


**VISUAL  
RESOURCES  
ASSOCIATION**

**Twelfth  
Annual  
Conference**

**New York City  
February 15-19, 1994**

**1994 PROGRAM GUIDE**



Welcome to New York City! We hope that you find the twelfth annual conference of the Visual Resources Association a stimulating and rewarding experience, not only for the variety of session and round table topics, but for the opportunity to explore some of the unique offerings of the metropolitan area in the company of colleagues and friends.

### **REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION**

VRA hospitality suite, Park Central Hotel, room 2550.

Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 16, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 17, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday, February 18, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

A VRA registration badge is required for admission to all VRA sessions and events. The badge may also be shown for admission to the CAA exhibits hall. Payment of the VRA registration fee does not constitute payment of fees for any CAA program, except for the joint CAA/VRA session Thursday evening. A CAA registration badge or single session event ticket will be required for admission to CAA sessions and events.

The Visual Resources Association is grateful to the College Art Association for their generous assistance in making this program possible. We also extend our sincere thanks to all members and friends who helped in any way to ensure the success of this program. The members of the Visual Resources Association's New York Chapter provided invaluable local arrangements assistance; their names are listed at the back of this program. Special thanks to Abby Delgado, Design Systems Printing, for timely production of this program; Adam Loory, UK International, for desktop publishing and computer assistance; David Schnabel, Executive Editor, Sandak, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Co., for sponsorship of the members' reception; and David Watson, Research Planning and Design, for program development assistance.

During the conference, keep an eye out for VRA/NY members, who will be wearing specially colored badges. Feel free to ask any VRA/NY member for directions, or clues to events of local interest. VRA/NY members will also act as "shepherds" to guide you to events beyond the conference hotel.

## PROGRAM OF EVENTS

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Conference registration.**

VRA hospitality suite, Park Central Hotel, room 2550.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Conference registration.**

VRA hospitality suite, Park Central Hotel, room 2550.

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

**Visual Resources Association Bulletin editorial board breakfast meeting.**  
Meet in the Park Central Hotel lobby.

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Session I: Implementing New Technologies, Part I.**

Park Central Hotel, Ballroom, lower level.

**Moderator:** Sarah Johnson, The Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts.

**Speakers:** Linda Lauro, L-Squared Studios: "Digital Imaging and Computerized Visual Information: An Overview."

Howard Smith, University of Southern California: "From Databases to Digital: Macintosh Solutions in Slide Collections."

Marilyn Snow, University of California, Berkeley: "SPIRO's Impact on Internal Procedures."

Robert MacKimmie, California Historical Society: "Automation: Why We Need to Think Like James Dean."

Linda Gorman, Dumbarton Oaks: "Using Personal Computers and Customized Databases for Photographic Archives."

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

**Publications Committee meeting.** Park Central Hotel, room 2428. 2215

**VRD/VRA Joint Task Force on Visual Resources Professional Issues meeting.** Park Central Hotel, Ballroom, lower level.

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Session II: Words and Pictures: Linguistic Issues in Image Access.**

Park Central Hotel, Ballroom, lower level.

**Moderators:** Toni Petersen, The Art and Architecture Thesaurus, and Alfred Willis, University of California, Los Angeles.

**Speakers:** Betsey Buckheit, Carleton College: "Indexer as Middleman."  
Holley R. Lange, John Gravidahl, and Heidi Leech, Colorado State University: "The Physical Characteristics of Poster Art: Seeking an Appropriate List of Descriptors."

Helene Roberts, Harvard University: "Envisioning Art Information."

James Turner, Université de Montréal: "Indexing 'Ordinary' Pictures for Storage and Retrieval: An Experimental Investigation."

Janice Woo, University of California, Berkeley: "Indexing: At Play in the Fields of Postmodernism."

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Round Table I: For New Members and Beginning Visual Resources Curators.**

Park Central Hotel, Liberty Conference Room, mezzanine level.

**Discussion leader:** Karin Whalen, Reed College.

**Round Table II: "MARC Formatting without Fear."**

Park Central Hotel, Gotham Conference Room, mezzanine level.

