Decorative Arts SIG Summer 2021 Meeting Minutes
Aug. 18, 2021

Attending: 7 people

Ongoing Business:

1) Brief Round Robin Introductions and Institutional Updates

Members discussed many changes our libraries are experiencing due to the pandemic. Smithsonian libraries, including the Cooper-Hewitt, are still closed; other libraries are reopening with limited hours and other restrictions. The Smithsonian Decorative Arts and History program is closing (once current students have graduated). Digital collections and digital instruction programs are increasingly important.

Some members attended the “Craft Ways 2021: Tending to Craft,” Virtual Symposium July 22-24, 2021. It focused on critical craft studies, particularly graduate class projects and outside speakers. It was an opportunity to discover what researchers are focusing on now. The website describes: “Research can take a variety of forms: writing, working in archives, dialogue, making things, and examining things that have been made.” Contact the Center for Craft, Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC for more information about the conference. https://www.centerforcraft.org/craft-ways-2021 For inquiries, reach out to craftways@centerforcraft.org

2) Joan Benedetti: Brief Update on Craft History Education Research

Joan is working on an article to be published in Art Documentation. Her survey of craft history programs was completed. After contacting more than 90 schools, she found 22 degree-granting schools with craft history survey classes (including clay, fiber, metal, glass, and wood). 28 teachers participated in her extensive survey. We look forward to reading the details in her article.

3) Discussion: Decorative Arts SIG Sponsored Conference Session Proposals

These are some session ideas gathered from the Spring Meeting: Spotlight Chicago-area people of color in the dec arts to expand understanding and knowledge Ask for funding to bring Tiffany Momon, the compiler of the Black Craftspeople Digital Archive database to the SIG meeting during conference week? Chicago is a center for architecture – join with the Architecture SIG to create a program. Arts & Crafts, Wright Studio, Oak Park, Unity Temple are possible points of focus. Tours -- The Richard H. Driehaus Museum and Tiffany Collection would be either a tour or we could sponsor a speaker from the museum We could also sponsor a tour to Milwaukee or sponsor a speaker from the Chipstone Foundation, for example.

Amy Ciccone will submit a proposal for a tour of art sites in Milwaukee (80-90 minutes from Chicago). The Architecture SIG may wish to be involved in the planning. Kathy will find an Architecture SIG contact for Amy. Beth and Beth will reach out to her to offer our support.
No one attending the meeting has the bandwidth to offer a Dec Arts session at this time. There is still time to meet the ARLIS/NA deadline if other members wish to submit a proposal.

New Business:

Katherine Cowan suggested changing our SIG’s name, from Decorative Arts to something that connotes the broad scope of contemporary art and craft now. Decorative arts is an umbrella term for craft and design that seems focused on western traditions.

We will return to this conversation at future meetings.

Meeting Adjourned

**NOTE:**

Katherine forwarded a notice concerning the possibility of re-naming of the Archeology and Classics SIG 8/24. They are soliciting members’ comments via a survey.

BH 8/24/2021