

Session at SECAC 2026 (Winston-Salem, 21-24 Oct 26)

SECAC 2026 (Winston-Salem, 21-24 Oct 26), Oct 21–24, 2026

Registration deadline: Apr 1, 2026

Sarah Williams, University of Missouri

Open Session: Eighteenth-Century Art.

Session Chairs: Lauren DiSalvo, Virginia Tech; Sarah Williams, Millsaps College

This open session invites research of any art historical topic that spans the long eighteenth century. Particularly welcome are papers that address global interactions, highlight artists or mediums that have

been historically overlooked, or challenge disciplinary norms. Papers may focus on, but are not limited to, visual and material culture of the eighteenth-century, the reception and historiography of eighteenth-century art, pedagogy in the eighteenth-century classroom, or disciplinary concerns for eighteenth-century art. Scholars of all career stages are encouraged to apply

Deadline: April 1, 2026 (11:59PM EST)

Submissions must include a paper title, abstract of 200 words or less, and a CV.

Application via: <https://secac.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/30/home>

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The SECAC 2026 conference.

Rooted in a rich history of craft and reinvention, the 2026 SECAC conference will be guided by the theme *Interwoven: Threads, Patterns & Disruptions*. Known as the “Southern City of the Arts,” Winston-Salem has long woven together threads of tradition and transformation from its Moravian beginnings to its industrial rise in textiles and tobacco, and now into its second life as a hub for innovation and the arts.

Interwoven: Threads, Patterns & Disruptions evokes both the literal and metaphorical: the warp and weft of hand-made, home-grown, and self-reliant creative practices; the liminal nature of a city in transition, shaped by transplants, climate, and growth; and the patterns that emerge and disrupt across time, craft, and culture. The theme acknowledges the region’s textile heritage, where weaving connects Winston-Salem to Greensboro, High Point, and beyond while highlighting how the arts continue to interlace histories, communities, and futures.

SECAC 2026 invites artists, scholars, and educators to explore art as embedded in connections that hold memory, identity, resilience, and innovation within its threads. Through the interactions that occur at the conference including conversations, presentations, panels, and exhibitions,

SECAC 2026 will honor the city's layered past while extending its reach into the evolving landscape of contemporary practice.

This year, each applicant may submit two proposals, including for the new poster session, but may only present once at the conference. Final placements will be made by the session chairs and conference director and will be communicated to presenters by May 25, 2026.

Current SECAC Membership is required within ten days of acceptance; membership and conference registration are separate fees.

Sessions will be scheduled between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm on Thursday 10/22, Friday 10/23, and Saturday 10/24. Scheduling conflicts may be submitted after acceptance.

All presentations must be given in person; virtual presentations are not available unless required for health reasons, and virtual presenters must be fully registered for the conference. Sessions will not be broadcast or recorded.

Reference:

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