



MHEAC SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Connecting Alumnae Across Europe

Welcome Message

A Word from the European Council Chair

Dear all,

Welcome to our latest newsletter, which is filled with joyful pictures of recent European alums events, as well as with plans for future local and global gatherings.



As usual, spring also brings us news from the College, offering us the opportunity to celebrate new and old alums with awards and recognitions. We are proud to salute a new winner of our Award for Graduate Studies in Europe and to see yet another European alum being recognized by the Alumnae Association. Well done!

The excitement about the upcoming European Alumnae Symposium in Munich is growing, as we are now less than 6 months away from the event. The list of distinguished speakers and panelists that will attend is almost complete, and it includes alums and prestigious representatives from the College. We are delighted to

confirm that President Danielle R. Holley will be able to join us, in what will be her first exposure to the enthusiasm and dedication of the European alums community. Keep an eye on your mailbox: Catherine Jourdan '95 and her team are fine-tuning the last event details, and they confirm that registrations will open in early July!

I hope you will consider joining us in Munich in November! The theme of this year's event: **The arts and socio-political change: A powerful interplay at the heart of democracy** could not be more timely, in a world which continues to be troubled by violence and wars and where freedom of expression and speech are under threat. Additionally, the fun and inspiration that our gatherings generate are totally addictive, as many of us who attended symposia in the past can vouch for!

I wish you all a good summer, and I look forward to meeting many of you in Munich very soon!

Silvia Maulini '80

Chair, European Alumnae Council

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1–3 November 2024

The Interaction of Art and Sociopolitical Change

Meet One of our Featured Panelists!



The next Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Symposium will be held **in Munich from November 1 to 3**. Spearheaded by the German MHEAC Delegate **Catherine Jourdan '95** and her team, the Munich Symposium will explore the interaction of art and sociopolitical change. Through keynote sessions and interactive discussions, participants will elaborate on how the arts can generate dialogue, raise awareness of issues, and drive change in how we see the world.

Catherine recently had the opportunity to meet Nata Togliatti, one of the featured artists who will be a panelist and discussion group leader at the Symposium.

"I had the opportunity to meet Nata through our Munich-based alumna, Nikola Gossel (MHC '87), who discovered her work some time ago and approached her about speaking at our very own MHC event -thanks, Nikola! Nata has since also met Munich-based alumna Donna Schlimm (MHC '80) and me on several occasions, and we were all fascinated by her work but also her stories and trajectory as an artist. I got to see her present her work at a recent exhibit at the Nymphenburg Castle Porcelain Manufacturing Facility, where she produced various large-format majolica sculptures, porcelain works, and other works of art. I am sure she will make a great contribution to our program, and I look forward to welcoming her to our event in November."



Spotlight on . . .

Nata Togliatti

Nata was born in 1989 in the USSR and straddles several cultures. **Globalization, migration, and identity** are recurring themes through which she also processes her own migration experiences, memories, and concerns. In her own words, she sees identity as “a summary of many factors and influences and the human being part of a large natural system where things and living beings are **connected and interwoven**; a cycle, a living ornament where order and chaos exist side by side.”

Her artistic practice ranges from painting and sculpture to performative interventions and installations. She challenges established principles of aesthetics and focuses on the **vulnerable, ornamental, and natural**. Her work is influenced by post-colonial and cosmopolitan approaches with regard to ecological, political, and social challenges of the present. She transforms relics of our everyday (consumer) lives into **new contexts**. Packaging, being the waste of consumer society and global trade, often become protagonists and dialog partners in her paintings. The useless is given meaning, and modern functionalism is questioned. She sees her artistic task as **creating connections, overcoming categorizations, and allowing the boundaries** to become fluid.



One of the fascinating events Nata has curated is the *SUPERmarkt-Frische Lieferung* exhibition in Munich in 2021, where she brought **international art onto supermarket shelves** -- remember, museums and everything else was closed during the pandemic, but she made it happen and brought **art to the community**, even in the most challenging of times. Her other exhibits have included the *SPEISERAUM 1st Edition-FOOD FOR THOUGHT* in 2022 and the second edition of *howtosurvivesuperniceandsupersexy* magazine, and special exhibitions at *Haus der*

Kunst in Munich, *KÖNIG Galerie* in Berlin, *Evelyn Drewes Galerie* in Hamburg, and *Canal Street Research* in New York.

