

# ALAA NEWSLETTER

THE ASSOCIATION FOR LATIN AMERICAN ART

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William Spratling. Tiara for the Silver Festival Queen in Taxco (c. 1960-65), displayed at the exhibition *Maestros de Plata: William Spratling and the Mexican Silver Renaissance*. Photo courtesy San Antonio Museum of Art.

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## Exhibitions

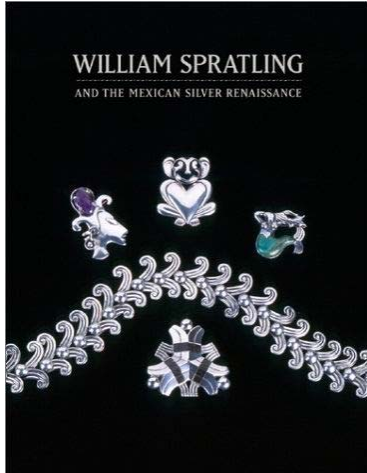
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*Maestros de Plata: William Spratling and the Mexican Silver Renaissance*

The exhibition, "Maestros de Plata: William Spratling and the Mexican Silver Renaissance," made its national debut at the San Antonio Museum of Art on

October 6, 2002. Curated by Penny C. Morrill, Ph.D., and organized by the San Antonio Museum of Art, this exhibition of over 400 works will travel to venues in San Diego, Los Angeles, Albuquerque, New Orleans, and New York. The catalogue, published by Harry N. Abrams, includes 400 photographs and essays by Penny Morrill and other authorities on the economics of the silver industry; its cultural and historical context; hallmarking

and silversmithing techniques; and the envisioned future for Mexican silver. For more information, please contact Penny Morrill at [morrillpc@yahoo.com](mailto:morrillpc@yahoo.com).



*A Grave Affair: The Celebration of the Día de los Muertos in Oaxaca, Mexico*

This exhibition is shown from 19 September- 4 November 2002 at the Weil Gallery, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi. It includes photographs by Barbara Riley, texts by Carey Rote, Pam Meyer and Paula Biedenharn, and *tapete* art by Juanito Cruz. For gallery information, please call 361-825-5752.

*Mascaras: Traditional Masks from Latin America*

New Jersey City University, Jersey City, NJ, exhibited "MASCARAS: Traditional Masks from Latin America" in the Lemmerman Gallery from September 9-October 4, 2002. The show was curated by Hugo Bastidas and Hugo Morales, with a catalogue by José Rodeiro, Coordinator of Art History, NJCU. It was presented by the Council on Hispanic Affairs (CHA),

and featured collections of masks from Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Nicaragua and elsewhere.

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## Museum News

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Emory University is pleased to announce the reopening of the ancient Americas galleries of the Michael C. Carlos Museum, with over 500 pieces on display from the Andes, Central America (especially Costa Rica), and Mesoamerica. This is in conjunction with the publication of the catalogue *Seeing with New Eyes: Highlights of the Michael C. Carlos Museum Collection of Art of the Ancient Americas*, 2002, edited by Rebecca Stone-Miller (distributed by the University of Washington Press). For information on associated programs this fall and spring of 2003 contact Elizabeth Hornor at 404-727-6118.



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## University News

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Thomas B.F. Cummins has been named the Dumbarton Oaks Professor of the History of Pre-Columbian and Colonial Art at Harvard University. He may be contacted via email ([cummins@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:cummins@fas.harvard.edu)) or via regular mail: Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Byerly Hall, 2nd floor, 8 Garden Street,



Cambridge, MA 02138, (tel.: 617-496-1094).

Laura Crary has been appointed Assistant Professor of Art History at Presbyterian College. She may be contacted via email ([lcrary@presby.edu](mailto:lcrary@presby.edu)) or via regular mail: Art Department, Presbyterian College, 503 S. Broad St., Clinton, SC 29325, (tel.: 864-833-7027).

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### Awards and Honors

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Virginia Miller, Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Illinois-Chicago, has accepted a fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks for the academic year 2002-2003. She will be working on a book on Chichén Itzá.

