



WASHINGTON CONSERVATION GUILD NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk of the President

Hello members and welcome to another great season of meetings!

This is my first letter to the membership as President, and I would like to encourage current and potential members to mark your calendars and come see your colleagues at our upcoming meetings in the 2011/2012 season. I would also like to thank the officers and board members for their efforts during the summer to begin shaping a great year of presentations and activities. Please welcome Jane Klinger of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to the position of Vice President. Jane has already taken an active interest in the Guild's business and has shown her energetic nature in carrying out the duties of her office.

It is my hope to continue on the course charted by my predecessor, Eliza Giligan, of updating the Guild and keeping it relevant to the membership. One notable change pioneered by Eliza is the phasing out of the CRfAA in print form. With the help of the last CRfAA chairperson, Nancy Purinton, the collections care information is in the final phases of review after being digitized and will soon be available to the public for purchase as a digital download from the Guild website. Old print copies of the CRfAA are still available as a complimentary gift for donations given to the Guild at Outreach Booth events.

The waning of CRfAA has given rise to the WCG Facebook page. Special thanks to Lisa Young for enthusiastically offering to set up the page in addition to her duties as Angels chairperson. It is my hope that the Facebook page can

provide a resource for the members as a place to get updates, coordinate activities outside of regular meetings, and set an example to established and emerging conservation communities of what the Guild does when we come together. So if you haven't already checked out the WCG Facebook page, please do, and help make it a useful resource for you!

The award of the Williston memberships in September serves as a reminder to welcome the new faces that you see at future meetings. The addition of these new members and the participation of all members in the Guild's activities help keep WCG vibrant, viable, and relevant as a professional organization. I personally encourage anyone who has thought about getting more involved with WCG to contact an officer or board member and learn about a way you can give back to the organization, because only through your involvement can WCG be the organization that serves the needs of our community. We are currently looking for members to serve as appointed Directors and for a member to coordinate the receptions before meetings that we all enjoy. Could one of these positions be for you?

Best regards and see you at the meetings,
Hugh Shockey
President, WCG

WCG on Facebook

WCG members are invited to join our new Facebook group! The Washington Conservation Guild now has a Facebook page. Please join for updates on meetings, information, and announcements regarding WCG.



Do you have photographs for the WCG archives?

The WCG archives, held in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, does not have many photographs, so we are appealing to members to provide photographs of people and events from all periods of WCG's history. The archives can accept color and black-and-white prints or digital images. Every photo must have a caption, and ideally every person in the photo will be identified. If you have photographs to submit, please send an email (not the photos!) to: wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org.

RECENT MEETINGS AND EVENTS



Group photo from the intern social at Hugh Shockey's house

Williston Fund Award Winners 2011/2012

Each year, WCG's Sidney S. Williston Memorial Fund provides up to five interns/fellows with free membership in the Washington Conservation Guild. Congratulations to this year's winners:

- Julia Burkdajewicz – National Gallery of Art
- Sarah Gowen – Smithsonian American Art Museum
- Gabriella Irving – United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Christine McIntyre – Walters Art Museum
- Brittney Shaked – United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

WCG Records and SI Archives New Website

The Smithsonian Institution Archives has launched a new website (<http://siarchives.si.edu>) with added features and improved access to collections. This includes the newest “Washington Conservation Guild” accession 11-286, which at long last completes the backlog of papers from officers and activities of the Guild (until I receive a new passel of papers). If you search for this collection you will note that the box and folder list is not ready for viewing on the web, but in a few weeks it will be.

Below is the rest of the announcement of our new website:

The Smithsonian Institution Archives, as you know, is the record-keeper of the Smithsonian—collecting, preserving, and making available the official records of all of the Smithsonian’s museums, research centers, and the National Zoo. In addition to giving the public access to the Archives’ rich collections, the new website has been redesigned to maximize the ease with which Smithsonian staff can access historic Smithsonian records, as well as reference, records management, and collections care information.