Take advantage of the unique opportunity to meet and interact with Nata in Munich, November 1-3, 2024. Registration for the Symposium will open in early July - Keep an eye on your inbox for further direct communication.

For more information on the event, contact mhc.munich.2024@gmail.com or check out our website: [Mount Holyoke European Alumnae](#)

To stay current, you can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and the [Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Newsletter](#).



Alum Volunteer Leadership Award



Congratulations to Elizabeth Ta'eed '09, who was recognized with the Mount Holyoke Alum Volunteer Leadership Award 2024 at her recent class reunion! Elizabeth, who revamped and leads the alums group in the Iberian Peninsula and is a member of the European Council, is also the developer and driving force behind our MHEAC website and the designer of our logo. Active in MHEAC for over a decade, in the last few

years she played a fundamental role in developing and providing online support to some of the successful projects launched by the European Council during the COVID period, such as the Uncommon Kitchens recipe collection and cookbooks, and the Uncommon Cameras competition. Elizabeth could not be on campus to receive her award, but we are looking forward to honoring her in person in Munich in November.

MHEAC Award for Graduate Studies in Europe



Warm congratulations to Kit Corcoran '24 (left in picture), who received this year's MHEAC Award for Graduate Studies in Europe! Kit will move to Europe in the summer to pursue an MSc in Management and Marketing at University College Cork, Ireland.

Kit received her monetary award and diploma on campus in a small ceremony during commencement weekend.

Attendees included Zarina Dyussen FP '16, MHEAC delegate for Austria, who delivered the diploma, and Prof. Kavita Khory, representing the McCulloch Center. This year, the award also includes free registration to the next

European Alumnae Symposium: we look forward to meeting Kit in Munich in November!

The MHEAC Award for Graduate Studies in Europe, managed in cooperation with the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives, annually offers a monetary award to a Mount Holyoke graduating student who wishes to pursue graduate work in Europe. You can read Kit's winning essay and see the list of previous winners using the link below.

[MHEAC Fellowships & Awards](#)

Past & Upcoming Events

Belgium



April 2024

Spring greetings from Brussels, where local alums met for dinner and fun! Attendees included Erica Lutes '02, Susan Taylor de Kerchove '90, Natalie McNelis '90, Anuja De Silva '04, Jenne (Hatfield) Whitelaw '01, Ralitsa Donkova '05, and Elisa Fertig '11.

France



March 2024

Alums enjoyed the "Le Paris de la modernité" at the Petit Palais on March 21st and lunch in an outdoor café in the Jardin des Tuileries!



April 2024

A small group of alums enjoyed a visit to an extraordinary exhibit of works by David Hockney in Rouen.



On June 9th, an online tribute to **Marcia Mead Lèbre '71**, open to all alums worldwide, brought the global community together to honor her memory.

Marcia, who lived in Paris, was one of the founders of the European Alumnae Council and a source of inspiration for Mount Holyoke alums all over Europe.



Ongoing Event!

Parlez vous français?

Are you eager to practice your French and connect with Francophile alums from all over the world? Remember to join Méryem Puill-Châtillon '80 for an hour of French conversation and fun. This bimonthly event is open to all levels.

Bienvenue à toutes! À bientôt.

Zoom link: <https://mtholyoke.zoom.us/j/92564224779> - no code required!

Germany



November 2023

On November 16, the Leipzig group came together for what has become an annual tradition of local alumnae, while also welcoming semester-abroad students from MHC. Attendees included Anne Vorpapel, Cosima Hummel ('19), Stephanie Scholz ('85), Beate Renker ('94), Antje Kastner ('93), Marlene Hartinger, and Isabel Sellmann ('01).



December 2023

On December 11, Anja Butt ('89), Catherine Jourdan ('95), and Danielle Crouch ('12) came together at one of the Munich Christmas Markets for some Gluehwein and other seasonal treats.



