

Dear Dr. Jones,

My name is Helen Ives, and I am an incoming student in MIT's SMArchS HTC program. You may remember me from a meeting we had briefly last January, while I was still in the application process. I am thrilled to begin the SMArchS HTC program this fall, and for the opportunity to apply to be your research assistant.

I am particularly excited to examine the separation between "art" and "science" in the early modern world, as it aligns with my Senior Honors Thesis topic from this past spring. My thesis centered on the subject of craft as related to new media, and technological advancements in fabrication largely from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onward. I look forward to how, in the process of assisting you with your project, I will concurrently be able to expand the scope of my research interest into the early modern period. Additionally, as a previous Studio Art and Art History major, I believe my experience conducting making and research will lend a unique perspective to studying the historic intersection (and separation) of art and science.

On a practical level, my current experience as a Havner Curatorial Intern of Craft at Crystal Bridges Museum of American has readied me for the daily tasks required of this research position. My responsibilities at the museum include balancing research production, exhibition preparation, engaging in collaborative writing processes, and maintaining active communication between those within and outside my department. I look forward to applying my organizational skills, enthusiasm for research, and work ethic to your research project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Helen Ives

---

## **EDUCATION**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, M.S. in History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art

Washington University in St. Louis, B.A. Studio Art and Art History Double Major, French Minor GPA 3.96

*Thesis Advisor:* Dr. Ila N. Sheren

*Senior Honors Thesis :* Post-Craft: The Object as Information

*Corresponding Artist's Book:* Post-Craft Codex ([www.whatispostcraft.cargo.site](http://www.whatispostcraft.cargo.site)) (held in Washington University in St. Louis Special Collections, Code Breaking Collection)

Univeristé Toulouse- Jean Jaurès, *Spring 2025 Dickinson College in France Study Abroad* - GPA 4.0

Santa Reparata International School of Art (SRISA), *Fall 2024 Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts Study Abroad* - GPA 4.0

## **RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Journal Publications**

Ives, Helen (2026), 'Emma Wang: Contemporary Revelations and Hippie Modernisms,' *Washington University Journal of Undergraduate Research (WUJUR)*, 2:1, pp. 46-51

Ives, Helen (2025), 'Design and How! The history, theory and impact of Virginia Lee Burton's design pedagogy,' *Journal of Illustration*, 12:1, pp. 87–108, [https://doi.org/10.1386/jill\\_00109\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1386/jill_00109_1)

### **Presentations**

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Symposium, WashU Art History Department "Post-Craft Served Hot: Exploring Post-Craft Through Thomas Thwaites' *The Toaster Project* " (*Spring 2026*)

WashU Undergraduate Research Symposium, "Post-Craft Served Hot: Exploring Post-Craft Through Thomas Thwaites' *The Toaster Project* " (*Spring 2026*)

CAA 114th Annual Conference, Highlights in Undergraduate Research "Post-Craft: The Object as Information " (*Spring 2026*)

WashU Undergraduate Research Symposium, Roundtable Discussion "Design and How! The History, Theory, and Impact of Virginia Lee Burton's Design Pedagogy " (*Spring 2024*)

6th Annual SUNY New Paltz Undergraduate Art History Symposium "Design and How! The History, Theory, and Impact of Virginia Lee Burton's Design Pedagogy, " (*Spring 2024*)

## Public Humanities

Ives, Helen (2026), 'Toaster-Object Lessons Impressions,' *The Pittsburgh Review of Books*, <https://pghrev.com/toaster/>

## Exhibitions Curated

*Fabric and the Frontier: The Resurgence of Prairie Aesthetics in Dress and Visual Culture*, Washington University in St. Louis Special Collections, Kranzberg Art & Architecture Library (March 25th- April 15th, 2024)

## Internships and Volunteer Work

**Havner Curatorial Intern of Craft**, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art- *Summer 2026 (Present)*  
*Supervisor:* Jen Padgett, Windgate Curator of Craft

- Responsibilities and expected tasks include but are not limited to: label writing, public gallery talks, tours, object research, curatorial research, exhibition development, and cross-departmental collaboration .

