Philadelphia Museum of Art and The Frick Collection Center for the History of Collecting

Have to Have It: Philadelphians Collect 1850-1930

SYMPOSIUM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2017 PERELMAN BUILDING, 2525 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE



Honoré Daumier, *The Print Collector*, c. 1860. Oil on panel. Philadelphia Museum of Art. Purchased with the W. P. Wilstach Fund, 1954

TO PURCHASE TICKETS

philamuseum.org or call 215.763.8100

Both days: \$35 (members free; students free with ID) Keynote Lecture only: \$20 (members free) Symposium only: \$20 (members free) All prices include Museum admission

FRIDAY, November 3

6:00 REGISTRATION

6:15 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS Timothy Rub, George D. Widener Director and Chief Executive Officer, Philadelphia Museum of Art

6:30 The Eda G. Diskant Memorial Lecture *The Encyclopedia, the Museum, and the Collection* Steven Conn, W. E. Smith Professor of History, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

In the late nineteenth century, museums conceived of themselves as great, visual encyclopedias. But, in fact, their galleries and display cases were more often filled with the collections of private donors. In this talk, Steven Conn examines the relationship between the encyclopedias that museums aspired to be and the collections that formed the basis of their displays at the turn of the twentieth century.

Following the lecture, trolley service to the main building of the Museum will be available and guests are invited to visit the exhibition *Old Masters Now: Celebrating the Johnson Collection* and enjoy the Museum's Friday night programming.

This lecture is supported by The Robert and Eda G. Diskant Memorial Endowment

Both days of the symposium will take place in the Perelman Building, 2525 Pennsylvania Avenue

SATURDAY, November 4

| 9:30 | REGISTRATION |
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| 9:45 | WELCOME |
| | Inge Reist, Director, Center for the History of Collecting, Frick Art Reference Library, The Frick Collection, New York |
| THE LURE OF THE OLD MASTERS | |
| 10:00 | John G. Johnson: Lawyer, Collector, Philadelphian |
| | Jennifer Thompson, Gloria and Jack Drosdick Curator of European Painting & Sculpture and Curator of the John G. Johnson Collection, Philadelphia Museum of Art |
| 10:30 | The French Connection: Joseph Bonaparte, Point Breeze, and Old Masters Come to Bordentown |
| | Yuriko Jackall, Assistant Curator of Paintings, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. |
| 11:00 | BREAK |
| 11:25 | The Last American Versailles: The Widener Collection at Lynnewood Hall |
| | Esmée Quodbach, Assistant Director, Center for the History of Collecting, Frick Art Reference Library, The Frick Collection |
| 12:15 | QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE |
| 12:30 | LUNCH ON YOUR OWN |
| LOOKING BEYOND THE OLD MASTERS | |
| 1:40 | WELCOME |

Richard Kagan, Academy Professor and Arthur O. Lovejoy Professor Emeritus of History, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore **1:45** Collecting American Art in Philadelphia in the Age of John G. Johnson

Kathleen A. Foster, Robert L. McNeil, Jr., Senior Curator of American Art and Director, Center for American Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art

2:15 Collecting Classical Antiquities in the Athens of America Ann Blair Brownlee, Associate Curator, Mediterranean Section, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia

2:45 The Language of the Brush into the Language of Money: John Wanamaker and the Intersections of Collecting and Commerce Sara Tarter, Doctoral researcher, University of Birmingham, England

- 3:15 BREAK
- 3:40 Is Art an Armchair?

Elizabeth Milroy, Professor of Art & Art History, Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, Drexel University, Philadelphia

4:10 A Mentor For Dr. Barnes: John G. Johnson and a Culture of Collecting in Philadelphia

Brian Seymour, Associate Professor, Art History, Community College of Philadelphia, and Ph.D. Candidate, History of Art, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia

- 4:50 QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
- 5:10 *Giving Others Their Due: Philadelphia Collectors After Johnson* Panel discussion with Richard L. Kagan, Inge Reist, and Jennifer Thompson

This symposium is organized in conjunction with the Philadelphia Museum of Art's exhibition *Old Masters Now: Celebrating the Johnson Collection*, November 3, 2017–February 19, 2018.

In 1917, John G. Johnson, the most famous lawyer of his day, left his astonishing trove of European art to the city of Philadelphia. One hundred years later, we continue to gain new insight into the formation of one of this country's most remarkable collections of treasures by the great masters, including Botticelli, Hieronymus Bosch, Titian, Rembrandt, and Monet. Far from being a static group of objects, the Johnson Collection is subject to constant study and scrutiny, inviting us to consider Johnson's legacy in the context of the rich tradition of art collecting in Philadelphia over the centuries.

The Center for the History of Collecting was established at the Frick Art Reference Library in 2007 to support the study of the formation of art collections, both public and private, from the Renaissance to the present day, while asserting the relevance of this subject to art and cultural history. The Center's public programs provide a forum for thoughtful exchange that stimulates scholarship in this discipline. The Center also offers fellowships, seminars, panels, and study days and plays a significant role in developing tools needed for access to primary documents generated by art collectors and dealers.

> FRONT Giovanni di Paolo Saint Nicholas of Tolentino Saving a Shipwreck, 1457 Tempera and gold on panel with vertical grain. The John G. Johnson Collection Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1917