We especially wanted to highlight the following features, which are of particular interest to Smithsonian staff:

- A new collections search page that provides online access to all of the Archives’ records and finding aids catalogued to date with the ability to download media for free personal and educational use, as well as to make reference requests;
- Dedicated pages on the history of each Smithsonian museum, research center, as well as resources on the overall history of the Smithsonian including a compilation of interesting events in Smithsonian history and historic pictures of the Smithsonian;
- New online forums where you can ask reference questions and get tips on collections care and records management from Archives staff.

We also have a video tour of the new website available, and I encourage you to watch it or pass it along to colleagues who might find it interesting. Finally, you can find the entire press release about the relaunch on the Smithsonian Newsdesk.

We hope that you enjoy the new site!

Sarah Stauderman
Collections Care Manager
Smithsonian Institution Archives
MRC 507, P.O. Box 37012, Capital Gallery, Suite 3000
Washington, DC 20013-7012
202-633-5921 telephone
202-633-5928 fax
<http://siarchives.si.edu/>

PEOPLE

WCG Outreach Booth Coordinator **Howard Wellman** was married August 26, 2011, to Caroline Jacoby of Baltimore. They were married a few days ahead of schedule when their planned venue, the American Visionary Arts Museum, called on the 26th to say they couldn't guarantee opening on the scheduled date of August 28 due to Hurricane Irene. No problem: that same day a new venue was found, the caterer rescheduled, the photographer rescheduled, the officiant rescheduled, the band rescheduled, most of the cake was ready, and most of the friends and family were already in town. Friends stepped in to help decorate, cook, and host impromptu cocktail parties. The whole thing went off like clockwork, and only then did we realize that the rehearsal dinner was going to take place AFTER the wedding...

Anne Kingery married Kevin Schwartz on July 30, 2011, in Cherry Valley, NY.

Laura Kubick has moved to take a full-time permanent object conservation position at the Indianapolis Museum of Art; she will be missed in the community. Upcoming projects she will be undertaking include planning and installation of the exhibition *Art of the American Indians: The Thaw Collection*, a survey and gallery rotation of the African Art collections, and research and treatment on Emile Bernards' *Corner Cabinet with Breton Scenes*. Laura's new contact information is: lku-bick@imamuseum.org, 317-923-1331 ext. 156.

Amber Kerr-Allison, Paintings Conservator for the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Lunder Conservation Center, participated as moderator and presenter at the IIC's first Student and Emerging Conservators Conference (IIC-SECC) in London last month. The conference was held on

September 14-15 at the University College London Archeological Institute and included over 80 participants from programs throughout Europe. The conference included a live streaming webcast and online participant interaction during the three panel sessions through the use of posts on the IIC News blog and Twitter.com using hash tag #IIC-SECC. Recordings of the sessions will be posted on the IIC website in the coming weeks.

Paintings Conservator **Claire Walker** has started an MCI Research Fellowship to continue her analytical research on the artistic materials and techniques of American artist Henry Ossawa Tanner at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Lunder Conservation Center.

The 2011 American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting was held in Richmond, VA, September 14-17. **Mary Coughlin**, **Beth Richwine**, and **Hugh Shockey** participated in a panel discussion, "Recovering Culture through Conservation," for the AASLH annual meeting on Saturday morning. The panel of conservators discussed their experiences responding to disasters and treating salvaged artifacts. Conservators who participated in the treatment of material from September 11, 2001, Hurricane Katrina, and the earthquake in Haiti shared the challenges they faced and what they learned from their experiences.

Upcoming WCG Meetings 2011/2012

Monthly meetings for the 2011/2012 season begin in October 2011 and run through May 2012. The meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month. Most meetings begin at 5 p.m. with a reception, followed by the guest speaker's presentation. Please check individual meeting announcements for exact times and locations.

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Conservation in the University Museum: An Introduction to the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum
by Sanchita Balachandran: Curator/Conservator, The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum

Heritage Science for Conservation: A New Model in Book and Paper Conservation and Science
by Sonja Jordan-Mowery: Joseph Ruzicka and Marie Ruzicka Feldmann Associate Director for Conservation and Preservation, PI, Heritage Science for Conservation, Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries
Location: The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum, 150 Gilman Hall, Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218, phone: 410.516.6717 / 410.516.7561

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Holiday Party!