**Discussion leader:** Susan Otto, Milwaukee Public Museum Library.

**Executive Board Meeting I.**

Park Central Hotel, room 2428.

**Executive Board members,** standing committee chairs, editors, task force chairs, and invited guests.

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**VRA Members' Reception.**

Park Central Hotel, Corinthian Room, 26th floor.

**Appetizers will be served. Open bar. Sponsored in part through the generosity of Sandak, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Co.**

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Conference registration.**

VRA hospitality suite, Park Central Hotel, room 2550.

8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

**Annual membership meeting.**

Park Central Hotel, Ballroom, lower level.

**Continental breakfast will be served. Reports will be given to the membership. The Distinguished Service Awards and the Luraine Tansey Travel Awards will be announced. This meeting will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m.!**

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Keynote Session (Session III): Gatekeeping: Art as Agent, Art Teachers and Visual Resources Curators as Information Brokers.**

Park Central Hotel, Ballroom, lower level.

Moderator: Linda Bien, Concordia University.

Speakers: Linda Bien, Concordia University: "Who Goes There? Social Science Concepts for Visual Arts Educators."

Elizabeth A. Semmelhack, Washington University, St. Louis: "Lovers and Beauties in Japanese Prints: Cultural Perception."

Juan Sanchez, Hunter College: "Colonialism: A Practiced Aesthetic (even when multiculturalism is in fashion)."

Edward de Grazia, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University: "I see London, I see France...: Child Pornography Law."

Lon Dubinsky, Concordia University: "Drawing the Line or Making Connections."

*12:30-2:00 CEI - Hilton, Sutton Parlor S., 2nd Flr*

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

**Florence Workshop alumni and prospective participants are invited to meet for a Dutch-treat lunch.** Meet in the hotel lobby promptly at noon.

**Data Standards Committee meeting.**

Park Central Hotel, room 2428.

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Session IV: Implementing New Technologies, Part II.**

Park Central Hotel, Ballroom, lower level.

Moderator: Christine L. Sundt, University of Oregon.

Speakers: Janet Parks, Columbia University: "How AVIADOR Took Flight."

Carolyn A. Pretzer, Kansas State University: "The Establishment of a Visual Database for Multimedia Use at Kansas State University."

Kathleen Cohen, San Jose State University: "Should We Create A Shared Art History Database on the Internet?"

William Broom, Duke University: "The Art Image Study Resource at Duke University."

Randy Parker, Graphic Detail: "Image Database Solutions for the Visual Arts Professional."

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**CAA/VRA Joint Session (Session V): Museums and Copyright; Beyond Squabbling.**

New York Hilton and Towers, Sutton Parlor South, 2nd floor (CAA venue).

Moderator: Scott Bell, California State University, Long Beach.

Speakers: John Strand, American Association of Museums: "Museums in Control."

Matt Herron, American Association of Media Photographers: "MP@A; Media Photographers Copyright Agency—A New Model for Licensing Electronic Rights to Visual Materials."

Allen W. Dean, Copyright Clearance Center: "Copyright and Publishers."

Kurt Wiedenhoef, Saskia Cultural Documentation, Ltd.: "Licensing Original Photography for Education."

Ted Fedder, Art Resource.

Patrice Lyons, The Corporation for National Research Initiatives: "Computer Programs: A Visual Artists Perspective."

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

**1995 San Antonio Conference planning meeting.**

Park Central Hotel, room 2550.

All those with ideas for next year's conference, or who can assist with local arrangements, are encouraged to attend.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

**Conference registration.**

Park Central Hotel, room 2550.

8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

**Round Table III: Classification Theories and Issues.**

Park Central Hotel, Liberty Conference Room, mezzanine level.

Discussion leader: Deirdre Stam, Catholic University School of Library and Information Science.

**Round Table IV: Cataloging of Non-traditional Media.**

Park Central Hotel, Gotham Conference Room, mezzanine level.

Discussion leader: Virginia Kerr, Columbia College of Chicago.

**CIHA Liaison Committee meeting.**

Park Central Hotel, room 2428.

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Session VI: Writing Effective Job Descriptions: A Workshop.**

Park Central Hotel, Gotham Conference Room, mezzanine level.

