

ROBIN JAFFEE FRANK
Alice and Allan Kaplan Senior Associate Curator
American Paintings and Sculpture
Yale University Art Gallery

EDUCATION

Yale University

- Ph.D. 1994, History of Art. Dissertation: "Charles Demuth Poster Portraits: 1923 – 1929"
- M.A. 1981
Awards: Henry Luce Fellowship in American Art, 1988-89; Yale University Fellowships, 1984-87; Marcia Brady Tucker Fellowship, American Arts Office, Yale University Art Gallery, 1986-87

Thomas J. Watson Postgraduate Fellowship

Studied the production of film and video documentaries on the visual arts under the direction of the BBC's TV Music and Arts Department, London, July 1977 – October 1978

Brandeis University

- B.A. 1977. Double Major: Fine Arts, English and American Literature
Graduated *Summa cum laude*, with High Honors in both fields
Awards: *Phi Beta Kappa*, 1976; named a Louis Dembitz Brandeis Scholar for the highest academic achievement in the Creative Arts

PROFESSIONAL

Yale University Art Gallery, Department of American Paintings and Sculpture

- Alice and Allan Kaplan Senior Associate Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, March 2006 – present
- Alice and Allan Kaplan Associate Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, April 2005 – February 2006
- Associate Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, June 1995 – March 2005
- Served as Acting Department Head, October 1997 – September 1998
- Assistant Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, June 1990 – May 1995

Curated or co-curated the following exhibitions:

- *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: American Art, 1660 – 1893, from the Yale University Art Gallery*, forthcoming traveling exhibition, co-curated by three departments (Birmingham Museum of Art, The Speed Museum of Art, the Seattle Museum of Art)
- *To Know the Dark: American Artists' Visions of Night*, co-curator, August 2006 – January 2007
- *Private Faces of Public People, 1750-1900*, August 2005 – August 2006
- *Stagestruck in America: Artists, Entertainers and Audiences, 1906 – 1956*, 2004
- *Justice on Trial: Ben Shahn's Case for Sacco and Vanzetti*, 2002
- *John Singer Sargent: Painter as Sculptor*, co-curator, 2001-02
- *Love and Loss: American Portrait and Mourning Miniatures, 2000-01* (Yale Art Gallery; Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC; Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA)

- *Art and Society in Colonial Massachusetts*, co-curator, 1996
- *Charles Demuth Poster Portraits: 1923 – 1929*, 1994-95

Assisted Helen A. Cooper in the organization/production of the following exhibitions:

- *Art for Yale: Defining Moments*, 2001
- *Thomas Eakins: The Rowing Pictures*, 1996-97
- *A Private View: American Paintings from the Manoogian Collection*, 1993-94
- *Eva Hesse: A Retrospective*, 1992-93
- *Discovered Lands, Invented Pasts: Transforming Visions of the American West*, 1992-93

Grants:

- Center for Media Initiatives grant to fund production of educational interface for American miniatures database, 2003
- National Endowment for the Arts grant for American miniatures catalogue, 2000
- Getty grant for conservation of American miniatures, 1996
- The Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., grant for exhibition and catalogue of American Miniatures, 1991

Yale University Art Gallery, Department of Prints, Drawings and Photographs, Graduate Fellow, January – August 1986; July 1989 – January 1990. Responsibilities included researching and cataloguing works on paper, from old master drawings to contemporary photographs

Exhibitions:

- *American Daguerreotypes from the Matthew R. Isenburg Collection*, co-curator with Richard S. Field, 1989
- *The Good Old Summertime: American Prints and Drawings, 1850-1910*, curator, 1986

Yale University, Department of History of Art

- Teaching Assistant for Vincent Scully, Introduction to the History of Art, 1989
- Teaching Assistant for Jonathan Fineberg, European Expressionism. Organized an exhibition at the Yale University Art Gallery to supplement class discussion. January 1980 – May 1981

Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, MA

- Researcher for Polaroid-sponsored Lucas Samaras Photography Retrospective at the International Center of Photography in New York and the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris. April – July 1983.

Thomas Segal Gallery, Boston, MA

- Gallery Associate. Curatorial duties, sales, appraisals, publicity writing, review of contemporary artists' portfolios, intern supervision. October 1981– March 1983.

