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The Living Legacy of Charles Lang Freer: Detroit and Washington D.C.



Left: The Freer House, Detroit, 1904 (Photos courtesy, Freer Gallery of Art Archives)
Right: The Freer Gallery of Art, 1950 (Courtesy the Library of Congress)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2012

2:00 PM KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
(Marvin and Betty Danto Lecture Hall, DIA)

Points of Contact:

Freer's Vision for American and Asian Art – Past, Present and Future

Julian Raby, PhD, Director

Freer and Sackler Galleries of Art, Smithsonian Institution

3:30 PM SYMPOSIUM
(Marvin and Betty Danto Lecture Hall, DIA)

Freer and the Aestheticization of the Art Museum in America

Kenneth Myers, PhD

A Gift to the Nation: How the Freer Collection Landed on America's Mall

Geoffrey G. Drutchas, D. Min.

The Charles Lang Freer House: the Original Freer Gallery of Art

Thomas W. Brunk, PhD

The Freer House Today: Interpretation, Restoration, Preservation

William S. Colburn

Freer's Whistler Gallery: Restoration Challenges and Opportunities

Edward Francis, FAIA

5:30 PM
HISTORIC FREER HOUSE BENEFIT RECEPTION & TOURS
71 E. Ferry Street (one block north of DIA)

Keynote

Julian Raby, PhD

Director, Freer and Sackler Galleries of Art, Smithsonian Institution.



Raby, 62, was born in London. He received his bachelor's degree with honors from Magdalen College at the University of Oxford (1971), where he also earned his doctorate in Oriental Studies (1981). His affiliation with Oxford grew to include a prominent role as university lecturer in Islamic art and architecture (1979 to 2006), chairman of curators of the Oriental Institute (1991-1993 and 1995-2000) and chairman of the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies (1993-1995). During his time as chairman of curators, Raby was closely involved with the creation of the Oxford University Teaching and Research Unit in Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

Raby has supervised over 40 special exhibitions at the Freer/Sackler since 2002, and under his leadership a number of exhibitions organized by the Sackler Gallery have traveled worldwide. The exhibition *Encompassing the Globe: Portugal and the World in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* (2007), which included a scholarly publication and website, traveled to Brussels in 2007 and Lisbon in 2009. *Garden and Cosmos: The Royal Paintings of Jodhpur* premiered in Washington, D.C. in 2008 and was cited as "the Asian art exhibition of the year" by *The International Herald Tribune*. After engaging in a world tour that included stops in Seattle, Washington and the British Museum in London, *Garden and Cosmos* most recently opened at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Symposium

Thomas W. Brunk, PhD, Independent Scholar

Dr. Thomas W. Brunk conducted his undergraduate studies in art history and archives at La Sorbonne, University of Paris (France), and Wayne State University. He received his masters in art history and architectural history from Norwich University (Vermont) in 1992, and his doctorate in art history from The Union Institute (Cincinnati), in 1997. Dr. Brunk is past president of the Saarinen Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians. He has also served as president of the Stapleton Foundation for Health Education (WSU), The Scarab Club, The Pewabic Society, Inc., and The Indian Village Historical Collections, Inc. Dr. Brunk has been involved in the preservation and renovation of Freer house over the past twenty years. The publications Dr. Brunk has authored include: Leonard B. Willeke: *Excellence in Architecture and Design*. (U of D Press, 1986), "The House That Freer Built" (*Dichotomy*, spring 1981, v. 5 #1), and "The Mary Chase Perry and William B. Stratton Residence" (*Dichotomy*, fall 1980, v. 3 #3,6-19).

William S. Colburn, Director, The Freer House Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, Wayne State University

A native Detroit, Colburn is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate in history of Wayne State University. His introduction to historic preservation began as a staff member of the Detroit Urban Conservation Project. He became an active volunteer with Preservation Wayne shortly after it was founded. William assumed the role of

Chair of Preservation Wayne and led its transition from a university organization to Detroit's first staffed, full time, private non-profit preservation organization and served as its founding Executive Director for 15 years. The restoration of the David Mackenzie House, the revitalization of the E. Ferry Avenue Historic District, and the receipt of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Honor Award were among the accomplishments of Preservation Wayne under his leadership. Colburn has served on the boards of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, the Saarinen Chapter, of the Society of Architectural Historians, Preservation Action, and two terms with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) in Washington, D.C. He has served as Director of the Freer House, MPSI, WSU since 2009.

Geoffrey G. Drutchas, D Min.

Senior Pastor, St. Paul United Church of Christ

Born in Detroit, Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas is a cultural historian and clergyman who has lectured extensively on Charles Lang Freer, James McMillan, Charles Moore and the National Mall. During the 1990s he identified and authenticated the Italian artist responsible for the eight monumental muses that crown the Michigan State Capitol dome. Drutchas subsequently co-authored *Tommaso Juglaris: An Artist Between Europe and America* (Famija Moncalereisa) and was guest curator for an international exhibition of Juglaris's work in Lansing, Michigan, in 2004-2005, and Turin, Italy, in 2006. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Michigan State University and Harvard University, as well as the Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Edward D. Francis, FAIA

Principal, Resendes Design Group

Ed is the principal-in-charge of Historical Preservation and Adaptive Reuse at Detroit, MI based Resendes Design Group. He graduated from Miami University in Oxford, OH. He is licensed in the state of Michigan and 8 other states and is NCARB certified. His major award winning restoration projects include: Fox Theater, Detroit, MI; Wheeler Opera House, Aspen, CO; Frauenthal Performing Arts Center, Muskegon, MI; Morris Performing Arts Center, South Bend, IN; and the Fulton Opera House, Lancaster, PA. He has served on the State of Michigan Historical Preservation Review Board and is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, AIA Michigan/Detroit chapter Gold Medal recipient and has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Historical Preservation Network.

Kenneth J. Myers, PhD

Chief Curator and Curator of American Art, Detroit Institute of Arts

Dr. Kenneth John Myers is chief curator and curator of American art at the Detroit Institute of Arts where he led the team that organized the widely-praised reinstallation of the museum's great collection of American art. Before joining the DIA, he was curator of American art at the Freer Gallery of Art. Earlier in his career, he taught at Middlebury College. Dr. Myers received his B.A. from Cornell University, and his Ph.D. from Yale. He is the author of *Mr. Whistler's Gallery: Pictures at an 1884 Exhibition* (2003) and *The Catskills: Painters, Writers, and Tourists in the Mountains, 1820-1895* (1986). Major essays include "Above the Clouds at Sunrise: Frederic Church's Memorial to Thomas Cole," in Nancy Siegel, ed.; "Whistler the 'Quintessencier': Violet and Blue: Among the Rollers and the Importance of the Last Small Oils," *Detroit Institute of Arts Bulletin in the DIA Bulletin* (2011); *American Iconology: New Approaches to Nineteenth-Century Art and Literature* (1993).