

Harry Philbrick Director records

Collection ID: RG.02.02.05

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
118-128 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

archives@pafa.org

215-972-2066

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Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	Harry Philbrick
Title	Harry Philbrick Director records
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	
Extent	Digital Files
Location note	
Language	English
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	General office files during Philbrick's tenure, most files regarding exhibitions organized by other institutions were kept in the director's files rather than the curator's.

Preferred Citation note

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

Historical note

During his tenure, Philbrick has dramatically expanded PAFA's commitment to community education, developing such innovative programs as the School and Community Partnership and Student Docent programs. The [School and Community Partnership Program](#) has enabled PAFA to provide art education to two public schools in Philadelphia that would otherwise not have an art program: Sheppard Elementary School and Julia de Burgos Middle School. That program is poised to expand to four more schools over the coming year. The [Student Docent Program](#) trains teens to give tours to their peers, teaching them leadership and public speaking skills along the way.

Philbrick has reinvigorated PAFA's contemporary arts programming and initiated such projects as the Plinth Project, public art displays at 30th Street Station of [KAWS](#) and [Eiko Otake](#), and exhibitions featuring the work of [KAWS](#), [Mural Arts Program](#), [Jennifer Bartlett](#), [Eric Fischl](#), [Robert Taplin](#), and [Traction Company](#). Under Philbrick's leadership, the museum opened the new Richard C. von Hess Foundation Works on Paper Gallery and reopened the Morris Gallery for contemporary art. He also oversaw a team of curators who organized such nationally important exhibitions as [David Lynch: The Unified Field](#), [Peter Blume: Nature and Metamorphosis](#), [The Artist's Garden](#), and [Procession: The Art of Norman Lewis](#). Each of these exhibitions was accompanied by major scholarly catalogs that have added substantially to the understanding of American art.

Working closely with the Board of Trustees and the President, Philbrick established a new acquisitions fund that will enable PAFA to build the collection more actively through the purchase of works of art. The new fund yields approximately \$2 million annually that is divided equally between the purchase of contemporary and historical art.

Philbrick says, "I have enjoyed working at PAFA for nearly five years. We have accomplished much in that time, and I am grateful to have been a part of the museum's success. I have been privileged to work with wonderful curators, educators, and talented professionals. While I am proud of all that we have accomplished and grateful for the opportunity to have served as Director of the Museum, the time is right for me to seek new challenges. I am truly excited to be exploring the creation of a new not-for-profit contemporary art space in Philadelphia. I look forward to sharing my plans widely in the near future."

Scope and Contents note

Arrangement note

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is restricted.

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

Conditions Governing Use note

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Records transferred to PAFA network servers by Kevin Martin upon Philbrick's departure, 2015.

Provenance note

Processing Information note

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Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory