

President's Letter

Jan Burandt

Dear WAAC Members,

Recently I had the pleasure of connecting with artists. It's become a practice of mine to have an audio recorder and a waiver at the ready in case there is an unannounced visit from an artist, and I get the chance to speak with them about their works in the Menil Collection.

Studio visits are also not uncommon, and this week I found myself speechless as I looked through several series of exquisite drawings by a Houston

based artist. At that moment, I was reminded that this is the reason for my being here. My absolute love of drawings drives me to protect and preserve them.

It's starting out to be a rough summer, between the heat and the smoke, sometimes it all feels like just too much. So in the interest of regeneration I am suggesting themes for the fall meeting to be topics of motivation and inspiration.

Consider that theme with any creative expression you can muster. Consider proposing a paper that lets your motivation and inspiration of materials or artists shine through. The call for papers is posted online and contributions are being collected by submission through the WAAC website, thanks to our new webmaster Abby Schleicher, who will be updating with details about the fall meeting as they arise.

The first review of abstracts will happen in early August. In the interest of allowing presentations for as many as possible, we are offering three options – 20 or 10 minute talks and 5 minute tips.

The fall meeting is taking shape, and there are a few important announcements to consider. Firstly, we will be having some special workshops and tours that will be limited in number. The first to register will have the best opportunity to sign up for these activities, so please be ready to register by late summer and watch your email. WAAC members will have advance notice of the opening of registration.

Secondly, once you've blocked your calendar for November (5) 6-8 (9). You will want to make plans to vote early or absentee since the meeting is unavoidably on election day.

Houston awaits, and we have an exciting meeting planned for you. Please encourage your colleagues to join WAAC and participate. We look forward to seeing you in Space City.

Jan

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