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National Gallery of Art, Washington, Announces New Staff Appointments



Kathleen Williams, newly appointed chief archivist, National Gallery of Art, Washington.
Photo by Earl McDonald, National Archives and Records Administration

Washington, DC—Today the National Gallery of Art, Washington, announced three new senior staff appointments in the Library, the Publishing Office, and Gallery Archives, as well as promotions for curatorial staff.

The Gallery has appointed Roger Lawson to the position of **executive librarian**. With nearly 38 years of experience in the [Gallery Library](#) encompassing technical services (acquisitions, cataloging, and preservation programs), automation initiatives, reader services, and leadership in library professional associations, as well as budget, personnel, and space planning, Lawson will lead and develop what has become one of the world's foremost art historical research institutions. Among the Library's 400,000 volumes are an important collection of rare books, the largest collection of auction catalogs in the United States, current and rare periodicals, and one of the most important art and architecture image libraries in the world with over 14 million photographs, negatives, and digital images.

The Gallery has appointed Emiko Usui as **editor-in-chief** beginning October 2. Usui has served for the past six years as director of MFA Publications at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), and her 25-year museum career includes senior editorial positions at the MFA, as well as curatorial work at both the MFA and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Usui also held positions at Matrix Group International, an Alexandria-based digital agency specializing in user-focused web design and development, and in technical support at Oracle, the computer technology corporation.

After more than 13 years with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a division of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Kathleen Williams has been appointed the Gallery's **chief archivist** and will begin on August 21. Williams joined the NHPRC in June 2004 as the deputy executive director and was named executive director in April 2008. Under Williams's leadership, the commission created new grant programs for digitizing historical records, public engagement with primary sources, and the Archives Leadership Institute. Prior to working at NARA, Williams served for over 20 years as an archivist at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Smithsonian Institution.

For his leadership and outstanding work in research, exhibitions, and installations of modern art, including the [recently renovated East Building](#), curator and head of modern art Harry Cooper has been named **senior curator of modern art**.

Molly Donovan has been named **curator of art, 1975–present**, for her diligent work in building the Gallery's collection of contemporary art, fostering relationships with living artists, as well as project leadership on the upcoming exhibition [Rachel Whiteread](#). Kimberly Jones is now **curator of nineteenth-century French paintings**, appointed for her recent leadership and scholarship on several international projects including the traveling [Frédéric Bazille](#) retrospective. James Meyer, previously the chief curator and deputy director at Dia Art Foundation, has returned to the Gallery as **curator of art, 1945–1974**. While at the Gallery prior to his time at Dia, Meyer was associate curator of modern art and helped facilitate such important acquisitions as the famed Virginia Dwan collection and archives, featured in his exhibition on the history of [Dwan Gallery](#). Diane Waggoner was named **curator of nineteenth-century photographs** for her scholarship and distinguished exhibitions on British and American photography, such as the recent [East of the Mississippi: Nineteenth-Century American Landscape Photography](#).

"We are delighted to announce new management-level staff to the National Gallery of Art and to foster professional growth for existing staff," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art, Washington. "I am thrilled to welcome Emiko Usui and Kathleen Williams to the Gallery family, appoint Roger Lawson to lead our very busy Library Division, and welcome James Meyer back to the Gallery to continue to cultivate and steward our growing collection of midcentury art. Harry Cooper's work on the East Building reopening with department colleague Molly Donovan has earned them both deserved promotions, and Kimberly Jones and Diane Waggoner continue to produce important and revelatory exhibitions and publications in their respective fields of French painting and photography."

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt, Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc, and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/ngadc>.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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Press Release

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Questions from members of the media may be directed to the Department of Communications at (202) 842-6353 or pressinfo@nga.gov

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