



From the President of MAHS:

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Midwest Art History Society's online journal *Venue*. From the time of its founding in 1973, the Society has prioritized the support of scholarship. That is one of the goals of our annual meetings, which create a forum for the presentation of new research in art history. It was this mission that prompted the Society to provide financial support for several catalogues devoted to European drawings in Midwestern collections that were published between 1996 and 2015. Wishing to widen its focus, the Society has expanded its support of scholarship through awards, including prizes for graduate students and early career scholars and awards for catalogues produced by curatorial scholars at museums. We are delighted to add this online journal to the ongoing list of contributions made by MAHS to scholarship in the field of art history over the last fifty years.

Its appearance is the culmination of the work of Heidi Hornik, a past president of MAHS and the guiding force behind bringing the journal to fruition. This project is supported with various resources from the Office of the Provost, College of Arts & Sciences, and the Department of Art & Art History, Baylor University. It is hosted by the Texas Digital Libraries, an Open Journal System, through Baylor University Libraries.

In this first issue, Hornik, founding editor in chief, has been assisted by the volume editor, Judy Mann, and the series editor, Cheryl Snay. Snay provided a worthy model for this issue with her 2019 online publication of papers devoted to monuments that were presented at the Society's 2018 meeting in Indianapolis. John Duncan served as our copy editor. The journal is peer reviewed, and the editors have been ably assisted by anonymous readers who provided guidance and informed criticism to the authors. Special thanks are owed to VGreen Design for the website creation and production.

This inaugural volume is devoted to selections from the Society's ongoing sessions at the annual meeting of the College Art Association devoted to "Icons of the Midwest." Each session focuses on major works of art housed in Midwestern collections, examined using a variety of methodological tools. The Society plans to publish the journal on a bi-annual basis, and the editors are accepting submissions for the next volume. Submissions may be for a group of papers that form a cohesive volume (future volumes will be expanded to include more than six essays), or for individual articles. Please spread the word among your colleagues and students for this opportunity to publish. The journal is searchable through centralized digital archives in conjunction with Open Journal Systems, meaning that the essays will reach a large audience. Also, note that exhibition reviews are welcome (eight appear in this issue); we look forward to offering book reviews in upcoming issues.

This is an important milestone for MAHS, and I am confident you will find this virtual journal a valuable resource for future scholarship and a pleasure to read.

Rebecca Brien, President, Midwest Art History Society

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