Conveners: Kim Kopatz, University of Rochester;

Christina Updike, James Madison University;

Margaret Webster, Cornell University;

D Jo Schaffer, State University of New York, Cortland.

\*participation limited to 20 ; pre-registration required.

### **Workshop I: Architectural Photography.**

Columbia University, Avery Library Photographic Studio.

Instructor: Dwight Primiano, East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

\*participation limited to 12, paid pre-registration required. Meet in hotel lobby at 9:15 a.m. to travel uptown as a group. Shepherd: James Monteith, City University of New York.

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

### **Workshop II: Architectural Photography.**

Columbia University, Avery Library Photographic Studio.

Instructor: Dwight Primiano, East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

\*participation limited to 12, paid pre-registration required. Meet in hotel lobby at 12:15 p.m. to travel uptown as a group. Shepherd: Sarah Johnson, The Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts.

### **Michigan Image Cataloging System (MICS) Users Group meeting.**

Park Central Hotel, room 2550.

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

### **Workshop III: Copy Photography.**

Columbia University, Avery Library Photographic Studio.

Instructor: Dwight Primiano, East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

\*participation limited to 12, paid pre-registration required. Meet in hotel lobby at 2:15 p.m. to travel uptown as a group. Shepherd: Mary Abell, Dowling College.

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

### **Executive Board meeting II.**

Park Central Hotel, room 2550.

Executive Board members only.

## **TOURS**

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

#### **The Bettman Archive**

902 Broadway, 5th floor. \*participation limited to 12, pre-registration required. Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 12:30 to travel as a group to arrive at The Bettman Archive reception area by 1:00. Leader: Darby Harper, The Bettman Archive. Shepherd: Stephen Kowalik, Hunter College.

#### **Egyptian Collections, The Brooklyn Museum**

200 Eastern Parkway

Brooklyn. \*participation limited to 15, paid pre-registration required. Meet

in the lobby of the hotel at 11:30 to travel as a group to arrive at the Museum by 1:00. Leader: Donald Spanel, The Brooklyn Museum. Shepherd: Mikki Carpenter, Museum of Modern Art.

### **Clearinghouse on Art Documentation and Computerization**

Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Avenue. \*participation limited to 12, pre-registration required.

Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 12:30 to travel as a group to arrive at the Museum by 1:00. Leader: Patricia Barnett, Metropolitan Museum. Shepherd: Sonita Singwi, Baruch College.

### **SoHo Galleries**

\*participation limited to 15, pre-registration required. Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 1:00. Leader: Matt Haberstroh.

### **Museum Mile**

Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 1:00. Leader: Jenni Rodda, Institute of Fine Arts.

### **Open House**

Slide and Photograph Collection, Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Avenue. \* 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Enter on the ground floor level of the Museum at 81st Street and Fifth Avenue, behind the South Fountain. Just inside the door, check coats and go to the Uris Information Desk a few steps beyond. At the Desk, say that you are attending the Photograph and Slide Library Open House for VRA, and you will be directed to the corridor which leads to the department. Hosts: Priscilla Farah, Chief, and the staff of the Slide and Photograph Collection.

## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**The Cloisters.** \*participation limited to 15, paid pre-registration required. Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 10:30 to travel uptown as a group. Shepherd: James Monteith, City University of New York.

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Ellis Island.** \*participation limited to 15, pre-registration required. Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 12:00 to travel downtown as a group. Shepherd: Mary Abell, Dowling College.

9:00 a.m. onwards

**Princeton.** \*participation limited to 15, pre-registration required. Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 8:45 to travel to Penn Station as a group in time to

board the 9:25 train to Princeton. Leader: Ben Kessler, Princeton University. Shepherd: Eileen Krest, Queens College.

### **ALSO OF INTEREST**

ARLIS/NA is sponsoring an Affiliated Society Special Session at this year's CAA Conference in New York City, Saturday, February 19, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the Petit Trianon, 3rd floor, New York Hilton and Towers. Your co-chairs are Peter Blank, Stanford University, and Max Marmor, Yale University. The session is open to the public. Session title: Which History of Photography: Rethinking the History and Literature of Photography. The following papers will be presented: 1) Photogrammatology: Writing/Photography. Geoffrey Batchen, University of California, San Diego. 2) Benjamin's Blur: The Site of Practice in the History of Photography. Jeanine Ferguson, Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota. 3) The Museological Mise-en-Scène: Walker Evans, American Photographs, and The Museum of Modern Art. Trudy Wilner Stack, Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona. VRA conference attendees are welcome to attend.

