

**NCSA 2020 President's Award
Christa DiMarco**

Associate Professor, School of Critical Studies, The University of the Arts

It is my pleasure to give the 2020 NCSA President's Award to someone who is perhaps one of the most efficient, collected, and reliable people I have the pleasure of working with. This individual has presented at numerous NCSA conferences in the past, and first took on a real leadership role within NCSA as a conference organizer. It quickly became apparent to those of us involved with our 2018 meeting in Philadelphia that this organizer had a firm grasp on all of the details of the event, marking this conference such a success. In the years since, we have been lucky to keep her involved in NCSA as a member of the Web Committee and now as an officer. I am particularly thankful for this individual's work over the past year as we have adjusted so many of our electronic communications. It is my delight and honor to recognize the dedication and hard work of Christa DiMarco, Associate Professor in the School of Critical Studies at the University of the Arts.

Christa's education and career are rooted in Philadelphia, where she received her B.F.A. in Painting and Drawing at the University of the Arts followed by an M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. Christa is an accomplished scholar, and has been invited to lecture at Vanderbilt University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn. She Chairs the School of Critical and Professional Studies Curriculum Committee and is a member of the Arts Alliance Advisory Board. She is a versatile scholar and writer and has published more academic pieces as well as those for a more general audience in publications such as *H-France Review*, *Title Magazine*, *The Artblog*, and *Broad Street Review*. She generally presents her work at multiple conferences a year, and her ongoing work on space in Van Gogh have been enjoyed by those who have seen her present at NCSA in recent years.

When she is not cooking, traveling, or spending time with family, Christa is also a tireless advocate for the profession and professional organizations like NCSA, as well as a tireless educator. Anyone who runs a social media account knows how exhausting and all-encompassing the work can be, and Christa handles it all with cheerful efficiency. She promotes our conferences and NCSA in general across the web as well as her own networks in Philadelphia—and does this while researching and giving so much of herself to her students. She is able to excite and motivate students from modest academic backgrounds, taking them on countless museum trips and introducing them to Philadelphia's art scene. As one of the few fulltime faculty members in the humanities at the University of the Arts, Christa functions in large part as the glue holding many things together.

Christa has been invaluable to NCSA this year, full stop. As Assistant Editor of NCSA's online interview forum, *19 Cents*, Christa has helped to keep the blog running this year by uploading new content and helping to drive attention to NCSA's site. She posts about NCSA on social media constantly and works to ensure our messages are getting out across multiple platforms in order to reach everyone. This translates into a stronger NCSA community—and that benefits us all. In the wake of our recent conference cancelation, Christa quickly stepped up to take control of communications, helping us communicate extremely time-sensitive information rapidly and effectively. For all of these reasons, it is my delight to recognize Christa's work on behalf of the nineteenth-century studies community through the NCSA President's Award.

**Susan E. Cook
NCSA President**