Location: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036

January, 2012: exact date to be confirmed

3-Ring Circus (three concurrent sessions, topics to be announced)

Location: S. Dillon Ripley Center, Smithsonian Institution, 1100 Jefferson Dr. SW, Washington, DC, 20560

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Tour the Georgetown branch of the DC public library and hear from library staff about recovery from the fire

Location: Georgetown Branch DC Public Library, 3260 R St. NW, Washington, DC 20007

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Location and topic: To be announced

Wednesday, April 12, 2012

Speaker: To be announced

Location: The Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW, Washington, DC 20009

Thursday, May 3, 2011

Annual Business Meeting and Raffle

Location: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 900 Seventh St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

WCG OUTREACH BOOTH



The WCG Outreach Booth made its annual appearance at the National Building Museum's children's event September 17, 2011. Renamed "The Big Build," this event exposes children of all ages to modern and traditional building, landscaping, and decorative arts. This year's added attractions were appearances by "Bob the Builder." Seven WCG volunteers worked with parents and children on our contributions: learning how to make a light-fade card and about the power of sunlight and learning how to reassemble a broken pot. In ad-

dition to the hands-on activities, there were take-home sheets for the parents to explain the science as well as the usual conservation information that the Guild provides to anyone with interests or problems to solve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hyattstown Mill to Exhibit International Textiles Display

Exhibition Dates: September 17 – October 30, 2011

Exhibition Title: “Text in Textiles”

Presented by Hyattstown Mill Arts Project

14920 Hyattstown Mill Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871

The Hyattstown Mill Arts Project announces its Fall exhibition “Text in Textiles” from the Collection of Lizou Fenyvesi. The exhibition will run from September 17 through October 30. A public reception to celebrate the opening of the exhibition will be held at the Hyattstown Mill Gallery on September 17 from 5 to 7 pm. A children’s weaving and mola workshop will be held at the gallery on October 15 from 10 am to 1:30 pm. The suggested age for workshop attendees is 6 to 12 years old.

Lizou Fenyvesi, a longtime resident of Dickerson, MD, is a scholar and independent researcher of fabrics and textiles. She is an expert in pre-Columbian textiles, Western Hemisphere textiles, textile techniques, cultural aspects and meanings of textile traditions, East European ethnographic textiles, and textile conservation. Before her retirement, Lizou Fenyvesi was senior textile conservator at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, where she had worked since 1992. Between 1988 and 1991, she worked at the Textile Museum of Washington, DC. Prior to 1988 she was a conservator in private practice. After earning an undergraduate degree in theater, she studied conservation at the University of Maryland and at the Center for Museum Studies in Budapest, Hungary. Ms. Fenyvesi has long collected fabrics and weavings from all over the world. The exhibition will include works from Central America, Eastern and Western Europe, Africa, and Asia. “We are grateful to Lizou for lending us some of her extraordinary collection. It will be the Hyattstown Mill’s first truly international show,” says Bobby Donovan, director of the Hyattstown Mill.

Established in 1999, the Hyattstown Mill Arts Project (HMAP) is a volunteer, non-profit organization located in Montgomery County’s 3700-acre Little Bennett Regional Park. Working in collaboration with the Montgomery County Department of Parks, M-NCPPC, HMAP promotes creative expression and cultural programming for all citizens of the greater Washington metropolitan region. HMAP activities include art classes, gallery exhibitions, literary readings, and musical events.

Contact person: Bobby Donovan. bd@hyattstownmill.org 301-830-1142 or 301-874-2452

Hyattstown Mill Arts Project website: www.hyattstownmill.org

Keeping the Lid on Davy Jones' Locker: The Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage from Titanic to Today

A Conference Marking the 100th Anniversary of Titanic and the 10th Anniversary of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage

Organized by the Lawyers' Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation and the Penn Cultural Heritage Center.

November 3, 2011, at the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, DC

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of Titanic. For much of this past century, the world's most famous ship was lost to a watery grave. But tragedy turned to triumph in 1985 when the wreck was discovered 12,000 feet beneath the icy surface of the Atlantic.

