



Haomin Li  
for  
Art History  
President

All About Art  
Art For All

VOTING OPENS 4 MARCH 00:01  
VOTING CLOSSES 5 MARCH 18:00  
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# Manifesto

## *'All about Art; Art for All'*

### Preface

Hello! I am Haomin and I am running for Art History School President. I would love to first give my thanks to School President Hannah Koegler for all the really amazing things that she has done over the past year - all her facilitation of EDI (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion) within the School and beyond as well as her genuine care for student experience have been truly admirable. I could not possibly begin my plans if it were not for all the contributions by Hannah and all the School Presidents before her.

I will strive to keep our School a wholesome place and to continue contributing my efforts towards the betterment of the School of Art History, a place where we could all feel comfortable and proud.

To contact me, send me an email at [hl78@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:hl78@st-andrews.ac.uk) or drop me a message on [Haomin for ArtHis School President \(Facebook Page\)](#).

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## I. School of Art History as an Intellectual Sanctum

School of Art History is, first and foremost, an intellectual sanctum in which everyone is able to freely discuss their academic ideas and communicate their passion for Art History. During my first year, I joined Art History Society's mentorship programme, which greatly helped me transition into the academic environment of the School, and I also feel infinitely grateful to be able to talk about art with many talented, intelligent, and passionate art historians in the School, who are truly my constant sources of inspirations.

As School President, I would love to give my own positive experience - given by this community - back to the community.

I would love to propose, or, rather, bring back the **mentorship programme** within the School of Art History. Mentorship is crucial, as it helps students, especially freshers, fit in the environment with ease; mentorship is invaluable - it offers participants, both mentors and mentees, an experience that they would always cherish. To implement this idea, I plan to collaborate next year with Art History Society (who provided mentorship for me in my first year). We will match students who share similar interests in Art History. Mentors will be the volunteers in the School who are enthusiastic to help their fellow Art Historians, and anyone who is seeking help or companionship in their study. The whole mentorship experience is simply wonderful -- this is why I will be striving to bring back mentorship.

## II. School of Art History as a Community

It is not the same School of Art History without its amazing people. We are the School of Art History, because we are such a close-knit, collaborative, and wholesome community. To become School President is certainly to uphold our wonderful community.

### II.i. an Active Community

The School of Art History is renowned for its active community.

Personally, I am able to know so many talented fellow Art Historians within the School. My goal, as President, is to keep our community academically and socially engaged and active. My main proposal is to open up the School of Art History reception for student curators. During my first year, when I still did not know my way around the School's building, what appealed to me the most was that wonderfully informative showcase in the reception. As President, I will strive to create an interactive opportunity for us students to bring our art and curate the showcase in the School's reception. An exhibition, as all of us Art Historians know very well, is a perfect occasion for socialising and communicating intellectual ideas, and a **Student-Curated Exhibition** within the School is indeed how we can best engage with each other.

To calm the prevalent anxiety in the school regarding future career, I will strive to create **Career Talks** to connect current Art History students with alumni and other speakers working in diverse fields within the art world. Given my own geographical location, I am able to invite East Asian collectors to talk about the art scene in East Asia, which will, hopefully, be of interest to those who want to

know more about the art world in East Asia and to those who would like to work in East Asia in the future.

I enjoy learning about the Art Market and chatting with other keen Art Historians about it. I am myself a member of Art Pot Magazine (founded by the wonderful Lucia Guercio and Emilia Sharples) and I am mostly sharing my passion for and my own perception of the Art Market, which I absolutely enjoy. This experience has inspired me to create a series of **Art Market Workshops** within the School. Everyone will be welcome to attend and/or to share their thoughts. The Art Market is rarely discussed in academia, but it is really the elephant in the room. For those who are interested in working in the arts in the future, this will be an invaluable head start.

Furthermore, I will not stop at Art Market Workshops; I want to create more accessible opportunities for my fellow Art Historians to get in contact with the professional art world. Having taken courses at both **Sotheby's** Institute of Art and the educational branch of **Christie's** Auction House, I will endeavour to negotiate **student discounts** for St Andrews' Art History community to enrol in their insightful Art Market courses.

Staying active as a community is key to strengthen our already close-knit and wholesome community.

## II.ii. an Inclusive Community

I have been actively involved on the EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) committee of the School of Art History for the past three years. As an EDI student consultant, I am by now fairly aware of many pressing issues that we are facing as a School, as a community - there is not enough knowledge or acknowledgement of disability, there is a severe gender imbalance (which reflects a problem of the Patriarchy; feel free to contact me and we can have a chat about it!), and, right now, we simply do not talk enough about art traditionally excluded from the deeply biased canon. We do not even have classes on East Asian art, which is a crucial component of Art History. During my first year, the EDI committee successfully applied for Athena SWAN Award - a national award to advance equality and diversity in academia. In my second year, we kept conducting focus groups to understand our students' takes on the aforementioned pressing issues within the School and beyond.

We also created a new webpage, '**Our Students**' (<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/art-history/about/our-students/>), on the School's website, illustrating our current diversity within the School and encouraging all prospective students to join us! Currently, we are still updating the webpage as a regular feature of the School website, and we are also conducting one-on-one interviews to understand deeper our students' takes on the pressing issues and their general experience in the School.

Next year, if my fellow Art Historians would allow me, I would bring what I was doing in the past three years - getting to know students' own **first-hand experience** and striving to tackle these problems from within our School - onto a higher level into the role

of President of School of Art History. I will be happily available to listen to our community regarding EDI issues, and then, with permission, I will promptly and gratefully relay these feedbacks and thoughts to the EDI committee. We as a committee truly value everyone's experience. We are, at this very moment, improving our School based on the concerns brought forth by students who have got in contact with us. As President, this will certainly continue.

I will also direct my attention to caring for the diverse needs of different groups within the School. For example, in the School of Art History, the Asian community has long been silent and overlooked. As President, I will ensure that the overlooked voices are heard loud and clear.

I am deeply concerned about issues of racial and gender equality in society in general. When we Art Historians endeavour to diversify the discipline, we also contribute to the advancement of equality, diversity, and inclusion in society.

The School of Art History is renowned for its friendly community, and let's make it the case for everyone!

### III. President as an Accessible Point of Contact

As School President, I aim to be as **accessible** as possible.

President Hannah Koegler's 'Office Hour' (as you can see in her weekly emails) greatly inspires this section of my manifesto.

If in-person teaching starts next semester (fingers crossed), I will be at Old Union's Cafe by the School of Art History on a very regular basis, and then we can chat! The chats will be very informal - everyone is welcome to voice their opinions regarding how much (or little) the School is supporting you, what your experience has been like generally, or, actually, just drop in and chat about art! Fingers crossed that I will be able to see you all in person next year, but if in-person teaching does not resume and if I am still studying remotely, I will still be available from in front of my laptop screen:) In either case, at the beginning of the semester, I will inform our community via email the time for my live lectures / tutorials, so that everyone is able to contact me whenever I am not in a class!

I will be your **supportive** listener,  
and your concerns will be heard.

These voices will be passed on to the next President after me, and the President after the next, so that the School will always be able to hear its community's voice and be ready to improve.

*'All about Art; Art for All.'*