NBC-TV News, New York, NY

- Production Assistant for Features. Responsibilities included editing copy for broadcast. Summer and winter recesses, 1974 – 1976.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: American Art, 1660–1893, from the Yale University Art Gallery (New Haven: Yale University Press, forthcoming). Contributed entries on paintings

by the Beardsley Limner, Jonathan Budington, Thomas Eakins, Eastman Johnson, Charles Willson Peale, and enamel miniatures by William Russell Birch.

Expressions of Innocence and Eloquence: Selections from the Jane Katcher Collection of Americana (forthcoming). Contributed chapter on folk portraits of children.

Private Faces of Public People, extended brochure on portrait miniatures of leaders in politics and the arts, Yale University Art Gallery, 2005.

Stagestruck in America: Artists, Entertainers, and Audiences: 1906–1956, extended “playbill” brochure, Yale University Art Gallery, 2004.

“‘Something Beyond Sex’: Demuth’s Drawings in the Hill Collection at Yale,” special issue on “The Original Work of Art: What It has to Teach,” *Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin* (2003): 74-93.

“Telling Tales: Three Small Portraits Punctuate a Bigger Story,” special issue on “Acquisitions,” *Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin* (2001): 32-43.

Love and Loss: American Portrait and Mourning Miniatures, a book published on the occasion of a major exhibition, (New Haven: Yale University Art Gallery and Yale University Press, 2000). Also, related article in *American Art Review* 13 (May – June 2001): 150-55, 191.

“Miniatures Under the Microscope,” special issue on “Recent Projects and Issues in Conservation,” *Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin*, (1999): 60-73, 156.

“The Dead Bride,” *The Yale Journal of Criticism*, 11 (Spring 1998): 69-78.

Charles Demuth Poster Portraits: 1923–1929, exhibition catalogue (New Haven: Yale University Art Gallery, 1994).

A Private View: American Paintings from the Manoogian Collection, exhibition catalogue, (New Haven and Detroit: Yale University Art Gallery and Detroit Institute of Arts, 1993). Contributed five essays on paintings by Charles Courtney Curran, William Merritt Chase, and John Singer Sargent.

A Checklist of American Sculpture at Yale University, by Paula B. Freedman with the assistance of Robin Jaffee Frank, (New Haven: Yale University Art Gallery, 1992).

American Daguerreotypes From The Matthew R. Isenburg Collection, exhibition catalogue by Richard S. Field and Robin Jaffee Frank, introduction by Matthew Isenburg, essay by Allan Trachtenberg, (New Haven: Yale University Art Gallery, 1989).

The Good Old Summertime: American Prints and Drawings, 1850 to 1910, extended exhibition brochure, Yale University Art Gallery, 1986.

SELECTED LECTURES

Between Realism and Abstraction: Stuart Davis, an American at Home, Art and Learning at Yale, seminar session, April 29, 2006

The Painted Word: Decoding American Folk Portraits, Yale University Art Gallery, March 1, 2006; and Art and Learning at Yale, seminar session, February 2005

Private Faces of Public People, 1750-1900, Yale University Art Gallery, November 15, 2005 and January 11, 2006 (Miniatures of Military and Political Leaders) and February 8, 2006 (Miniatures of Leaders in the Arts)

The Enclosed Garden and the Open Book: A New Interpretation of Dr .and Mrs. Hezekiah Beardsley, Yale University Material Culture Study Group, February 17, 2005

Stagestruck to Ruckus, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, June 2, 2004, and related High School Teachers' Workshop sponsored by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, June 29, 2004

Stagestruck in America: Artists, Entertainers, and Audiences: 1906-1956, Yale University Art Gallery, gallery talks, March 3 and 31, 2004; slide lectures, Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York, April 13, 2004 and Association of Yale Alumni at the Yale Center for British Art, May 29 and June 5, 2004

Marsden Hartley's Obsessions and Possessions, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut, April 1, 2003

Transforming Vision: Photography into Painting, Art and Learning at Yale, seminar session, February 2003

Love and Loss: Stories from American Miniatures, Bruce Museum of Arts and Science, Greenwich, Connecticut, December 2, 2002

Justice on Trial: Ben Shahn's Case for Sacco and Vanzetti, Yale Art Gallery, November and December 2002

Examining British and American Miniatures, "Histories of British Art: Where Next?" a symposium to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Yale Center for British Art, October 31-November 2, 2002