### **SESSION SUMMARIES**

#### **Session I: Implementing New Technologies, Part I.**

Moderator: Sarah Johnson, The Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts.

The avalanche of new technologies available to visual resources professionals for the storage and access of images threatens to bury most of us. In this session, a general overview of what is currently available will be given, and the problems encountered discussed. The session has been organized with basic information and simpler systems first, followed by an examination of how various visual resources collections have utilized the emerging technologies in exciting and innovative ways.

#### **Session II: Words and Pictures: Linguistic Issues in Image Access.**

Moderators: Toni Petersen, The Art and Architecture Thesaurus, and Alfred Willis, University of California, Los Angeles.

Papers presented in this session deal with aspects of language in relation to the description or indexing of art objects and/or visual depictions thereof. These papers will be published in a special theme issue of Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation to coincide with the publication of the definite edition of The Art and Architecture Thesaurus in early 1994. Papers are both practical and theoretical in substance, based on empirical observation and speculative in nature.

#### **Keynote Session (Session III): Gatekeeping: Art as Agent, Art Teachers and Visual Resources Curators as Information Brokers.**

Moderator: Linda Bien, Concordia University.

Representatives of several disciplines have been assembled to discuss some theoretical aspects of our profession, including the role of art teachers and visual resources curators as information brokers. With the help of concepts from the social sciences, the panel will illustrate the function of art as an agent influencing society and examine certain social influences on art and art history.

Art history graduate student Elizabeth Semmelhack recontextualizes the Ukiyo-e to exemplify a case of art as an economic and social agent. Artist Juan Sanchez describes the aesthetics of colonialism existing within art worlds that espouse multiculturalism. Edward de Grazia, professor of law and author of Banned Films: Movies, Censors, and the First Amendment and Girls Lean Back Everywhere: the Law of Obscenity and the Assault on Genius, will discuss the impact of child pornography law on freedom of artistic expression. Coordinator of the "Reading the Museum" program and university lecturer, Dr. Lon Dubinsky will address why and how the making, distribution and validation of art have become institutionalized for better and for worse.

#### **Session IV: Implementing New Technologies, Part II.**

Moderator: Christine L. Sundt, University of Oregon.

The discussion begun in Session I will be continued as visual resources professionals with specific experience implementing new methods for accessing and storing images electronically describe and discuss their particular programs.

#### **CAA/VRA Joint Session (Session V): Museums and Copyright; Beyond Squabbling.**

Moderator: Scott Bell, California State University, Long Beach.

The promise of the digital revolution has profound implications for the future of education as well as the dissemination of cultural icons. The infrastructure for the distribution mechanism is just now forming itself and interested players are jostling to effect its structure. Copyright holders, content providers, and end users are all trying to understand the potential of the medium and how they need to interact with each other. Museums are reluctant to assign digital rights for fear of losing control of images they have responsibility for. (The medium lends itself to easy copying of potentially perfect reproductions which are difficult or impossible to trace.) Content

providers routinely pay lawyers as much as they pay for the rights they negotiate because of the lack of standardized licensing agreements. End users in education see great potential in "virtual libraries," but without a broad base of copyright-free images to draw from, critical mass will be hard to achieve. What models are currently in place for dealing with licensing of digital rights? What is the state of current law on the issue of on-line dissemination of copyrighted images? What models can we examine from other industries that might be useful in solving our problems, or is the situation so unique that it requires homegrown solutions? (Museums, auction houses, galleries, artists, and collectors all have very different businesses and rarely exchange data.) What is the best strategy for those of us involved with imaging technology to take in building "ImageBases" for our institutions, both short-term and long-term? This forum will explore these questions from the perspective of many of the players who are shaping this new industry.

