

NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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WORCESTER ART MUSEUM NAMES NEW DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

(Worcester, Mass., May 18, 2005) — Worcester Art Museum Director James A. Welu recently announced the appointment of Elizabeth Pendleton Streicher as new director of collections and exhibitions.

Streicher will lead all activities in the curatorial, conservation, registration, and collections and exhibition services departments and will serve as a member of the Museum's senior management team. Streicher, an art historian who specializes in 19th- and early 20th- century European painting, also will curate that area of the Museum's collection.

An independent curator, Streicher previously worked for the National Gallery of Art, The Frick Collection and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Wellesley College and a Ph.D. degree from Columbia University, where she concentrated in Modern and Renaissance art.

"We are impressed by Dr. Streicher's extensive administrative, curatorial and academic accomplishments. She has exactly the experience we sought for this position," said Welu. "Furthermore, she has a history with the Worcester Art Museum—she began her career here as a curatorial intern."

During a decade with the National Gallery of Art, Streicher served as acting head and associate research curator of the Department of 19th-century European Painting, and coordinating curator for the international touring exhibition *Great French Paintings from the Barnes Foundation: Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Early Modern*; and as a David E. Finley Fellow and project head at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts.

At the National Gallery of Art, Streicher was instrumental in the initial organization of exhibitions devoted to French Still Life, 1848-1914 with the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam; Adolph Menzel with the Nationalgalerie, Berlin and Musée d'Orsay, Paris; and Edouard Vuillard, also with the Musée d'Orsay, Paris. While at The Frick Collection, she was a coordinator for *Ingres and the Comtesse d'Haussonville*, that institution's first major international loan exhibition.

In addition to writing about the National Gallery's collections, she was organizing editor and a contributor to *Generous Vision: Samuel H. Kress Professors 1965-1995*, which chronicled the scholarly and curatorial history of the National Gallery of Art. She has also published on the 19th-century German artist Max Klinger.

"It will be a privilege to lead the Worcester Art Museum's curatorial division, and I look forward to collaborating with its distinguished curators, division heads, collectors and volunteers," said Streicher. "Jim Welu himself is an institution, and I shall benefit from his dual experience as a long-term, successful museum director and a scholar of Dutch art."

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1898, is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture, ranging from ancient Roman mosaics to Colonial silver, Impressionist paintings and contemporary art. Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation program that enrolls over 6,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m., September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (evening hours sponsored by Commerce Bank), and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m.-noon (sponsored by The TJX Companies, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric, a National Grid Company). The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum web site at www.worcesterart.org.

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