

President's Letter

Katherine Holbrow

Dear WAAC Members,

Spring is here, and that means it is time for your friendly WAAC president to make a couple of key pitches. They're important, and I could fill pages, but like all conservators I try to minimize desk time in favor of bench time. So let's keep it short:

Renew!

WAAC membership ebbs and flows, we know. After 2008 it took a big hit, which wasn't surprising. Things have looked up since then financially, and we've managed to stay in the

black by a series of miracles including anonymous donations and devoted board members. But truly, at \$40 a year it's a great deal. Just having the *Newsletter* pre-select articles for you to read is worth that alone: think of your membership as a personal research assistant that you hire every year. That you pay for *an hour*.

Run for office!

Want to participate even more? If you'd like to serve on the WAAC Board or know somebody you think would be a great fit for a WAAC position, send an email to Cat Coueignoux at vp@waac.org. Or if a WAAC Board member calls you this spring, hear them out and consider running for office. Meet new friends, reconnect with old ones, and help WAAC create programs and newsletters down the road. It's not hard, and it is really rewarding.

Come to the WAAC Annual Meeting this year!

It will take place September 8-12, 2014, at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. That's on the Civic Center Plaza in the heart of the Historic Tenderloin. The last time the WAAC meeting was held in San Francisco was 1999: the Asian Art Museum has changed a lot since then.

- Expect two and a half days of interesting talks that push the envelope of art conservation in new ways, in an era when that envelope is changing at breathtaking speed. Asian-themed topics are also welcome, in complement to a really nice museum and a city where one-third of the population is Asian.
- If you have a talk you want to share, let me or your friendly local Member-at-Large know. Famous authors have called it "an unrivalled forum in which to present one's best work" (N. Dorman, *WAAC Newsletter* 2013).
- Attended AIC? That's no reason not to come in September. You really can't spend too much time in San Francisco, and the weather in the fall is usually the best of the year. Anyway, our meeting is better.
- It's friendly and small. Overwhelmed by a long list of talks and events? The WAAC meeting is like this *Newsletter*: a size you can handle. And because it has the added appeal of an intimate setting with your friends, we get talks that might not otherwise get heard.
- You hear ALL the presentations. What's the point in gathering all the disciplines together, but then allowing them to attend only 25% of the talks?
- We've got lower hotel rates.
- The Asian Art Museum is in the Tenderloin, not your usual tourist destination. Head over to City Hall during lunch and watch the wedding parties, sample food truck cuisine, and pose on the grand staircase in the footsteps of Harvey Milk. Then cross over the seedy end of Market Street and watch the new Twitter Building magically create an expanding ring of artisanal coffee, beer, and chocolate shops.

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President's letter, continued

- At \$120, it is seriously inexpensive, and the banquet - \$55- is a steal by San Francisco prices. And you're already mailing Chris a check for your renewal, right?

This whole conference-planning thing was new to me, and I learned that you spend a fair bit of time exploring restaurants and hotels, excursions, and tours. So this year has turned into a little "what I love about San Francisco" binge for me. If you've been to SF before, it doesn't have to be cable cars and Fishermen's Wharf, although I admit I seriously love both of these icons. Cable cars are just a roller coaster for grownups, and the Musee Mechanique on Pier 39 is an objects conservator's dream. Then add sea lions! The architecture and historic districts, the geology and topography, and the contrast between old and new are fantastic. The high population density, second only to Manhattan, makes for a fantastic people-watching arts scene too.

I love the combination of old and new, too: the oldest Asian temples in the US butt up against tech startups and California modernism. Take the time to walk past the SFMoMA building site while you are here: the aluminum cladding should be on by fall, so it should be starting to take shape. Between the SFO Museum and the new SFMoMA, you get a good sense of the directions museums are taking in the future.

Does this sound nostalgic? It is -- I am preparing to leave San Francisco for a new job in the Washington DC area. So I'm especially happy that the Asian is willing to host the WAAC conference, since it will allow me to get another big dose of WAAC, San Francisco, and all my favorite things rolled into one week. I hope you will join me there.

Call for Papers - WAAC Annual Meeting San Francisco, September 8-12, 2014

We are seeking exciting and thought provoking papers in all areas of conservation and related fields. In the best WAAC tradition, a wide range of presentations are eligible for consideration. We are particularly interested in papers that push the boundaries and challenge the profession to re/consider roles, responsibilities, techniques, and ideas. The meeting will be hosted by the Asian Art Museum, so topics related to Asian art conservation are particularly welcome.

Please keep in mind that sessions at the meeting will be 20 minutes in length. However, suggestions for multi-session panels, incorporating multiple speakers, will also be welcomed.

Questions and proposals can be submitted to:

Katie Holbrow
president@waac-us.org

Please submit an abstract no later than July 20, 2014.

Please see the Annual Meeting website for more info:
<http://cool.conservation-us.org/waac/meeting/index.html>

For general queries regarding the Annual Meeting please contact:
president@waac-us.org.

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Internet

Articles and most columns from past issues of WAAC Newsletter are available on-line at the WAAC website, a part of CoOL (Conservation OnLine) <http://cool.conservation-us.org/waac/>.

Deadline

Contributions for the January *Newsletter* should be received by the Editor before **August 15, 2014**.