

David Brigham collection of research materials

MS.055

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

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Summary Information

Repository The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives

Creator David Brigham

Title David Brigham collection of research materials

Date [bulk]

Date [inclusive]

Extent

Location note

Language

Language of Materials note English

Abstract Collection of research material generated and compiled for David Brigham's dissertation and eventual publication, *Public Culture in the Early Republic: Charles Wilson Peale's Museum and Its Audience* (1995). Also includes research files for the publication of the article, "The Pyramid Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts" and the African American artist Dox Thrash.

Please note that the collection has not been processed. Access to the collection may be limited.

Preferred Citation note

[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

Historical note

David R. Brigham, Ph.D., joined PAFA in 2007 as the Edna S. Tuttleman Director of the Museum, he was promoted by the Board of Trustees in 2010 to President and CEO. Under his leadership, annual attendance has increased from 120,000 to 220,000 visitors; contributions have increased from \$2.2 million to \$5 million per year; scholarship support for PAFA's art students has risen from \$1 million to over \$3.5 million annually; and the art collection has grown by more than 1,000 works. PAFA's entire collection is being digitized and added to the Albert M. Greenfield American Art Resource Online; and PAFA has expanded new educational programs such as Family Arts Academy and Art in Process. PAFA's campus has been improved by the addition of Lenfest Plaza, a new study center for works of art on paper and archives, the Alumni Gallery, the Richard C. von Hess Foundation Works on Paper Gallery, the Community Education Center, and a new café. During Brigham's tenure, PAFA's museum earned reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums and its school earned accreditation from Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

In 2015, under Brigham's leadership, PAFA added two new academic programs: an undergraduate major in Fine Arts Illustration and a Low-Residency MFA degree. To accommodate this growth in the curriculum, new classrooms have been constructed, the library has been enlarged, and new technology has been added for art making and for art instruction online.

Brigham has reinforced PAFA's commitment to gender and ethnic diversity. Exhibitions such as *Barkley L. Hendricks: Birth of the Cool*, *Henry Ossawa Tanner: Modern Spirit*, *The Female Gaze: Women Artists Making Their World*, and *Procession: The Art of Norman Lewis* have attracted new audiences to PAFA. The formation of a Community Outreach Community has expanded relationships throughout the region. And PAFA has broadened its permanent collection through purchases of artists such as Harriet Hosmer, Norman Lewis, Mickalene Thomas, Kehinde Wiley, and Njideka Akunyili. Linda Lee Alter's gift in 2010 of her extensive collection of art by twentieth-century women recognized PAFA's renewed commitment to educating, exhibiting, and employing women artists. Today, PAFA's commitment to diversity is further reflected in that students of color comprise over 30 percent of the student body.

Brigham earned his master's degree in Museum Studies/American Civilization and a doctorate in American Civilization at the University of Pennsylvania, and bachelor's degrees in English and Accounting summa cum laude from the University of Connecticut. He has published, organized exhibitions, and delivered invited lectures on a broad range of American art from the 17th to the late 20th centuries, including a book about PAFA's founder Charles Willson Peale.

Previously, Brigham was the Executive Director of the Allentown Museum of Art (2002-2007), and the Director of Collections and Exhibitions and Curator of American Art at the Worcester Art Museum in Massachusetts (1996-2002). He has also taught at the University of Southern California, George Mason University, and Lebanon Valley College, where he directed the

Suzanne H. Arnold Art Gallery, and was Research Associate at the Huntington Library. His research has been supported by prestigious research fellowships from the Smithsonian Institution, Huntington Library, McNeil Center for the Study of Early American Studies, Library Company of Philadelphia, British Academy, and the Bellagio Study Center of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Scope and Contents note

Consists of 12 banker boxes. No inventory or processing has been done.

Arrangement note

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research.

The archives reserves the right to restrict access to materials of sensitive nature. Please contact the department for further information.

Conditions Governing Use note

The collection is the physical property of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Archives. The Museum holds literary rights only for material created by Museum personnel or given to the Museum with such rights specifically assigned. For all other material, literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. Researchers are responsible for obtaining permission from rights holders for publication and for other purposes where stated.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Provenance note

Processing Information note

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder