

Harvard University Art Museums Announce the Appointment of a New Curator of Prints at the Fogg Art Museum

Former Curatorial Intern Returns after Posts at the Baltimore and Philadelphia Museums of Art

CAMBRIDGE, MA (March 4, 2005) – Thomas W. Lentz, Elizabeth and John Moors Cabot Director of the Harvard University Art Museums, today announced the appointment of Susan Dackerman as the new Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Curator of Prints at the Fogg Art Museum. Dackerman will assume the position on July 5, 2005, after the retirement of the incumbent, Marjorie B. Cohn, longtime curator and conservator and former acting director of the Art Museums.

“Susan brings exceptional enthusiasm, dedication, and experience to the position,” Lentz said. “Her insights as a scholar and educator and her expertise in curatorial affairs make her an ideal choice to lead our teaching, collecting, and program efforts in the area of prints, and a worthy successor to Jerry Cohn.”

Dackerman comes to the Fogg after two years at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and nine years at the Baltimore Museum of Art, where she rose from assistant curator to head of the prints, drawings, and photographs department. While leading the department's staff of eight and maintaining a collection of 65,000 works on paper, she continued to organize exhibitions, raise funds for acquisitions, and undertake research.

The result of Dackerman's most significant recent scholarship was the celebrated exhibition *Painted Prints: The Revelation of Color in Northern Renaissance and Baroque Engravings, Etchings, and Woodcuts*, which broke new ground in the field. Presented with its accompanying catalogue at the Baltimore museum in the fall of 2002, the exhibition

demonstrated that painting prints was a highly regarded practice during the Renaissance and overturned longstanding assumptions about 16th-century prints as purely monochromatic images.

Commenting on her appointment, Dackerman said, “I know personally the significant role that a good university museum can play in the lives of its students, scholars, and publics. Studying real artworks is an inspiring and unparalleled experience, one that can stimulate a lifelong visual and intellectual engagement with art. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside a talented staff toward our shared goal of continued excellence in scholarship.”

Dackerman is a graduate of Vassar College in art history (B.A. '86) and holds advanced degrees in art history from Bryn Mawr College (M.A. '91, Ph.D. '95). Her partner, Helen Molesworth, is chief curator at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio.

Marjorie (Jerry) Cohn, the current Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Curator of Prints, has worked at the Harvard University Art Museums for 42 years. She was a conservator and served as director of the Center for Conservation and Technical Studies (now the Straus Center for Conservation) before assuming her present position, and has twice filled the challenging role of acting director of the Harvard University Art Museums. Cohn is also a senior lecturer in the Department of History of Art and Architecture and serves as president of the Print Council of America, the North American organization of curators of prints, drawings, and photographs.

“I am pleased and made proud by the appointment of Susan as the next Weyerhaeuser Curator,” Cohn said. “I am pleased because she will be a great curator and proud because she was once an intern at the Fogg under my supervision, and every teacher wants to be succeeded by her student!”

Print Collection at the Fogg Art Museum

With over 60,000 works from around the world, the print collection at the Fogg Art Museum is the largest and best university print collection in the country. It is particularly strong in old master etchings, engravings, and woodcuts, with extensive representation of the works of the early Italian engravers, Schongauer, Dürer, Rembrandt, Ostade, Castiglione, Ribera, Testa, Canaletto, and Goya.

The 19th- and 20th-century holdings boast outstanding examples by Blake, Turner, Constable, Daumier, Manet, Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, and, especially, Munch. Among 20th-century works a particular strength is in German expressionism, with substantial representations of Kirchner, Nolde, Heckel, and Schmidt-Rottloff. A fine selection of post-World War II prints, especially by American artists from the 1960s to the present, is currently expanding.

The Harvard University Art Museums

The Harvard University Art Museums are one of the world's leading arts institutions, with the Arthur M. Sackler, Busch-Reisinger, and Fogg art museums, the Straus Center for Conservation, and the U.S. headquarters for the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis, an excavation project in western Turkey.

The Harvard University Art Museums are distinguished by the range and depth of their collections, their groundbreaking exhibitions, and the original research of their staff. As an integral part of the Harvard community, the three art museums serve as resources for all students, adding a special dimension to their areas of study. The public is welcome to experience the collections and exhibitions as well as to enjoy lectures, symposia, and other programs.

For more than a century, the Harvard University Art Museums have been the nation's premier training ground for museum professionals and scholars and are renowned for their role in the development of the discipline of art history in this country.

Location and Hours

The Fogg Art Museum and the Busch-Reisinger Museums are located at 32 Quincy Street, Cambridge. The Arthur M. Sackler Museum is located next door at 485 Broadway. Each Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.

Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.; the Museums are closed on national holidays. Admission is \$6.50; \$5 for seniors; \$5 for students; and free for those under 18 years of age. The Museums are free to everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m. – noon. The Harvard University Art Museums receive support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. More detailed information is available at 617-495-9400 or on the Internet at www.artmuseums.harvard.edu.

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