Love and Loss: Stories from American Miniatures, "The Miniature Portrait, ca. 1500-1850: Current Research and New Approaches," an international conference organized by the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland, May 10-11, 2002

Declarations of Friendship: Demuth's Homages to Dove and Marin, Yale Art Gallery, February 2002

"Not Lost But Gone Before": American Mourning Miniatures, The Long Island Museum of American Art, History and Carriages, Stony Brook, New York, June 10, 2001

"Something Beyond Sex": Demuth's Drawings in the Hill Collection at Yale, American Drawings, Pastels and Watercolors Conference, New York University, May 16-20, 2001

New Ways to Look at American Art, on the occasion of a major reinstallation of the permanent collections, Yale Art Gallery, April 2001; and at the International Center at Yale, May 2001

Digitizing the Miniature: Simulating Intimacy Through Technology, Digital Media Center for the Arts at Yale University, February 2001

Love and Loss: American Portrait and Mourning Miniatures, Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., April and May 2001; Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, S.C., February and March, 2001; and Art Gallery Lecture Hall, Yale University, October 2000

Curator's Choice: 25 Years of Collecting American Paintings at Yale, Yale Art Gallery, June 1998

Miniatures under the Microscope: New Discoveries and Attributions and Connoisseurship in American Folk Painting, Workshops for Friends of American Arts at Yale, May 1998

"Love, Love, Love": Demuth's Homages to the Avant-Garde in the 1920s, Symposium, *Radical Departures: Aspects of the Modern in American Painting*, New York University, May 8, 1998.

"The Spirit of the American Game": R. Tait McKenzie's Onslaught, 10th Annual Yale-Smithsonian Forum on Material Culture, National Museum of American History, April 1997

Framing Copley: Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Smith, Yale Art Gallery, March 1997

Portraits, Painters, and Patrons in Colonial Massachusetts, Yale Art Gallery, February and March, 1996

Beyond Appearance: Eakins as Portraitist, Yale Art Gallery, October and December, 1996

"The Dead Bride," British and American Art at Yale: A Symposium in Honor of Jules David Prown, Yale Center for British Art, October 1995

Looking at French and American Impressionist Paintings, Yale Art Gallery Workshop for Friends of American Arts at Yale, October 1995

Declarations of Identity: The American Avant-Garde in the 1920s, Symposium, *Charles Demuth Poster Portraits: 1923-1929*, Art Gallery Lecture Hall, Yale University, October 1994

Love, Love, Love: Demuth's Homage's to American Artists, Writers, and Theatre Personalities in the 1920s, Art Gallery Lecture Hall, Yale University, September 1994

A Private View: American Paintings from the Manoogian Collection, Yale Art Gallery, June and July 1993

Eva Hesse: A Retrospective, Yale Art Gallery, June and July 1992.

Discovered Lands, Invented Pasts: Transforming Visions of the American West, Yale Art Gallery, October 1992

Benjamin West – Two Portraits of the Artist's Family, Art in Context series, Yale Center for British Art, October 1991

The Quest for An Heroic American Art, Yale Art Gallery, May 1991

Charles Demuth's "Study for Poster Portrait: Marsden Hartley," Fourteenth Annual Symposium on American Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, April 1991

Eastman Johnson: The Cranberry Harvest, Island of Nantucket, Yale Art Gallery, December 1990

Childe Hassam on the Isles of Shoals, Yale Art Gallery, April 1990

Winslow Homer's "High Tide: The Bathers" and His Images of Women By the Sea, Symposium presented by The Frick Collection and the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University, April 1987

OTHER

- Search Committee for Director of New Haven Museum and Historical Society, New Haven, CT, 2006
- National Endowment for the Humanities Committee of National Advisors for *The Great American Thing: Modern Art and National Identity, 1915-1935*, exhibition organized by The Figge Art Museum (Davenport Museum of Art) and the Tacoma Art Museum, 2003-2005
- Fellow, Jonathan Edwards College, Yale University, 1997-present
- Museum Committee, New Haven Museum and Historical Society, New Haven, CT, advise on acquisitions, deaccessions, and curator's report to Board, 2002-present
- NPR Radio Interview with Neda Ulaby on history of mourning art in America, part of September 11th commemoration series, broadcast Sept-Oct. 2002
- Professional Memberships: American Association of Museums; Archives of American Art
- Panelist, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Organizational Support, Visual Arts and Design in the Built Environment, 1997