

Preliminary Agenda
Annual Meeting 2008
Version 05/01/2008

May 10, 2008

2:30 PM Buses depart hotels
3:30 PM Norton Simon Museum w/ reception at 4:30 PM
6:00 PM Buses depart museum for hotels

May 11, 2008

11:00 AM UCLA Hammer Museum
1:30 PM & 2:30 PM Getty Center, Tours led by Anne Woollett, Kristen Collins, Mary Morton, Scott Allan, Scott Schaefer, and others TBD. Attendees will be split into a 1:30 & 2:30 group for one-hour tours.
3:00 PM AAMC Board Meeting at J. Paul Getty Museum (Trustees and Committee Chairs Only)
4:30 PM Depart Getty Center
6:30 PM Welcome Receptions at Museum of Contemporary Art, Grand Ave. & Geffen Contemporary at MoCA
8:00 PM Buses depart for hotels

May 12, 2008

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

8:30- 9:30 AM Committee Meetings and coffee
9:30 AM Keynote Address: **Michael Brand**, Director, J. Paul Getty Museum

10:15 AM Panel #1: *Views from Outside the Profession*

Time: 90 minutes

Topic Description: Discussion about curatorial practice from three different panelists who will speak from their outside perspective about the field. What are curators doing right? What are our major opportunities? Challenges? Proposed panelists include an art critic, research scholar and tenured art historian.

Moderator: **John Ravenal**, Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Christopher Knight, Art Critic, LA Times

Lari Pittman, Artist

Nancy Troy, Professor of Art History, University of Southern California

11:45 AM- 12:15 PM President's Address and Member Meeting

12:15 PM Presentation to Winners of AAMC Awards for Excellence in 2007

12:30 PM Lunch (\$30 Dutch-treat for all attendees)

2:00 PM Panel #2: *Curatorial Longevity*

Time: 90 minutes

Topic Description: Past sessions have focused on training future curators and future directors—those entering and those leaving the profession. This session explores what lies between: sustaining a curatorial career. How does one build a long career? How does one define success? What are the opportunities for professional growth while remaining a curator? Pros and cons of long-term institutional commitment versus a museum as temporary shelter? How do curators exercise leadership within an institution and within a community? Where does curatorial “power” reside? How has the profession changed and how have curators responded? To what extent have we pushed the institutional envelope? Where have we compromised in serving the institution?

Moderator: **Scott Schaefer**, Senior Curator of Paintings, J. Paul Getty Museum

Clifford Ackley, Chair, Prints, Drawings and Photographs, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Chiyo Ishikawa, Deputy Director of Art, Curator of European Painting and Sculpture, Seattle Art Museum

Paul Schimmel, Chief Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

Discussant: **Philip Nowlen**, Director of Museum Management Institute, Getty Leadership Institute

Panel #3: *Conservation, Reconstruction and Question of Intent*

This panel aims to offer a fresh perspective to our profession by inviting conservators, curators and related professionals to discuss interdisciplinary approaches to museum collections and exhibitions. The session will feature cases studies of curators and conservators collaborating to treat and exhibit works ranging from traditional paintings to ephemeral performances and variable installations. The ethics of reconstruction and the role of artists' intentions are two questions that will be raised in the discussion following the presentations.

Moderator: **Robin Clark**, Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego

Ron Spronk, Professor of Art History and Head of the Department of Art at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

Jill Sterrett, Director of Collections and Conservation at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

Lynn Zelevansky, Curator and Department Head, Contemporary art, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5:30 PM Evening Reception at Los Angeles County Museum of Art *with mentoring sessions*

7:30 PM Buses depart for hotels

May 13, 2008

J. Paul Getty Museum

8:45 AM Buses depart for museum

9:45 AM Arrival J. Paul Getty Museum/Getty Center

10:30 AM Panel #4: *Whither the Collections Catalogue*

Time: 90 minutes

Topic Description: As museums endeavor to highlight their permanent collections, publishing a collections catalogue is the best mechanism to systematically conduct research and make that research available to the scholarly and museum worlds. However, the time and expense required can be daunting in the face of other, seemingly more urgent priorities. At the same time, the role of the traditional catalogue-as-tome is evolving, as museums work to make their collections available online. This session will address issues of how to staff and fund such a project, what form it might finally take, and also more practical questions such as the planning process, and setting styles and protocols.

Moderator: **Kim Orcutt**, N-Y Historical Society

Ellen Holtzman, Program Director for the Arts, Henry Luce Foundation

Terry Carbone, Curator of American Art, Brooklyn Museum

Susan Rossen, Executive Director of Publications, Art Institute of Chicago

Sarah Thompson, Assistant Curator for Japanese Prints, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

12:00 PM Lunch (on your own at Getty Center)

There will be a choice of two panels, which will run concurrently, for the afternoon sessions at the Getty Center.

2:00 PM Panel #5: *The University Curator*

Time: 90 minutes

Topic Description: The opportunities and challenges facing university curators. Structured as more of a workshop session, *The University Curator* will be an open discussion with workshop participants that will address issues and topics of common interest and we hope, will also elicit solutions. Members will be further introduced to this workshop idea via the AAMC Online Discussion Forum in the coming weeks.

Sample issues/topics:

- How does (or can) a college/university museum address its various institutional audiences, as well as serve the local community?
- Curatorial collaborations with faculty: what works, what doesn't?

- Chief cook and bottle washer: how many hats do you wear?
- All things to all peoples: how does a short-staffed curatorial department address globalism?

Those planning to participate in the workshop are invited to bring to the meeting short précis describing successful projects or programs. These will be collated and shared with the membership following the workshop.

Workshop discussants:

Cindy Burlingham, Director and Chief Curator, UCLA Hammer Museum, Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts

Stephen H. Goddard, Professor and Senior Curator and Curator of Prints and Drawings, The Kress Foundation Department of Art History, University of Kansas

Sarah Kianovsky, Assistant Curator, Paintings, Sculpture and Decorative Arts, Fogg Art Museum

Linda Muehlig, Curator, Paintings & Sculpture, Director for Curatorial Affairs, Smith College Museum of Art

OR CHOICE

2:00 PM Panel #6: *Curatorial Advocacy*

Time: 90 minutes

Topic Description: This panel will address the issue of advocacy within the curatorial profession. Drawing upon success stories, panelists will discuss the ways in which curatorial forums, museum leadership programs, and the AAMC help curators to better position themselves within the museum field. Finally, the panel seeks to open the floor to its audience, through a facilitated discussion, to talk about additional ways in which the AAMC can support its membership.

Moderator: **Gloria Groom**, David and Mary Winton Green Curator, Art Institute of Chicago

Sally Block, Director, Association of Art Museum Curators

Mary Morton, Associate Curator, J. Paul Getty Museum, past GLI graduate

Richard Rand, Senior Curator, Sterling and Francis Clark Art Institute, 2008 CCL Fellow

4:00 PM Buses depart for hotels