Technology has unlocked earth's last frontier to adventurers, scientists, and treasure hunters. Shipwrecks and lost cities await, promising a wealth of knowledge about ancient civilizations and other untold riches. But sites once protected by the ocean depths are now falling victim to plunder. We are in a race to the relics on the ocean floor --- against the elements and each other --- but what will be the fate of underwater cultural heritage?

Join us for our annual conference in Washington, DC, on November 3 to find out. Registration is open, and the full program has been posted. Up to six Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits will be available.

For more information, visit the official website:

www.culturalheritagelaw.org/2011conference

Short-term intern position open at the Smithsonian's Museum

The Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute is offering a short-term intern position to work on mass spectrometry projects with research scientist Dr. Mehdi Moini. The project involves analysis of protein specimens related to museums' proteinaceous samples using a variety of analytical techniques such as mass spectrometry, liquid chromatography, gel and capillary electrophoresis. Interns will also prepare capillary according to the procedure published in *Analytical Chemistry* (2007) vol. 79, pp. 4241-46, help prepare manuscripts for publication and grants for submission to funding agencies, and other tasks as assigned. Preference will be given to applicants with a background in analytical chemistry, mass spectrometry, or in related subjects. Stipends may be offered for a period of up to ten weeks. Please contact Dr. Moini at MoiniM@si.edu for more information or to submit an application.

Several members of WCG will be giving presentations at the following upcoming conference in Williamsburg from November 14-16, 2011:

Playing to the Galleries and Engaging New Audiences: The Public Face of Conservation

Conservators increasingly find themselves asked to present their efforts through an ever-expanding array of methods ranging from more traditional techniques such as exhibits, lectures, and behind the scenes tours to newer technologies such as blogs, podcasts, and video learning. These activities are important not only as fund-raising tools but also because they have the potential to define why and how communities care for their heritage and create social capital. Held in conjunction with our exhibit “Conservation: Where Art and Science Meet,” the conference will focus on the role of communicating conservation within a museum context.

Program

Monday, November 14

9–9:15 a.m. Introduction and Welcome

9:15–9:50 a.m. Keynote Dr. Mary Brooks, Monument Fellow, York Museums Trust, York, United Kingdom.

9:50–10:25 a.m. ***Conservation Curiosity: An Irreversible Trend***

Lois Olcott Price and Lois Stoehr, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, Winterthur, Delaware.

10:25–10:50 a.m. ***Liverpool's Conservation Center: Fourteen Years of Public Access***

Siobhan Watts, Eleanor Baumber, Annemarie La Pensee, and Sally Ann Yates, National Museums Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom.

10:50–11:15 a.m. Break. Central Court.

11:15–11:40 a.m. ***Fixing History: The Public Sphere and the Transfiguration of Conservation***

Annlin Kruger, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

11:40 a.m.–12:05 p.m. ***Conservation Outreach and Issues of Cultural Authority: Making Inroads into a Special Interest Community***

John Watson, Conservation, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

12:05–12:30 p.m. ***Textile Conservation and the Museum Public***

Caterina Florio, Textile and Costume Conservator, Toronto, Canada.

12:30–2 p.m. Lunch on your own.

2–2:25 p.m. ***Paintings Are That Complicated? The Creation of Historically Accurate Reconstructions of Artwork in the Service of Public Education***

Brian Baade, Winterthur/University of Delaware, Winterthur, Delaware, and Kristin deGhetaldi, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

2:25–2:50 p.m. ***A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Using X-radiographs of the National Air and Space Museum's Spacesuit Collection to Promote Preservation***

Lisa Young and Mark Avino, National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C.

2:50–3:15 p.m. ***Change or Damage? Using Dissemination to Encourage Public Involvement in Conservation Research***

Naomi Luxford and Matja Strlič, UCL Center for Sustainable Heritage, and David Thickett, English Heritage, London, United Kingdom.

3:15–3:30 p.m. Break. Central Court.

3:30–3:55 p.m. ***Digital Afterlife: Modern Technology Reveals Secrets of Brooklyn's Mummies***

Kerith Koss, Jakki Bruno, Tina March, and Lisa Bruno, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York.

