



The Association of Art Museum Curators

ASSOCIATION OF ART MUSEUM CURATORS ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ANNUAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN 2008

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The Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC) announces its annual Awards for Excellence in the categories of museum catalogues, articles, and exhibitions. Members of the AAMC are eligible for nomination, and awards are determined by the organization's membership.

"Each year, our pool of nominations grows and grows - and this year was no exception," says Sally Block, Director of the AAMC. "Among the many exemplary publications and exhibitions, this year's winners stand out for their innovation and commitment to scholarship."

In the field of permanent collection catalogues, the AAMC has awarded Roberta J. M. Olson's *Drawn by New York: Six Centuries of Watercolor and Drawings at the New-York Historical Society* its highest honor. Emily Bellew Neff, Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and chair of the AAMC Permanent Collection Jury notes, "It is a huge challenge to take on such a wide-ranging collection and distill it, and then create a balance between those works celebrated for their iconographical content versus those of sheer artistry. This catalogue succeeds in showcasing the breadth and complexity of the New-York Historical Society's collection."

In the field of exhibition catalogues, Sarah Greenough's *Looking In: Robert Frank's "The Americans"- Expanded Edition* took the top award. "*Looking In* is a tour-de-force publication: not only does it contain a group of thoughtful essays, interviews and archival material that contextualizes Frank's work but it provides spectacular reproductions of all the contact sheets for every image in "The Americans" making it simultaneously a riveting document and a very handsome book- truly working for both that elusive scholarly and general audience we all try to address in museum catalogues," says Stephanie Barron, Senior Curator of Modern Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and AAMC Exhibition Catalogue Jury chair.

All awards for 2008 will be formally announced at the AAMC Eighth Annual Meeting, to be held May 18-19, 2009 at The Museum of Modern Art and The Jewish Museum. The following are the winners of the 2008 Annual AAMC Awards (*AAMC member's names are listed in italics*):

Outstanding Catalogue Based on a Permanent Collection

Roberta J.M. Olson with the assistance of Alexandra Mazzitelli; preface by Louise Mirrer; foreword by *Linda S. Ferber*
Drawn by New York: Six Centuries of Watercolors and Drawings at the New-York Historical Society, London: D Giles Ltd., 2008.

Runner-up

Martha Wolff, Susan Frances Jones, Richard G. Mann, and Judith Berg Sobré; With contributions by Ilse Hecht, Peter Klein, Cynthia Kuniej Berry, and Larry Silver
Northern European and Spanish Paintings before 1600 in the Art Institute of Chicago: A Catalogue of the Collection, Chicago: Art Institute of Chicago; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.

Outstanding Exhibition Catalogue

Sarah Greenough; contributing essays by Stuart Alexander, Philip Brookman, Michel Frizot, Martin Gasser, Jeff L. Rosenheim, Luc Sante, and Anne Wilkes Tucker
Looking In: Robert Frank's "The Americans"—Expanded Edition, Washington and Gottingen: National Gallery of Art/Steidl, 2009, released 2008.

Runners-up

Susan Tumarkin Goodman with essays by Zvi Gitelman, *Susan Tumarkin Goodman*, Benjamin Harshav, Vladislav Ivanov, and Jeffrey Veidlinger
Chagall and the Artists of the Russian Jewish Theater, New York: The Jewish Museum; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.

Maxwell K. Hearn

Landscapes Clear and Radiant: The Art of Wang Hui (1632 – 1717), New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.

Honorable Mentions

Paola Antonelli, Hugh Aldersey-Williams, Peter Hall, and Ted Sargent
Design and the Elastic Mind, New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2008.

Amanda W. Dotseth, Barbara C. Anderson and Mark Roglán, Claire Barry, Pilar Silva Maroto
Fernando Gallego and His Workshop: The Altarpiece from Ciudad Rodrigo - Paintings from the Collection of the University of Arizona Museum of Art, Meadows Museum, SMU; London: Philip Wilson Publishers, Ltd., 2008.

Outstanding Essay

Randall R. Griffey

“Marsden Hartley’s Aryanism. Eugenics in a Finnish-Yankee Sauna,” in *American Art* 2008, vol. 22, no.2, pp. 64-84.

Outstanding Exhibition or Installation

Eastern Time Zone (Tie)

“Action/Abstraction: Pollock, De Kooning, and American Art, 1940-1976” curated by *Norman Kleeblatt* and consulting curators, Maurice Berger, *Douglas Dreishpoon*, *Charlotte Eyerman*; The Jewish Museum installation curated by Norman Kleeblatt; organized by The Jewish Museum, New York in collaboration with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Saint Louis Art Museum.

“Joan Miró: Painting and Anti-Painting 1927–1937” curated by *Anne Umland*. Organized by The Museum of Modern Art.

Central Time Zone

“Action/Abstraction: Pollock, De Kooning, and American Art, 1940-1976” curated by *Norman Kleeblatt* and consulting curators, Maurice Berger, *Douglas Dreishpoon*, *Charlotte Eyerman*, Saint Louis Art Museum venue curated by *Charlotte Eyerman*; organized by The Jewish Museum, New York and in collaboration with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Pacific Time Zone

“Los Angeles County Museum of Art’s permanent collection of modern art, re-installed in newly re-designed galleries, including new acquisition of the Janice and Henri Lazarof collection” curated by *Stephanie Barron*. Organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Mission of the AAMC

The mission of the Association of Art Museum Curators is to support and promote the work of museum curators by creating opportunities for networking, collaboration, professional development, and advancement. With a membership of over 900, the goals of the AAMC are to:

- Serve as an advocacy group for the curatorial profession
- Articulate professional standards and best practices
- Promote best practices and professional relationships through Annual Meetings and educational programs on selected themes held at venues throughout North America
- Promote research, scholarship, and networking opportunities through travel grants
- Use the website to exchange scholarly and procedural information as well as traveling exhibition and employment opportunities
- Recognize distinguished achievement in the field through annual awards
- Provide an open forum for discussion about museum issues in North America
- Accomplish these goals in cooperation with museum directors, trustees, and other staff as well as other national cultural and arts advocacy organizations

END

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