art Association, Millard Meiss Publication Fund, publication subvention for *Painting Religion in Public: John Singer Sargent's "Triumph of Religion" at the Boston Public Library*, 1998.
- Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., publication subvention for *Painting Religion in Public: John Singer Sargent's "Triumph of Religion" at the Boston Public Library*, 1998.
- Lilly Endowment Inc., Grant awarded to fund three-year dissemination phase (including major conference, exhibition, and catalogue) of "The Visual Culture of American Religions," research and publication phase funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, Inc. (see below), (Professor David Morgan of Valparaiso University is Co-Investigator. This phase of the project was funded through a grant to Valparaiso University), 1998-2000.
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship for University Teachers, 1997-98.
- [Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Woodrow Wilson Center Fellowship, 1997-98, declined.]
- General Research Board, University of Maryland at College Park, Semester Award, Fall 1997.
- Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., Grant awarded to three-year project, "The Visual Culture of American Religions," (Professor David Morgan of Valparaiso University is Co-Investigator. This phase of the project was funded through a grant to the University of Maryland Foundation), 1996-99.
- Louisville Institute, Summer Research Stipend, 1996.
- Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., Planning Grant for "Art History and the Visual Culture of American Christianity," (subsequently reconfigured as "The Visual Culture of American Religions"; Professor David Morgan of Valparaiso University is Co-Investigator), 1995.
- University of Maryland, General Research Board, Summer Research Award, 1995.
- Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellowship, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, 1993-94.
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend, 1993 (concurrent with ACLS, below).
- American Council of Learned Societies, Summer Fellowship/Grant-in-Aid, 1993.
- College Art Association, Millard Meiss Publication Fund, publication subvention for *Spiritual Spectacles: Vision and Image in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Shakerism*, 1992.

- National Endowment for the Humanities, Travel to Collections Grant, 1992.
- University of Maryland, General Research Board, Summer Research Award, 1992.

#### **IV. COLLABORATIONS, AFFILIATIONS, AND CURRENT EDITORIAL BOARDS**

##### **NATIONAL SCHOLARLY COLLABORATIONS**

- Project Team Member, “The History of American Christian Practice,” supported by The Lilly Endowment Inc., spring 2002-autumn 2004 (first seminar meeting, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 19-23 June 2002; second seminar meeting, Key West, Florida, 29 January-2 February 2003; third seminar meeting, Cape Elizabeth, Maine, 26-29 June 2003; fourth seminar meeting, Lake Tahoe, California, 23-27 June 2004; final conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 21-24 October 2004).
- History Consultant, Conservation Team, for the conservation and restoration of John Singer Sargent’s *Triumph of Religion*. This project was a collaboration of the Boston Public Library and the Straus Center for Conservation, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University Art Museums, 2001-2004.
- Project Team Member, “The Nature of the Human Person: An Historical Inquiry,” supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts, in collaboration with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, September 2000–June 2003 (first seminar meeting 4-7 April 2001; second seminar meeting 3-5 April 2002; third seminar meeting 18-21 June 2003).
- Co-Director, “The Visual Culture of American Religions,” supported by the Henry Luce Foundation and the Lilly Endowment, Inc., 1995-2000.
- University of Maryland Project Coordinator, Museum Educational Site Licensing Project (MESL), 1994-1997.
- Project Team Member, “Icons of American Protestantism: the Art of Warner Sallman,” supported by the Louisville Institute and the Lilly Endowment, Inc., 1991-1994.

##### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

College Art Association	American Historical Association
American Studies Association	Association of Historians of American Art
American Academy of Religion	Association of Historians of Nineteenth-Century Art
American Society of Church History	American Antiquarian Society (elected member)

##### **CURRENT EDITORIAL BOARDS**

*Material Religion*, 2003-present.  
*American Art*, appointed to new term, 2007-present.