#### **Session VI: Writing Effective Job Descriptions: A Workshop.**

Conveners: Kim Kopatz, University of Rochester; Christina Updike, James Madison University; Margaret Webster, Cornell University; D Jo Schaffer, State University of New York, Cortland.

Sponsored by the ARLIS/NA and VRA Joint Taskforce on Visual Resources Professional Issues, this workshop will focus on the writing of effective and accurate job descriptions for visual resources professionals. Among the topics that will be considered are the elements of a job description, the evaluation and organization of responsibilities, and the usage of appropriate terminology. The Workshop will benefit those who are considering a position review, establishing a new position within their visual resources unit, or a realignment of the unit itself within the institution. Materials, including sample job descriptions, pertinent articles on writing job descriptions, and a work sheet, will be distributed to the participants before the annual meeting. Each participant will be expected to complete and return the work sheet before the meeting.

During the workshop a general introduction on writing job descriptions will be presented followed by a critique and discussion of issues raised by the returned work sheets. At the end of the session, a generic job description for visual resources professionals will have been created. This document should provide a framework for visual resources professionals to define their responsibilities, to convey them effectively within their institutions, and to provide a basis for comparison with related professionals such as librarians, archivists, and curators.

## **VISUAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATION**

Incorporated as a General Not For Profit Corporation in the State of Missouri, under No. N00028029, 13 August 1982.

Applications for membership in the Visual Resources Association will be available in the VRA hospitality suite (Park Central Hotel, room 2550) during the conference. Annual dues for 1994 are \$40, \$55 outside North America. Contributing membership is \$80 to \$299. Patron membership is \$300 and above. To become a member, send your check (U.S. currency only) to Lynda S. White, Treasurer, c/o University of Virginia, Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library, Bayly Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22903. Membership includes a subscription to the Visual Resources Association Bulletin. Visit our booth in the CAA exhibits area for information about other publications.

#### **1994 Program (New York City)**

##### **General Coordinator:**

Jenni Rodda, Institute of Fine Arts.

##### **Pre-registration Coordinator:**

Leigh Gates, Art Institute of Chicago.

##### **Local Arrangements:**

New York Chapter, Visual Resources Association:  
Jenni Rodda, Institute of Fine Arts, President;  
Benjamin R. Kessler, Princeton University, Vice President;  
James F. Monteith, City University of New York, Treasurer;  
Steven Kowalik, Hunter College, Secretary.

##### **Local Arrangements Participants:**

Mary Abell, Dowling College; Mikki Carpenter, Museum of Modern Art; Priscilla Farah, Metropolitan Museum; Matt Haberstroh; Eileen Krest, Queens College; Robert Lobe, School of Visual Arts; Stephen Margolies, Brooklyn College; Sonita Singwi, Baruch College; Linda Strauss, Columbia University

**Program Design and Production Coordinator:**

Adam Loory, UK International, City Island, New York.

**Printing:**

Abby Delgado, Design Systems Printing, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

**Association Officers:**

President: Christina B. Updike, James Madison University.

President-elect: Sandra C. Walker, University of Tennessee.

Vice President: Jenni Rodda, Institute of Fine Arts.

Secretary: Leigh Gates, Art Institute of Chicago.

Treasurer: Christine E. Hilker, University of Arkansas.

Treasurer-elect: Lynda S. White, University of Virginia.

VRA Bulletin Editor: Joy A. Blouin, University of Michigan.

**Editors:**

Visual Resources Association Bulletin: Joy A. Blouin, University of Michigan.

Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation:

Helene E. Roberts, Harvard University, and Christine L. Sundt, University of Oregon.

**Committee Chairs:**

CIHA Liaison: Joy A. Blouin, University of Michigan, and Jenni Rodda, Institute of Fine Arts.

Data Standards: Linda McRae, University of South Florida.

Distinguished Service Award: Sandra C. Walker, University of Tennessee.

Joint Task Force (VRA/ARLIS) on Professional Issues: Margaret N. Webster, Cornell University.

Membership and Development: Ira A. Bartfield, National Gallery of Art.

Nominations: Luz Maria Avellyra, University of North Carolina.

Publications Advisory: Nancy S. Schuller, University of Texas.

Travel Awards: Benjamin R. Kessler, Princeton University.



