

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

Worcester Art Museum library to close for two months for upgrades

Reclassification project to take place from February 16 through April 17, 2019

Worcester, MA (January 28, 2019) The Worcester Art Museum Library will be closed from February 16 to April 17, 2019 to complete a collection reclassification and automation project. When the library reopens, the entire collection of 60,000 volumes will be classified under the Library of Congress Classification system. In addition, a library management system will be installed to track library materials, gather data about the collection, and automate the circulation process. While the library is closed, materials will not be readily accessible; however, patrons may contact a librarian with questions by calling 508-793-4386 or emailing rebeccamorin@worcesterart.org.

“The WAM library is an incredibly valuable resource for the museum staff, as well as for teachers, scholars, students, collectors, and anyone interested in art history,” said Head Librarian Rebecca Morin. “Having a single standard classification system will make the library’s collection more accessible for everyone, and automation will make managing the library’s collection much more efficient.”

Founded in 1909, the library is dedicated to the study and enjoyment of the history of art, by collecting resources in support of the Museum’s mission, exhibitions, and permanent collections. The library’s current holdings include: 60,000 books (including the John Woodman Higgins Armory library), 18,000 auction catalogs dating back to 1876, 10,000 artist files, and archived holdings of over 300 art periodicals. In addition to these resources, the library has access to numerous online databases, including ARTSTOR, JSTOR, and Grove Art Online. The reading room houses the library reference collection, frequently used monographs, WAM publications, and recent art journals.

Located on the second floor of the Worcester Art Museum—in the original sculpture gallery dating back to 1898—the library is free and open to the public during Museum hours. The library collection is non-circulating, but available for academic, scholarly, and general audiences. Since 2001, it has been jointly managed by the Worcester Art Museum and The College of the Holy Cross.

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum creates transformative programs and exhibitions, drawing on its exceptional collection of art. Dating from 3,000 BC to the present, these works provide the foundation for a focus on audience engagement, connecting visitors of all ages and abilities with inspiring art and demonstrating its enduring relevance to daily life. Creative initiatives—including pioneering collaborative programs with local schools, fresh approaches to exhibition design and in-gallery teaching, and a long history of studio class instruction—offer opportunities for diverse audiences to experience art and learn both from and with artists.

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Since its founding in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum has assembled a collection of 38,000 objects: from the ancient Near East and Asia, to European and American paintings and sculptures, and continuing with works by contemporary artists from around the world. WAM has a history of making large scale acquisitions, such as its Medieval Chapter House, the Worcester Hunt Mosaic, its 15th-century Spanish ceiling, and the Flemish *Last Judgment* tapestry. In 2013, the Museum acquired the John Woodman Higgins Armory Collection of arms and armor, comprising two thousand objects. It continues to commission and present new works, such as 2017's installation of the interactive *Reusable Universes* and *Organic Concept* works by Shih Chieh Huang.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and every third Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$16 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$14 for seniors 65+, and \$14 for college students with ID. Members and children under four are free. Parking is free. For more information, visit worcesterart.org.

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