

Annual Report (2016) from the American National Committee

The National Committee for the History of Art (NCHA)—in keeping with its historical mission—continued the work of enhancing awareness of CIHA, its colloques, and quadrennial congress—which was held in Beijing in 2016—among the community of Historians of Art and Architecture in the United States. In preparation for the 2016 CIHA Beijing Congress, the NCHA organized panels and sessions for the Annual Meeting of the College Art Association (CAA) in Washington, D.C., in February 2016. The NCHA committee met during the CAA conference to discuss revisions to our bylaws, membership (the election of new officers and members), and the funding of Graduate Students, enrolled in doctoral programs in the United States, to attend the CIHA Congress. A sub-committee was formed to review and select Graduate Student applications to attend the CIHA Congress in Beijing (this work was undertaken in the early summer: 18 applicants were selected). Another sub-committee was formed to nominate new officers to the NCHA; their names were advanced to the CIHA Bureau for discussion and confirmation.

In the last several years, the NCHA has been instrumental in developing global networks of art historians, particularly in areas of the world in which art history is an emerging discipline. With support from the Getty Foundation, the NCHA has brought together art historians from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe for discussions on the state of the discipline and to help forge communities of scholars around the globe. This initiative has been continuously developed, with NCHA oversight, through the Getty Foundation and CAA's International Committee. During the summer of 2016, the CAA International Committee directed conversations among alumni of the Getty/CAA/NCHA program to develop a series of panels on different themes collectively titled « Global Conversations ». The applications, gathered in late summer, were reviewed by the CAA International Committee and current and past members of the NCHA (Rick Asher, Michael Ann Holly, Mary Miller, and David Roxburgh). Four panels were formed with five speakers in each one. Over the months of Fall and early Winter, Asher, Holly, Miller, and Roxburgh worked with the speakers of their panels to develop papers for presentation at the CAA Annual Meeting in New York, February 2017. These current and former NCHA members moderated the panels in February 2017. An additional round table was convened on the Saturday of the February 2017 CAA annual meeting to debrief participants on the Beijing Congress. The roundtable discussion was led by Steven Nelson.

The NCHA is currently preparing two panels for the CAA Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, 2018, related to the themes of the CIHA Congress in Italy 2019 and Brazil 2020. The intention is again to develop awareness of CIHA and its Congress and to stimulate conversations around the issues and methods implicated in the two conferences. This will surely generate proposals from American scholars for both sessions and individual papers at the 2019 and 2020 Congresses. We also hope that it will increase the number of international participants who attend the Congress.

Four members of the NCHA attended the CIHA Congress in Beijing: outgoing President Marc Gotlieb, Treasurer Steven Nelson, and incoming President and Vice-President David Roxburgh and Nicola Courtright, respectively. They participated in the panels of the conference, attended meetings of the General Assembly and Bureau, and hosted the 18 United States Graduate Students funded by the NCHA.