

**Dr. Erin R. Corrales-Diaz Appointed Assistant Curator of American Art
At Worcester Art Museum**

Worcester, MA—January 31, 2018—The Worcester Art Museum (WAM) today announced that Erin R. Corrales-Diaz has been appointed the Museum’s Assistant Curator of American Art, a position generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Dr. Corrales-Diaz comes to WAM from Spartanburg, South Carolina, where she currently holds dual posts as Curator of the Johnson Collection and Visiting Scholar at Wofford and Converse Colleges. Among her recent curatorial projects are exhibitions titled *To Teach Is To Learn: Lessons in African American Art of the South*, *Southern Roots: Selections of Self-Taught Art from the Johnson Collection*, and *A Process of Learning: Educating the Avant-Garde at Black Mountain College*. Dr. Corrales-Diaz will begin work at the Museum in May.

“Erin is an exceptional scholar and curator, and she has demonstrated tremendous capability to explore many different facets of American art, from the elite traditions to the vernacular,” said Matthias Waschek, C. Jean and Myles McDonough Director of the Worcester Art Museum. “Given the richness of our collection in this area, we look forward to Erin’s creative approach to making these important collections relevant to 21st-century audiences.”

WAM is widely known for its American art collection, which begins with the early Colonial period and continues through the 20th century, and has particular strengths in early American portraiture and American Impressionism. In January 2017, the Museum was awarded a three-year grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to support a series of projects focused on the Museum’s collection of pre-contemporary American art. Among other projects, the grant will support a new series of installations and rotating exhibitions that will highlight some important—but less frequently seen—works from the collection, including an initiative to research, conserve, and install several stained glass windows by John La Farge and Louis Comfort Tiffany, which have not been on view in more than 40 years.

“I am absolutely delighted to be joining the Worcester Art Museum, an institution that I admire for its commitment to balancing scholarly endeavors with accessibility for broad and diverse audiences,” said Dr. Corrales-Diaz. “I look forward to delving into this exceptional collection, and to building on the work my colleagues have already started, exploring narratives that expand how visitors think about the history of American art, both in New England and beyond.”

“Erin’s keen intellect and passion for education are sure to be valuable assets to the Worcester Art Museum, as they have been for the Johnson Collection,” stated Lynne Blackman, the Collection’s communications director. “The Collection wishes her the best in this exciting new endeavor and hopes that her scholarly investigations of Southern art will find a fresh audience in New England.”

Prior to moving to Spartanburg, Dr. Corrales-Diaz served as a curatorial fellow at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont, where her projects included a look at American marine painting drawn from the Shelburne’s collection, as well the exhibition *By Land or by Sea: American Folk Art and the Golden Age of Transportation*. She has also curated exhibitions at Kenyon College (*Daguerreotype to Digital: American Photography*, co-

curated with Dr. Austin Porter) and at the Ackland Art Museum (*In Pursuit of Strangeness: Wyeth and Westermann in Dialogue*). In addition to her curatorial work, she has extensive experience teaching, researching, and editing in projects related to American art, including serving as researcher and art historian on the digital humanities project at UNC, Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/commland/>). Dr. Corrales-Diaz received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, completing a dissertation titled “Remembering the Veteran: Disability, Trauma, and the American Civil War, 1861-1915.” She received a Master’s degree from Williams College, following undergraduate work in art history at the University of Washington, Seattle.

About the Worcester Art Museum

Founded in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum’s encyclopedic 38,000 piece collection covers 51 centuries of art. Highlights include the Medieval Chapter House, Renaissance Court, and Worcester Hunt Mosaic, as well as the recently integrated John Woodman Higgins Armory Collection of arms and armor. The Museum is internationally known for its collection of European and American art. It was the first in America to acquire paintings by Monet and Gauguin and one of the first American museums to exhibit photography as fine art. As the first U.S. museum to focus on collaborating with local schools, it has been at the forefront of engaging audiences and giving them a meaningful and personal experience for over a century.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and every third Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$16 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$14 for seniors 65+, and \$14 for college students with ID. Members and children under four are free. Parking is free. For more information, visit worchesterart.org.

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