3:55–4:20 p.m. ***Like the Old Sing, So Twitter the Young: Public Conservation of Two Paintings by Jan Steen***

Sabrina Meloni, Mauritshuis, The Hague, Netherlands.

4:20–4:45 p.m. ***Bringing an Old Ship to New Audiences: Publicizing the U.S.S. Monitor Conservation Project***

Eric Nordgren, The Mariner's Museum, Newport News, Virginia.

4:45–5:30 p.m. Discussion

5:30 p.m. Reception. Central Court.

Tuesday, November 15

8:30–9:05 a.m. ***Bridging the Gap between Science and Art: A Behind-the-scenes Introduction to Art Conservation for Science Students from Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria, Virginia***

Amber Kerr-Allison and Hugh Shockey, Smithsonian American Art Museum, and Milde Waterfall, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Washington, D.C.

9:05–9:40 a.m. ***From One Student to Many: Multilevel Approaches to Conservation Outreach in the K–12 Arena***

Sarah Barack and Beth Edelstein, SBE Conservation, LLC., New York, New York.

9:40–10:15 a.m. ***Treasure Keepers: A CSI Approach to Conservation for Students***

William G. Wagner and Abigail Schumann, Productions, Publications, and Learning Ventures, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

10:15–10:45 a.m. Break. Central Court.

10:45–11:10 a.m. ***Where Art and Science Meet: Education Programming for Colonial Williamsburg's Conservation Exhibit***

Patricia Balderson, Museum Education, and Emily Williams, Conservation, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

11:10–11:35 a.m. ***The Public Face of Conservation***

Colleen Snyder, Cleveland Museum of Art, University Heights, Ohio.

11:35 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Poster presentations. Central Court.

12:15–1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own.

1:30–2:05 p.m. ***Julia Child's Kitchen as a Conservation Classroom***

Mary Coughlin, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

2:05–2:25 p.m. ***The Conservation Lab as a Teaching Resource***

Renee Stein and Kathryn Etre, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

2:25–3 p.m. Discussion

3:30–5:30 p.m. Tours of conservation labs at the Bruton Heights Collections and Conservation Building, 309 First Street, Williamsburg.

5:30–6:30 p.m. Reception. Bruton Heights Cottage.

Wednesday, November 16

8:30–8:55 a.m. ***Conservation in the Public Eye: Musings from the Other Side of the Glass***

Suzanne Thomassen-Kraus, National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C.

8:55–9:30 a.m. ***Conservators, Educators and Visitors: An Ongoing Conservation***

Lydia Vagts and Barbara Martin, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts.

9:30–9:55 a.m. ***Quilts under the Microscope: An Educational Initiative Communicating Conservation and Care Issues for Quilts and Heirloom Textiles***

Patricia Crews and Marin Hanson, International Quilt Study Center and Museum, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska.

9:55–10:20 a.m. ***Conserving the Carolina Room***

Shelley Svoboda, Conservation, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

10:20–10:45 a.m. Break. Central Court.

10:45–11:15 a.m. ***Making Exhibitions of Ourselves***

Ian McClure, Yale University Art Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.

11:15–11:40 a.m. ***Presenting Conservation: Where Art and Science Meet***

Emily Williams.

11:40 a.m.–12:05 p.m. ***Connecting to Conservation at the Kelsey Museum***

Suzanne Davis, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

12:05–1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own.

