

The 2016 Samuel H. Kress Foundation Workshop on Technical Art History Curriculum Building

July 29-30, 2016, Sunday River Resort, Newry, ME

Organizers: Rick Johnson (Cornell University) and
Jennifer Mass (University of Delaware)

The incorporation of materials science, imaging technology, chemistry, and computation into the traditional foundation subjects for tackling issues in art history and conservation has progressed rapidly in the first decades of the 21st century. This expanding multidisciplinary has yet to be recognized in undergraduate level courses, and no extant courses introduce the full range of expertise needed in modern technical art history and art conservation. To a great extent this is due to the daunting diversity of expertise required of prospective teachers to even design a suitable syllabus much less cover material ranging from fundamental materials degradation mechanisms to imaging science.

The Kress Foundation has provided funding to assemble a group of experts whose specializations span those involved to debate, discuss, and begin development of such a syllabus. The date and location for the Kress Foundation Workshop on Technical Art History Curriculum Building grew out of a recognition that the deliberations of this group of experts would be greatly enhanced with the participation of representatives from the group of current graduate students and recent graduates drawn to this new field with full awareness of its wide-ranging multidisciplinary. As a result this Kress-sponsored meeting that will initiate the crafting of this groundbreaking syllabus will be held at the Sunday River Resort in Newry, Maine on July 29-30, 2016. It will end just before the start at the same resort of the Gordon Research Seminar on July 30 and 31 which precedes the 3rd edition on of the premier meeting for this emerging field: the Gordon Conference on Scientific Methods in Cultural Heritage (<https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=15101>). As you may already know, the Gordon Research Conferences provide an international forum for the presentation and discussion of frontier research in the biological, chemical and physical sciences, and their related technologies, and for 75 years have been viewed as among the world's premier scientific meetings.

The 2016 Kress-sponsored workshop will be organized around two panels of experts. One panel will discuss topics from their individual specializations that they would recommend be included in a syllabus for an undergradaute

course introducing technical art history. The other panel will provide descriptions of ongoing efforts by the panelists at blending multiple disciplines in such a course. After brief introductory remarks from the members of a panel, an open discussion with the audience of students and other invited experts will ensue in an attempt to identify the various modules desired in the syllabus. Working groups will be formed following the two panels and their reports presented back to the entire group at the end of the day.

The first session the next morning will provide a moderated forum for comments and observations on the target syllabus. From these deliberations a draft syllabus will be composed, presented, and distributed to all participants for further comment and refinement within the 3 months after the workshop.

The Kress Foundation has also provided funds for a re-convening of interested parties the day before the 2018 edition of the Gordon Research Symposium and Conference on Scientific Methods in Cultural Heritage Research. In the years prior to the follow-up meeting in 2018, experts will be encouraged to experiment with seminars and courses based on the modules in the draft syllabus from 2016. In the 2018 version of the Kress Foundation Workshop on Technical Art History Curriculum Building, talks and poster presentations will be invited to share the results from these experiences. At the 2018 meeting, the draft syllabus from 2016 will be refined and shared with the technical art history community as a recommended blueprint for an introductory, multidisciplinary course in modern art history and conservation.

PROGRAM

THE 2016 SAMUEL H. KRESS FOUNDATION WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL ART HISTORY CURRICULUM BUILDING

Friday, July 29, 2016

11:30am - 1:00pm :: Registration and Lunch

2:00 - 3:00pm :: Panel 1 / Moderator: Francesca Casadio (Art Institute of Chicago); Panelists: Jim Coddington (Museum of Modern Art), John Delaney (National Gallery of Art DC), Melanie Gifford (National Gallery of Art DC), Marco Leona (Metropolitan Museum of Art), Jennifer Mass (University of Delaware), Petria Noble (Rijksmuseum)

3:00 - 3:30pm :: Break

3:30-4:30 :: Panel 2 / Moderator: Erich Uffelman (Washington and Lee University); Panelists: Aviva Burnstock (Courtauld Institute of Art), Erma Hermens (Rijksmuseum), Rick Johnson (Cornell University), Andrea LePage (Washington and Lee University), Michele Marincola (New York University), Marc Walton (Northwestern University)

4:30-5:00pm :: Designation of Working Groups

6:00-7:30pm :: Dinner

8:00-9:30pm :: Working Group Discussions

9:30-10:30pm :: Working Group Reports

Saturday, July 30, 2016

7:00-8:00am :: Breakfast

8:30 - 9:30am :: Open Mic: Comments and Observations / Moderator: Jennifer Mass (University of Delaware)

9:30 - 10:00am :: Break

10:00 -11:30am :: Current Draft of Syllabus / Eric Uffelman (Washington and Lee University)

noon - 1:00pm :: Lunch