March 2024

Berlin-Potsdam alumnae came together for an Asian fusion dinner and included Alice Fan ('22), Silvia Chiesa ('11) and Ningzi Xia ('19).





April 2024

On April 26, Munich drew a group of older and younger alumnae, local and from further away, including three who were on campus at the same time in the early 90s (!!), to enjoy an evening at a historic jazz club in Old Town. The group included Anke Ehlers ('64), who kindly made the introduction to the club owner, Donna Schlimm ('80), Nikola Gossel ('87), Beate Renker ('94), Catherine Jourdan ('95), Vidya Prasad ('95), Ramona Marks ('02), and Clara Faerber ('17). Over the weekend, Ramona, Clara, Catherine, and Pat Simon ('68) spent some time planning the upcoming symposium, visiting venues and hotels, and also taking in the Fruehlingsfest (aka Oktoberfest in the spring) that was going on then.

Great Britain



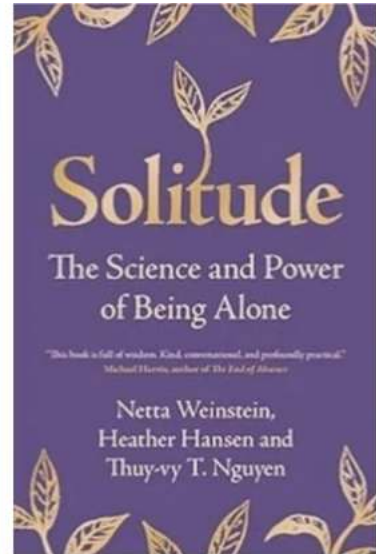
January 2024

In January, Club activities kicked off 2024 with Oxford MoHos welcoming Eleanor Chang, class of '78, visiting from San Francisco! Claire, Hebe, Yue, and Virginia organized a coffee catch-up, lunch, and a tour of Oxford colleges and the Botanic Gardens.



February 2024

February brought a special event focused on “How Sustainable Fashion Fosters a Positive Self Image.” Ayesha Mustafa '02, of Everyday Phenomenal, arranged an inspiring evening to show the connection between sustainable fashion and self-esteem and how sustainable choices can boost confidence. The group learned creative ways of repairing clothes and picked up a pointer on eco-friendly cling film for kitchen experiments.



March 2024

In March, [Heather Hansen](#) '94 appeared at the Oxford Literary Festival to talk about her co-authored book, *Solitude: The Science and Power of Being Alone*. Heather, who specializes in environmental and travel writing, revealed how spending time alone can boost well-being.

Heather, her fans, husband Juan, sister Alison, and Virginia Ross '66, gather to celebrate beneath the Moona Lisa at G&D's Café in Oxford.



May 2024

The stars aligned for a Scottish gathering in May that brought St Andrews MoHos together: Elise '18, Kashfi '16, Kimberly '17, Kyung FP'05, Lilian '21. They enjoyed afternoon tea, bracing sea air, and a walk among the ruins. More gatherings to come.



May 2024

Further south and later in May, alums from classes ranging from 1966 to 2019 celebrated the May Bank Holiday with a delightful Laurel Lunch at the Marquess of Anglesey, London. Two alums, fresh from their reunions, reminded us of MHC's magic. We welcomed alums who moved back to GB after living abroad. After lunch, we couldn't resist a gelato in the Covent Garden sunshine and more time to chat.



Upcoming Event!

Date: Saturday, 20th July

Time: 1-3 pm

Location: Regent's Park

All are welcome to come and celebrate the summer at our **Annual Summer Picnic for Families and Friends!** Bring a picnic and a blanket to sit on, and check the weather forecast!

Here's to more in-person gatherings. We can't wait for Munich in November!

Iberian Peninsula





March 2024

Our wine tasting on March 23rd was so much fun! Thank you to Catherine Jourdan '95 and Tiffany Brown '95 for journeying to Estremoz and nosing, swilling, and sampling like pros. We visited the Tiago Cabaço Adega @tiagocabacowinery, a stunning winery just outside of Estremoz that bottles over 1 million bottles a year and is well worth a visit. We followed it up with dinner at Pateo de Solares, a local hotel and restaurant serving borrego assado (roast lamb) to get in the mood for Easter!