- 1:30–2:05 p.m. ***Lifting the Barriers: Widening Involvement in Conservation at the Museum of London***
Jill Barnard, Helen Ganiaris, Rose Johnson, and Rebecca Lang, Museum of London, London, United Kingdom.
- 2:05–2:30 p.m. ***Conservation Outreach Materials for a Tribal Museum without Conservators***
Ellen Pearlstein and Dawn Lohnas, UCLA/Getty Master's Program in Archaeological and Ethnographic Conservation, Los Angeles, California.
- 2:30–2:55 p.m. ***Falmouth: A Lesson in Preservation***
Matthew Webster, Historic Architectural Resources, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.
- 2:55–3:15 p.m. Break. Central Court.
- 3:15–3:35 p.m. ***Written in Stone: The Role of State Government in Approaches to Cemetery Preservation***
Caitlin O'Grady, Joanna Wilson Green, Jolene Smith, Mike Barber, and Dee DeRoche, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.
- 3:35–4:25 p.m. ***Preserving the Past through Public Outreach: The H. L. Hunley and a Decade of Discovery***
Johanna Rivera, Clemson University, Warren Lasch Conservation Center, and Raegan Quinn, Friends of the Hunley, Charleston, South Carolina.
- 4:25–4:50 p.m. ***Professional Outreach and Public Conservation: Examples from the Washington Conservation Guild***
Howard Wellman, Wellman Conservation LLC, Baltimore, Maryland, and Lisa Young, National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C.
- 4:50–5:30 p.m. Discussion
Program concludes.

TIME TO RENEW!

The new season has now started, so please become a member of the Washington Conservation Guild or renew if you haven't already. WCG membership benefits include monthly receptions and meetings (October through May), a quarterly newsletter, a membership directory, website and email announcements of local activities and job openings, intern/fellow activities, volunteer opportunities, free admission to special lectures, and reduced registration on WCG-sponsored workshops and events. Only current members can vote at the annual business meeting in May.

Artists Documentation Program Online

The Menil sent the following announcement and requested that it be included in the WCG newsletter.

Menil Launches Online Artists Documentation Program Archive, In Partnership with Whitney Museum of American Art and Harvard Art Museums

**In intimate studio interviews, a growing roster of prominent artists
discuss how works of art were made and their intent for future preservation**

**Conversations document artists' materials, techniques, and intent –
Conservation of contemporary works is goal**

Website provides enhanced scholarly access to digitized archival materials

Houston, October 14, 2011 – Founded in 1990 at the Menil Collection, the Artists Documentation Program (ADP) is known within the art world and scholarly circles for gathering vital first-hand interviews with prominent artists – and occasionally their close associates – about the making of art and its conservation. Now, the ADP interview collection is available to researchers on the Menil's website as the ADP Archive. Partnering with the Menil in a new phase of this important oral history project are two fellow institutions: the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Harvard Art Museums' Center for the Technical Study of Modern Art. Links to the ADP Archive may be found on their websites as well.

Outside the museum world, many regard conservation as a science concerned only with the art of centuries past. But modern and contemporary art presents to conservators and scholars a host of new challenges, which the ADP interviews address in the most direct way possible. Over time, as the physical aspects of a modern or contemporary work of art change, so can our perceptions of how it ought to look. Researching an artist's original intent becomes critical, especially for conservators, whose intervention invariably determines a work's long-term health and appearance. With no professional consensus on what constitutes appropriate aging and acceptable damage for modern works, artists themselves are a critical authority in evaluating the current condition of their work and in identifying the tangible qualities that should – and can – be preserved.

Faced with the unusual and sometimes fragile and volatile nature of modern art media and techniques, as well as individual artists' intentions, former Menil chief conservator Carol Mancusi-Ungaro began interviewing artists, in the presence of their works of art, recording their attitudes and feelings toward the works' conservation and exhibition. These interviews led to the establishment, with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, of the Artists Documentation Program.

Since Mancusi-Ungaro incepted the program at the museum over twenty years ago, the ADP has continued to record interviews with the goal of achieving a rare and nuanced understanding of artists' materials and working techniques – and discovering the original intentions that contributed to the creation of particular works of art – most notably those that are ephemeral, conceptual, or time-based in nature. By consulting ADP interviews with such artists as Jasper Johns, Brice Marden and James Rosenquist, viewers can better understand the overarching preservation issues attendant to each artist's oeuvre and how to approach conservation treatments of the artists'

individual works. Because interviews are conducted in the presence of works, they capture the state, at that moment in time, of the works of art under discussion.

