

Call for Papers
Whitman Studies Association
American Literature Association
36th Annual Conference,
May 21-24, 2025,
The Westin Copley Place
10 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02116

The Whitman Studies Association will host two panels at the annual conference of the American Literature Association (<http://americanliteratureassociation.org/>) and invites paper proposals, as follows:

Panel 1: Walt Whitman and Visual Culture

A [special issue of *The Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*](#) (4 [Fall/Winter 1986-1987], 1-74) first brought together nearly all the known photographs of Whitman, laying the foundation for the *Walt Whitman Archive's* [Gallery of Images](#). Whitman wrote about and sat for sculptors and painters, and he has been the inspiration for many art and film projects. In light of this and the recent publication of several illustrated editions of Whitman's writings, the Whitman Studies Association invites proposals focused on Whitman and any aspect of visual culture. We seek presentations that explore and analyze Whitman and/or his writings in relation to:

- Advertisements and/or Advertising campaigns (print or digital)
- Architecture/Buildings
- Artists and Art Institutions
- Artist Books; Altered Books
- Comics
- Data Visualizations; digital mapping; digital editions (e.g., Scalar)
- Digital Art
- Exhibits (physical or digital)
- Fashion/Fashion design
- Film
- Graphic Design
- Graphic Narratives or graphic novels
- Illustrated editions of Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* or other writings
- Illustrated newspapers or periodicals (past or present)
- Monuments and Memorials
- Painters/Paintings
- Photographs; Photography; Photographic technology
- Picture books; Illustrated children's or young adult literature
- Political Cartoons

- Products and product design
- Sculptors/Sculpture
- Souvenirs; keepsakes
- Television
- Video Games
- Visual culture and pedagogy (teaching Whitman or his writings with illustrated editions or utilizing any of the above visual forms or techniques when teaching about Whitman or his writings)

Please submit a proposal of 250-300 words to Stephanie M. Blalock (stephanie-blalock@uiowa.edu) by Monday, January 13, 2025.

Panel 2: Whitman's Legacies

Walt Whitman imagined a legacy for himself long before he actually had one, anticipating that his country would "absorb . . . him as affectionately as he has absorbed it," and that "poets to come" would fulfill the mission he began with *Leaves of Grass*. History has borne out Whitman's prediction, often in unexpected ways. Poets from across the globe have responded to Whitman, as have filmmakers, musicians, novelists, and artists. Whitman has also had a (sometimes contentious) legacy in public spaces, as the naming of Philadelphia's Walt Whitman Bridge faced opposition from community members in 1955 who objected to the "revolting homosexual imagery" in his poetry, while in 2021 students at Rutgers University-Camden successfully petitioned to have a statue of Whitman moved to a less prominent location on campus due to the poet's "white supremacist beliefs." This panel seeks presentations that analyze Whitman's legacy in the United States and abroad during moments from the late-nineteenth century to the present. We are interested in exploring his artistic legacy as a poet, as well as his social and political legacy as a cultural figure.

Please submit a proposal of 250-300 words to Edward Whitley (whitley@lehigh.edu) by Monday, January 13, 2025.