Working against conventions that center the nineteenth century in the Paris of Manet, and Morisot, this seminar takes a global approach to the history of nineteenth-century art. Emphasizing dynamics of cross-cultural contact and conflict, we will explore the ways in which common themes of nineteenth-century art history (among them the idea of the heroic genius, the rise of nationalism, the birth of modernity, the influence of technology) take on a new guise in a global context. We will also tackle the problem of global history itself, with readings that not only expand the geographic focus of nineteenth-century art history, but also consider the risks and rewards inherent in theorizing a global history of art.