

:: For Immediate Release::

David Prince, Curator of the Art Museum, to retire in January 2021.

The Syracuse University Art Museum of Art today announced that David Prince, the museum's curator, will retire on January 4, 2021. During his 34 years of service to the Museum and the University, Prince introduced thousands of students, faculty, staff, and community visitors to the museum's permanent collection. Through his outreach and teaching, he provided important access tools to examine art in detail and engage in important dialogues across campus and the wider central New York community.



Prince earned a B.A. in Art History from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1977. He received an M.F.A. in Museology from Syracuse University in 1982, where he completed his graduate thesis on the artwork of Skaneateles-based artist John Barrow, bringing new attention to the American artist considered a “second generation” Hudson River School style artist.

Three years later, Prince returned to his graduate school alma mater and began his professional career at the then Syracuse University Art Collection (now Syracuse University Art Museum) as Curator. That same year, Prince embarked on what would be a 20-year teaching appointment in the College of Visual and Performing Arts where he taught Intro to Museum Studies and Curatorship courses in the Museum Studies Graduate Program. In 2017, he revisited his teaching with a special six-week course offered through University College exploring the Etching Revival.

Additionally, over the years Prince has presented an extensive amount of public and university course connected tours, special displays, and was the museum liaison to faculty in integrating the permanent art collection in their curriculum and teaching. Sascha Scott, associate professor of Art History, remarks that “It has been a pleasure to work with David Prince over the last ten years. He has been dedicated to giving art history students at all levels hands-on experience with art objects, working with them as they write papers, wall labels, and curate shows. He has been generous with his time and encouraging of the many ideas me and my students have brought his way. I will truly miss having him as a colleague.”

During his tenure, he curated or co-organized numerous exhibitions including “Water & Light: James McNeill Whistler’s Etchings and Drypoints of Venice and Amsterdam,” Winslow Homer’s “Empire State: Houghton Farm and Beyond,” “Jeff Davies: Straight from the Heart,” and “Forbidden Fruit: Yasuo Kuniyoshi’s America.” Prince is currently curating his final exhibition as a staff member, “The Howling Infinite: Moby Dick, Art, and the Environment,” which will premiere as a virtual exhibition on the

museum website in January 2021.

Vanja Malloy, director and chief curator, states: "Since arriving at Syracuse University in 2019, I've had the privilege of working with David on his last curatorial project at the Museum. David's enthusiasm for cross-disciplinary research and love of art has shined through in this project. He has a remarkable ability to connect with people and applies his love of the arts to forge new collaborations across campus that generate discussion and excitement. I am very excited for this exhibition to launch virtually next spring semester! David has been an important presence at Syracuse University for over 34 years and he will be greatly missed. All of us at the Museum wish him the very best in his retirement and hope that it is filled with many great memories and adventures!"

About the Syracuse University Art Museum

The Syracuse University Art Museum is the campus art museum of Syracuse University and is part of SU's Coalition of Museum and Art Centers. It strives to be a place of rigorous interdisciplinary research, creative thinking, and mindfulness, as well as an inclusive space that serves as a forum for a broad range of discussions that bring people together, uniting the wider community with students, faculty, and staff. The museum presents up to 20 exhibitions annually, scores of public programs, and an active schedule of class visits. It also manages the Palitz Gallery at the Syracuse University Lubin House in NYC where up to 6 exhibitions a year are presented. The museum's permanent collection of 45,000 artworks from 3500 BCE to present day includes important holdings from many areas of the world. Over the past 35 years, the museum has shared much of its art collection with peer institutions across the country through its traveling exhibition program.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Emily Dittman, Associate Director
ekdittma@syr.edu | museum.syr.edu