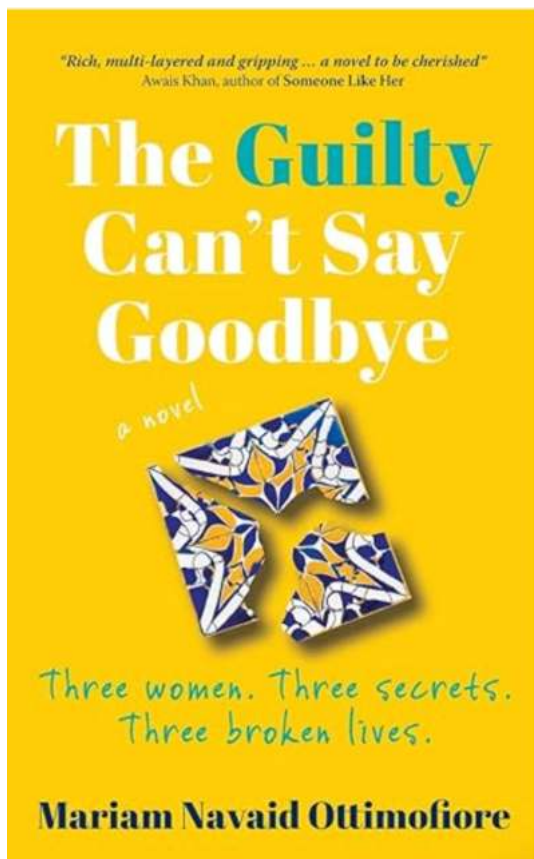




March 2024

The book launch party for Mariam Ottimofiore '05's new book, *The Guilty Can't Say Goodbye: Three Women. Three Secrets. Three Broken Lives*, on May 18th in Estoril, Cascais, was a great success. The event featured a beautiful garden party and readings from the book. One of the main characters in the book also attended Mount Holyoke! Huge congratulations to Mariam N. Ottimofiore!

Read more about the book below . . .



The Guilty Can't Say Goodbye

Three women. Three secrets. Three broken lives.

Can we ever escape our past?
When three women move to Portugal and are thrown together by happenstance, little do they know how dramatically their lives are about to change.

Fatima Khan is a Pakistani writer with a gift for languages, a German husband, a ten-year-old daughter, and a determination to escape her mother's clutches. Kate Miller is a driven, no-nonsense American diplomat who needs to get her way, even as her marriage flounders. Abena Nyator is a warm and kind-hearted Ghanaian entrepreneur consumed with self-doubt.

Each of them looking for a fresh start. Each of them haunted by their past. Each of them burdened by horrendous secrets.

A visit by Fatima's mother threatens to derail her new life and forces her to face her demons. And when all-consuming guilt gets the better of Kate and Abena, each must make a momentous decision. Set against a sweeping international backdrop—Lisbon, Singapore, Karachi, Houston, Copenhagen, Berlin, Dubai, Brighton, and Accra—the three women are forced to confront an inconvenient truth: the guilty can't say goodbye.

Italy



May 2024

Sometimes, life can be full of serendipitous surprises! In 2020, Dutch alum Silvia Maulini '80 virtually met Italian alum Laura Aimone '04 thanks to the Uncommon Kitchens cookbooks project. They discovered that, besides sharing an MHC experience, they were born in the same hospital and had attended the same high school in a small town in Northern Italy, albeit in different years 😊. They also discovered their mutual love for Venice, where Laura lives, and they finally met last May. There was no lack of topics to discuss while enjoying a good aperitivo! PS. You can find out more about Laura and her fascinating professional life [here](#).

The Netherlands



January 2024

Traditional "Nieuwjaarsborrel"!

In mid-January, alums celebrated the start of the new year with an online event, raising a glass to 2024. It was an intimate gathering but filled with laughter and good wishes. Attendees included Claire Brouwer '57, Jacqueline den Hollander '84, Mieke Kamps '78 (and Ans!), Georgia Regnault '64 (dialing in from the US!), Ame Trandem '00, Silvia Maulini '80, and (unfortunately only briefly) Sarah Carter '17. They shared stories about their holiday seasons and travels and started making plans for the next "in-person" event in the spring.



March 2024

In March, Mieke Kamps '78 and her partner (an honorary alum!) Ans hosted a lovely lunch at their home in the southern part of the Netherlands. It was an excellent opportunity to see old friends again after a long and dark winter and to meet recent graduate Yi An '22, who is studying at Wageningen University. Mieke baked her award-winning Apple-Oat Pie, whose recipe can be found on the MHEAC website and in the first Uncommon Kitchens cookbook: [Dutch Alpe d'HuZes Apple-Oat-Pie](#).

With Jacqueline den Hollander '84, Claire Brouwer '57, Alejandra Neyra '08, Christine De Leon Brown '91, Georgia Regnault '64, and Silvia Maulini '80.



April 2024

In April, Claire Brouwer '57 and Silvia Maulini '80 got together for lunch to celebrate the coming spring and 30-odd years of Mount Holyoke friendship.



June 2024

In early June, Christine de Leon Brown '91 hosted a very special alums event at ASML, one of the world's leading manufacturers of chip-making equipment, headquartered near Eindhoven. Christine, Senior Director, Performance & Integration EUV at ASML, facilitated a visit to the company's Experience and Innovation Centers and offered all participants an insight into the activities of the company, which has over 60 locations around the world and provides chipmakers worldwide with unique hardware, software, and services. It was truly an exhilarating day! Attendees included Georgia Regnault '64, Silvia Maulini '80, Jacqueline den Hollander '84, Mieke Kamps '78, and guests.

Sweden



March 2024

Greetings from Stockholm, where several alums got together for coffee and pastries (fika!). They all enjoyed meeting each other and getting to know JYA student Becky, who is spending the semester in Sweden.

Switzerland



May 2024

A wonderful Laurel Lunch in Geneva! A group of eight alums from across the country gathered together for a meal and a stimulating conversation.

This event was also an opportunity to pass the baton in person to **Maya Mauroof**, class of 2022, who is taking over as the official [Country Delegate for Switzerland at the European Alumnae Council](#).

Switzerland

Thank you, Gergana Karadzhova '12!

As Gergana steps down from the role of a country delegate, she would like to thank all of you who joined and co-organized events with her over the past years. She loved connecting with alums throughout the country (yes, she even made it for the first time to the Romandie for their Laurel Lunch) and looks forward to staying in touch!

Switzerland

Warm Welcome to Maya Mauroof '22!

Maya Mauroof '22, *the winner of the 2022 MHEAC Award for Graduate Studies in Europe*, is taking over as the official [Country Delegate for Switzerland at the European Alumnae Council](#). Maya is originally from the Maldives. She moved to Switzerland in 2021 as part of the MHC's joint BA/MA programme with the Geneva Graduate Institute. She has since been involved in the Council's activities, organizing multiple events with the Geneva group. She brings great energy and ideas to the group—a true MoHo spirit! Welcome, **Maya!**

May 2024

This was a very special gathering of Swedish and Swiss alums in Geneva. It is such a pleasure when a business trip allows you to meet new MHC friends! After a peaceful walk in the Parc des Bastions, Nisha Nilsson met up with MHC alums Maya Mayouf

and Hedy Pua at a coffee shop for a chat and then had fondue for dinner in Petit-Saconnex.

Virtual M&Cs



The well-established **Sunday evening virtual M&Cs** continue to be very popular with alums from all over the world. If you wish to connect and chat with other MHC alums from all generations please feel free to join every Sunday evening at 8:00 PM (CET) 7:00 (GMT) at <https://mtholyoke.zoom.us/j/99698796120>.

The link to the sessions is also pinned in our [Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Facebook](#) group page each Sunday morning, together with a yummy cookie recipe, courtesy of Corinne Morgan '12

Looking for a group near you?

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Country Delegates

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