

Dr. Amy Gansell Associate Professor, Art & Design Coordinator, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

April 26, 2022

Dear Linda.

A Big Thank You from St John's! Thank you for such a wonderful and warming webinar presentation of "Below the Eyes: Sexuality and Averting the Gaze." The conversation was so meaningful to so many people on so many levels. We had double the turn-out we expected, and your words and images really touched and heartened us all.

I wanted to share with you how immediately and deeply embraced and celebrated you were by our attendees. During your webinar, people were showering the screen with hearts and confetti reactions. I was also receiving exclamations via texts and chat, such as "Iconic!", "She is a treasure!", and "Can I be her when I grow up?" Feedback flowed in through the Q+A and for days after. People spoke of your soothing voice, your dedication to authenticity, your sincere and thoughtful responses to their questions, and how important your admission of taking risks in sharing your story was to them.

You personally impacted several students. In some of their words: "Thank you for your story. It really inspired me to express myself better"; "I'm really moved by what I heard. Thank you for encouraging us"; "Thank you for all your generation has done so bravely and with such risk. You gave our generation more freedom."; "I have tears. Thank you so much." They also spoke to the breadth of your impact: "Ms. Stein's words and drawings aren't for any particular audience but for the general public." Another student said that if your presentation was mandatory for the world to watch, the world would be a better place. What more can one say!?

Thank you again for sharing yourself in what was truly a memorable and for some a transformative evening.

With best wishes,

Amy Gansell