

*Strand 2: The Historiography of Art Nouveau (looking back on the past)*

**Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress**

"Seeking New Sins: The Erotic Deco-Sculptural Work of François-Rupert Carabin"

The furnishings and objets d'art handcrafted by the French Symbolist sculptor François-Rupert Carabin (1862-1932) are relatively visually familiar to Art Nouveau specialists, yet there has remained a paucity of critical analysis of his œuvre. Although historians have acknowledged his role in challenging the hierarchical distinction between the fine and decorative arts, the provocative use of sensualized, subservient female forms as structural support and decorative motif have not met with sustained critical analysis. This paper directly engages the most subversive erotic elements of Carabin's œuvre, pulling at threads of the cultural web in which erotic Art Nouveau objects are enmeshed and examining conflicted critical responses to sadism and pornography in art.

**Curriculum Vitae**

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Dr. Sarah Sik's primary research emphasis is French and German fine art and design circa 1870-1918. Past publications have included the print piracy of the French graphic artist Maurice Biais, the influence of German nationalism upon design produced at the Darmstadt Artists' Colony, the origins of celebrity culture in French fin-de-siècle print media, and the gendering of 19th-century western art influenced by the art and imagined culture of Japan.