



THE ART CONSORTIUM

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THE ART CONSORTIUM TO LAUNCH THIS SUMMER

International Think Tank to Stimulate and Facilitate Collaboration, Innovation, and Global Thinking in the Art Museum World

Milwaukee, WI - **The Art Consortium**, a new international think tank dedicated to shaping the future of art museums, is being launched this summer to stimulate collaboration, innovation, and global thinking among leaders in the art world, and to facilitate the development and application of new ideas in museums. The lead funder is Christie's with additional support from other private donors and foundations.

The flagship event of The Art Consortium will be its annual three-day member meeting, the first of which will be held in Vienna on October 22-24, 2012. The meeting will convene imaginative thinkers, leaders, and opinion-makers for conversations with the Consortium's members that will help generate ideas and solutions to key issues confronting art museums today.

"The overall purpose of the Consortium is to create a mechanism that fosters collaboration and idea sharing among our members," said **Laurie Winters**, President of the Board and Executive Director of The Art Consortium, who will be leaving her position as Director of Exhibitions and Publications at the Milwaukee Art Museum in late July to start the new organization. "Some of the most innovative thinking that might be applicable to issues facing museums is coming from unexpected quarters. We want to bring the proponents of those ideas into the conversation with our members."

The members will consist of leaders at U.S. and European art museums, foundations, galleries, and others with an interest in the health of art museums. Membership in The Art Consortium is by the invitation of the Board of Directors.

The Founding Board of Directors of The Art Consortium includes: **Klaus Albrecht Schröder**, Director, Albertina, Vienna; **Julián Zugazagoitia**, Director, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, **Kathleen Soriano**, Director of Exhibitions, Royal Academy, London, **Stephen Einhorn**, General Partner, Capital Midwest, a venture capital fund, and Founder, Einhorn Family Foundation, **David Knox**, Chairman, the Chipstone Foundation. Dr. Schröder will serve as Board Chair.

"Christie's shares The Art Consortium's aim of continually innovating within the world of cultural stewardship," said Allison Whiting, Director of Museum Services, Christie's. "We are honored to be the lead funder in this exciting, forward-looking effort and we are pleased to continue our work with such top-flight cultural institutions from around the world."

Vienna and Kansas City will be the first two host cities for the annual meeting in the fall of 2012 and 2013. Among the topics that will be considered are: capturing the public interest when attention spans are growing shorter; achieving financial security in an age of economic uncertainty; and navigating the latest trends in technology. Special guests will be invited such as commentators who are critical of contemporary museum practices; economists who study cultural institutions; psychologists and neurophysiologists who can talk about art and the brain and the issue of shorter attention spans; and technologists on the leading edge of the digital/internet/mobile device revolution.

About Laurie Winters

Laurie Winters conceived of The Art Consortium after working extensively with museums in Central Europe in her role as Director of Exhibitions at the Milwaukee Art Museum. After joining the Milwaukee Art Museum in 1997, Winters developed important relationships with museum directors and curators in Austria, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic. These relationships led to a number of the Milwaukee Art Museum's most important international exhibitions, including *Leonardo da Vinci and the Splendor of Poland* (2002); *Rembrandt and His Time: Masterworks from the Albertina* (2005); and *Biedermeier: The Invention of Simplicity* (2006), which traveled to the Albertina in Vienna, the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin, and the Louvre in Paris. *Biedermeier* was recognized as a model of international collaboration, with nearly every country in Central Europe lending artworks, including the Czech Republic and Hungary. The exhibition catalogue won the 2007 Vienna Art Fair prize for best exhibition catalogue on pre-1900 art in Europe and the *The New York Times* named it decorative arts book of the year.

In 2009, Winters expanded the Museum's international partnerships with *Jan Lievens: A Dutch Master Rediscovered*, a collaboration with the National Gallery in Washington and the Rembrandthuis in Amsterdam. Most recently, Winters collaborated with her counterparts at the Albertina on the third joint project for the two institutions, *Impressionism: Masterworks on Paper*, which was recently on view in Vienna.

Winters was selected for the inaugural class of the Center of Curatorial Leadership (2008), a program that prepares top curators for positions as museum leaders and directors, and was also selected for The Getty Museum Leadership Institute's (2009) Program.

During the last 15 years of her professional career, Winters has worked to build long-term relationships based on trust and a commitment to excellence. The Consortium is conceived as a logical extension of those partnerships. Because of her experience and connections in Central Europe, a special effort has been made to include museums and organizations in that region that have previously been overlooked on the international stage.

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