**Assistant English Teacher**, Lycée Sainte-Marie de Nevers- *Spring 2025*

- Assistant English Teacher at Saint-Marie de Nevers high school in Toulouse, France. Taught advanced and beginner English speakers, assisted with various classroom activities, helped with grading, and lead inclass exercises to prepare students for the Baccalaureate exam.

**Pre-Program Art Conservation Intern**, St. Louis Art Museum (SLAM)- *Fall 2023, Spring 2024* • Worked on various conservation projects within SLAM's Textiles, Painting, Paper, and Object Conservation Labs.

**Library & Archives Volunteer**, Cape Ann Museum- *Summer 2023, Summer 2024*

- Sourced and processed archival materials for the exhibitions *Edward Hopper & Cape Ann: Illuminating an American Landscape* and *Above the Fold: The Photographers of the 'Gloucester Daily Times,' 1973-2005*, organized and scanned 490+ pages of archival ephemera for various newly accessioned collections, created metadata for Quartex Digital Collections, developed and updated finding aids, organized and designed archival material in display cases to be on view in Library and archives as extension of the Hopper exhibition, and sourced archival content for educational development projects, and aided visitors to the Library & Archives space.

**Special Collections Volunteer Archivist**, Boston Public Library (BPL)- *Summer 2023*

- Created metadata template to catalog collection unprocessed Virginia Lee Burton Collection, advised BPL Special Collections on the asset's provenance.

## Artist Talks

**Public Artist Talk**, *Fall 2025*

Selected to give a ten-minute talk on the development of my art practice for Sam Fox first year students in Studio Art.

**Sam Fox School, Student Experience Panelist**, *Fall 2025*

Selected as panelist to advise incoming Sam Fox first year students in Studio Art.

## **AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

*Magna Cum Laude, Spring 2026*

**Distinction in the Interdisciplinary Study of Art History and Archaeology, Spring 2026**

**The Princeton University Press Book Prize for Distinction in Art History, Spring 2026**

**The Margo Trump Memorial Award, Spring 2026**

**The Mary Ottoson Summer Travel Award, Summer 2025**

Selected by the WashU Department of Art History & Archeology to conduct independent research in Berlin, completed A1 German course at the Goethe Institut-Berlin, and conducted practice-based re-search at Colorama Risograph Print Studio in preparation for interdisciplinary aspect of Senior Honors Thesis in Art History.

**Emerging Voices, Fall 2023**

Selected to read first year writing piece in the style of a vignette entitled, “Clip, Don’t Snip” at Emerging Voices, an annual celebration of first-year writing talent at WashU, nominated by College Writing professor Eileen G’Sell.

**Deans’ List, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026**

Completion of at least 14 credit hours under the letter grade option with a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

## **LANGUAGES**

French- C1

Italian- A1

German- A1

## **PRESS**

Stump, Elizabeth (2026), ‘Chance-based collages’: A peek into student artist Helen Ives’ creative process,’ *Student Life: The independent newspaper of Washington University in St. Louis*.

<https://www.studlife.com/scene/2026/05/06/chance-based-collages-a-peek-into-student-artist-helen-ivescreative-process>

Jeans, Maddie and Cordelia Ramset (2026), ‘Studio Sgaffito,’ *Armour Magazine*, season 35, pp. 80-83.

[https://issuu.com/armourmag/docs/trace\\_season\\_35](https://issuu.com/armourmag/docs/trace_season_35)

## **EXTRACURRICULARS**

**Troubling Design Writing Group Member, Fall 2025, Spring 2026**

- Participated in monthly writing group funded by the WashU Center of Humanities, advised various staff and graduate students on research projects across the departments of Art History, American Studies, and Studio Art.

**Assistant to the Painting Area Coordinator, *Fall 2025, Spring 2026***

- Assisted with painting-area administrative needs, enforcing safety protocols, and general painting-area maintenance.

**Co-President, WashU Art History Club, *Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 202, Spring 2026***

- Lead and organized club functions including; events, social media, transportation, and reimbursements.

**WashU ORSEL (Office of Religious, Spiritual, and Ethical Life) Leadership Council, *Fall 2023, Spring 2024***

- Episcopal ministry representative, advocated for improvement of Kosher and Halal food offerings across campus, engaged in monthly WashU interfaith meetings, and participated in interfaith events.