For 21 years the growing collection of filmed interviews has continued to be a vital part of the Menil Conservation Department's work. The ADP interviews are casual and candid, filmed in the conservation studio, an exhibition gallery, or an artist's studio, often by award-winning filmmaker and video artist Laurie McDonald, who performed video editing and post-production on the full collection. While the video-recorded conversations reveal the full array of activities that went into the creation of works, they also capture artists' attitudes toward the aging of their works and identify important physical characteristics that would affect the works' preservation. In this way, ADP artists take a dynamic part in determining the what, how, and why of preservation.

The interviews were originally designed for use only by fellow conservators and scholars who visited the Houston museum, whose conservation studio is a central part of the building's design and whose focus on modern and contemporary art is highly regarded within the field. In 2001, Mancusi-Ungaro left the Menil to assume dual positions at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Harvard Art Museums. For the next several years, she and her colleagues continued to record artist interviews at the Whitney and Harvard, while her successors at the Menil, Elizabeth Lunning and Brad Epley, recorded interviews there. The project evolved into a collaborative entity among all three institutions.

In time, scholarly demand for the interviews grew, and it became evident that they should be made more accessible to conservation scholars, educators, practitioners, and interested public. Additional grant funds from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation have assured the permanence and accessibility of the interviews by establishing a centralized ADP Archive at the Menil.

To date, 33 interviews from the Menil, the Whitney, and Harvard – approximately 50 hours of footage – reside in the ADP Archive. All interviews have been fully transcribed and indexed at the timecode level by subject matter. Once accessible only to conservators and art historians, the archive is now available to a broader audience, who may watch, listen and learn from some of the most notable artists of our time. This rare and remarkable resource is a veritable oral-history library where such notable artists as John Currin, John Chamberlain, Ann Hamilton, Jasper Johns, Max Neuhaus, Frank Stella and Cy Twombly speak on camera and for the record. To access this important collection, researchers can visit the ADP website at <http://adp.menil.org>. The bulk of the collection is presented digitally in two formats: standard – streaming video accompanied by downloadable research aids (transcripts and subject indices); and enhanced/rich media – synchronized streaming video and research aids, which allow researchers to navigate to, and share, specific video segments, and to search within or across videos for important names or keywords.

MEMBERSHIP

WCG dues are \$30 per year, \$20 for students and interns, payable to the Washington Conservation Guild or WCG.

The membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. Membership forms can be requested by mail from the Membership Secretary at PO Box 23364, Washington, DC 20026 or can be filled out and submitted on our website. Changes of address or telephone numbers, corrections to the directory, and dues payments should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the address listed above or to: wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org



The membership schedule is as follows:

- April: Membership renewal notice mailed
- July 1: Beginning of membership year
- September 15: Deadline for membership renewals

Disclaimer: The Washington Conservation Guild (WCG) does not recommend particular individuals, businesses, products, services, or conservation treatments. WCG's Newsletter and website are simply vehicles for presenting information from various sources. The publication of such information in either medium should not be construed as an endorsement of it by WCG. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of WCG, its Board of Directors, or membership.

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WCG Board of Directors

2011/2012

Officers

President	Hugh Shockey
Vice President	Jane Klinger
Treasurer	Catherine Dewey
Membership Secretary	Kristen Loudermilk
Recording Secretary	Anne Kingery

Directors	Eliza Gilligan (Past President)
	Justine Bello
	Julia Brennan
	Helen Ingalls
	Amber Kerr-Allison
	Steven Pickman
	Connie Stromberg

Committee Chairs

Archivist	Sarah Stauderman
Intern Coordinator	Ana Alba
Newsletter Editor	Annie Wilker
Nominating Committee	Eliza Gilligan
Angels Project Coordinator	Lisa Young
Public Lecture Coordinator	Michele Pagan
Outreach Booth Coordinator	Howard Wellman
Website Guru	Erin Blake
Refreshments	

Newsletter Submissions

WCG Newsletter is printed quarterly (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer). Items for inclusion in the WCG Newsletter should be directed to:

Annie Wilker
NARA
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
Room 1901
Tel: 301-837-0507
Email: WCGnewsletter@gmail.com

Email submissions are preferred. Please note that articles should be sent at least two weeks before publication. The editor reserves the right to edit copy to fit available space.

Next issue: Winter 2011

Deadline for submissions: November 15, 2011