

President's Letter

Sue Ann Chui

Dear WAAC Members,

I hope everyone has been enjoying their spring.

Since my last missive, I am thrilled to share that we launched our beautiful new **website**. It's hard to believe that it's finally here, but thanks to web editor Justin Johnson and webmaster Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton, our dream is finally a reality. In addition to the pleasant color palette and easy-to-navigate design, some of the new features include a comment form, leadership page, and online abstract submission. Our newsletter archive has been updated to 2017. On the Past Meetings page, you'll find links to annual meeting abstracts up until 2011 with more to come.

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Regarding abstracts, the call for papers is now open for the **45th Annual Meeting in Los Angeles** November 6-8, hosted by the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center. All paper topics are welcome. Even if you haven't quite completed a project yet, sharing your work-in-progress is a great way to get feedback, especially if you find yourself at a crossroads. The cozy, friendly atmosphere of WAAC is an ideal venue to put yourself out there and do a talk, especially if you're one of those people who doesn't enjoy presenting. It only gets easier with practice, and being able to effectively communicate what you do is essential for any professional. So why not get some practice at WAAC? Please submit your proposals by July 15th. (You might even get a job out of presenting at the meeting. I know this actually happened to one of our members last year!)

I am excited to announce that our keynote speaker will be Melody Kanschat, executive director of the Getty Leadership Institute (GLI) at Claremont Graduate University, who will talk to us about how we can all be leaders. Prior to taking up the helm at GLI, she had a 22-year career at LACMA, the last six years serving as the museum's president and chief operating officer. To quote her online bio: "She is known for both her enthusiastic commitment to the audiences that arts organizations serve and a perspective that synthesizes a drive for excellence with a practical sensibility."

Besides the regular program of talks during the meeting, there will be several pre- and post-meeting activities. First, for those of you who missed out on the microfading testing workshop at AIC this year, we are pleased to be holding one on the West Coast November 5th. The all-day workshop, Microfading Testing: Fundamentals and Practice, will be team-taught by Vincent Laudato Beltran, Sarah Freeman, Mark Benson, and Laura Macarelli. Please visit our website for more details. You may reserve a spot ahead of registration by letting Vincent know of your interest with an email.

There will be several opportunities for tours before, during, and after the meeting including: the laboratories at the Getty Conservation Institute; the Stark outdoor sculpture collection with the conservators in charge; and the exhibition *Manet and Modern Beauty* with the curators and conservator of the show which will have recently opened. To bookend the meeting, attendees can sign-up for a tour of the museum conservation spaces at the Getty Center. And for fun, thanks to Hiromi Paper, one of the meeting sponsors, on Friday afternoon you can take a book arts workshop taught by an instructor from the Otis College of Art and Design. A few more tours are being planned, so stay tuned.

Besides the talks and tours, there will be plenty of time to meet and catch up with your fellow conservators during the breakfasts, breaks, lunches, and reception that are included in the meeting. The welcome reception will take place at the Getty Center Restaurant, and I'm still working on some live entertainment. It almost goes without saying that this face-to-face time is a vital part of the meeting, so please take advantage of being in the same space with colleagues who are normally hundreds of miles away, and get to know someone you've never met before. Did I already mention you could get a job by attending the WAAC meeting? Why yes, I did.

President's letter, continued

Instead of a silent auction this year, there will be door prizes. And we have some nice ones so far from Hiromi Paper, Gamblin, and Golden who are already on board as sponsors, in addition to our meeting stalwart TruVue. We are very grateful to our sponsors for making our meetings an affordable event for our members.

Outside of the meeting, there is plenty to explore in Los Angeles. Member-at-large Anne Getts has compiled a terrific list of suggestions from our local Angeleno members of things to see and do while you're in town. The categories in the list are: Museums & Galleries, Restaurants, Recreation & Relaxation, Laughs, and Sightseeing/Neighborhoods. Not surprisingly, the lists are long in the first two categories. (By one measure, there are 94 museums in the city of LA, and over 250 museums in the county!) Anne has all the suggestions mapped out as well. Check it out on our website.

Are you ready to book your trip yet? Well, you're in luck because we have special conference rate rooms at two hotels that are waiting for you. That tall round tower next to the 405 just south of the Getty Center is the Hotel Angeleno where the majority of rooms are located. A smaller block of rooms at the Luxe Sunset Boulevard Hotel are available for those wanting something a little more luxe. You'll be able to walk (it's true!) from these hotels to the south gate of the Getty Center, used for business, to hop on a shuttle that takes you up the hill.

But, before the meeting in November, we will hold our elections this summer for a new vice president, and two members-at-large, another annual WAAC ritual. I highly encourage everyone to have a larger role in WAAC by running for an office and serving on the board where you'll work with a great group of conservators from diverse specialties at different stages of their careers. Being a board member has been one of the most rewarding professional activities for me which I could not have imagined from the outset. If you were on the ballot in the past, and did not win, do not be discouraged. The first time I ran for MAL I didn't win, but look where I am now. Please contact our vice president Tricia O'Regan if you would like to nominate someone or yourself.

As I sign off, I would like to remind our readers to please practice self-care. If I sound like someone from California, you're right, I'm an Angeleno. But seriously, I recently attended a talk on avoiding burnout, and it made me focus on how in this politically-charged, high-speed world of ours that spins ever faster and faster, to keep our sanity intact, we need to slow down regularly. Slowing down can be as simple as just breathing. As my retired yoga teacher used to say, "Remember to breathe, just breathe."

Sincerely, Sue Ann Chui

Just added: pre-meeting Angels Project* November 5!

WAAC is pleased to announce that the June L. Mazer Archives will be the site of a pre-meeting Angels Project. The Mazer Archives are "the largest major archive on the West Coast dedicated to preserving and promoting lesbian and feminist history and culture." Founded in 1981, this non-profit organization is run by an all-volunteer staff located in a space donated by the city of West Hollywood. More recently, they have created an outreach and collection-building partnership with the University of California Los Angeles libraries.

This is the first time the Mazer Archives have an opportunity to work with professional conservators. Our contribution will be a one-day storage improvement project of varied collection materials including oversized and hard-to-house materials such as textiles and art. Jessica Chasen, assistant conservator at the J. Paul Getty Museum, will be leading the project. If you're coming to the meeting, please consider adding one more day to your itinerary to leave a positive and lasting impact on the local LA community.

*Pending the renaming by AIC of volunteer conservation service projects, WAAC will continue to use the term Angels Project.

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Internet

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Deadline

Contributions for the May *Newsletter* should be received by the Editor before **August 5, 2019**.