



The Association of Art Museum Curators

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2006

AAMC Welcomes its Third President, George T.M. Shackelford

The Association of Art Museum Curators announced today the election of George T.M. Shackelford, Chair of the Department of the Art of Europe and Arthur K. Solomon Curator of Modern Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, as its third president. “George has been an active trustee of the AAMC for the past three years, and brings with him a distinguished reputation as one of this country’s most respected curators,” says Sally Block, Director of the AAMC. “We are honored that he has taken the helm of our young and growing organization.”

Mr. Shackelford has been at the MFA, Boston since 1996. Before his appointment at the MFA, Boston, Mr. Shackelford was for eleven years Curator of European Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. After graduation from Dartmouth College in 1977, he received the Ph.D. from Yale University in 1986.

Mr. Shackelford succeeds Elizabeth W. Easton, Curator and Chair, Department of European Painting and Sculpture at the Brooklyn Museum whose term as AAMC president began in 2003. Under Buffy Easton, the AAMC established itself as a young, yet vital force in the effort to recognize the substantial contributions of art museum curators within museums throughout North America and beyond. Of her many initiatives, Ms. Easton helped form the AAMC Foundation, a 501(C)(3) non-for-profit organization, and awarded over \$28,000 in grants to 14 curators in the Gulf Coast Region affected by Hurricane Katrina. With her backing, the AAMC established a grant fund for junior curators to travel to the annual meeting.

Ms. Easton led the 650 members of AAMC through three highly successful years, engaging curators at every stage of their careers, and bringing museum directors and trustees into the dialogue on the role of the curator in the 21st century. “Buffy’s contributions to the AAMC have made a significant impact on how the organization will function for years to come,” Block says, “her enthusiasm and leadership has provided numerous opportunities for curators to connect and engage in meaningful ways with their museums and each other as well as encouraged those entering the field to seek out the organization as an important resource in their professional development.” Ms. Easton will continue to serve as a trustee of the AAMC.

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