

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 microfade testing workshop at AIC this year, we are pleased to be holding one on the West Coast November 5th. The all-day workshop, Microfade 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.