Nancy Deffebach has been appointed an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Latin American Visual Culture at Rice University. She may be contacted via [nd@rice.edu](mailto:nd@rice.edu).

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### New Web Resources

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The Madrid Codex: A Maya Hieroglyphic Book

With funding from NEH (grant RZ-20724-01), Gabrielle Vail and her project team have just completed an on-line database of the Madrid Codex, a hieroglyphic screenfold book attributed to the late 15th century Maya area. The Madrid Codex is one of three or four surviving Maya

hieroglyphic manuscripts written during the Postclassic period (c. A.D. 1200-1500) of Maya culture. It contains a series of almanacs that were intended to be used for ritual and divinatory purposes. In addition to their hieroglyphic texts, these almanacs contain iconographic and calendrical information. Together, these data provide a rich window on Maya rituals, astronomy, and culture that complements what is available through the archaeological and ethnohistoric record. The Madrid Codex Database is being hosted through the generosity of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. (visit <http://www.doaks.org/Pre-Columbian.html>). The site was originally conceived of as a research tool for scholars interested in searching the contents of this Maya hieroglyphic book, but it has since been expanded to also serve as a resource about prehispanic Maya culture and writing for students, teachers, scholars in related fields, and others with an interest in the subject.

<http://madrid.doaks.org/codex/madcod.asp>



Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc. (FAMSI) <http://www.famsi.org>.



Explore Mesoamerica by browsing through a set of nested folders. You can read the latest field reports, download images or search a list of 60,000 bibliographic entries about ancient cultures of Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Also available is a unique online Maya dictionary, with glyphic signs and Maya sounds accessible to beginners and experts alike.

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## Conferences

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The Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, México, recently sponsored a conference on "Puebla del renacimiento y el manierismo," (the city of Puebla before 1640). The conference, which was held 17-19 October, was organized by Dr. Montserrat Gali Boadella and Dr. Rosario Farga Mullor. Contact Penny C. Morrill ([morrillpc@yahoo.com](mailto:morrillpc@yahoo.com)), conference participant, for more information.

Call for papers: The Boston University Symposium on the History of Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (Saturday 29 March 2003).

Boston University, in conjunction with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, is pleased to announce the nineteenth annual

graduate student Symposium on the History of Art. This year's symposium carries the theme "The Unruly Object of Art History." The idea of the "unruly object" is meant to evoke both the material and methodological aspects of writing Art History. That is to say, the organizers want to foreground the critical centrality of the physical object to the discipline while exploring the complex set of issues that inevitably arise as one decides how to engage it in the production of history.

Some questions the organizers would like to consider include: How do art historians reconstruct the past when they interpret objects? How are understandings of society and social change constituted through interpretation of material culture? In what ways do contemporary needs mediate our approach to the past at any given moment? How might we rethink the writing of Art History and History and the traditional grounds of their separation? These are just a few of the possible ways the theme might be approached. Imaginative responses that tie these methodological concerns to analysis of a specific object or group of objects are strongly encouraged.

The organizers welcome submissions from fields other than Art History that specifically address the relationship between visual culture and the writing of history. Students interested in participating should send a one-page abstract (250 words) and a cover letter, including your name, academic affiliation and address to: Mari Dumett, Boston University, Department of Art History, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, room 302, Boston, MA 02215. Questions may be directed to Mari at [dumett@bu.edu](mailto:dumett@bu.edu). The deadline for submissions is December 9, 2002.

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## Travel

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Humberto Rodríguez-Camilloni will be leading a study tour to Peru for the Society of Architectural Historians from 20 July - 2 August 2003. The tour, "The Majesty and Mystery of Peru" will include the major cities of Lima, Arequipa and Cuzco, and special attractions such as the Colca Canyon (near Arequipa) and archaeological sites around Cuzco, culminating in Machu Picchu. Extensions to Nazca and Lake Titicaca are also being considered. Details and the final itinerary will be published in the next issues of the SAH Newsletter. For more information, please contact Professor Rodríguez-Camilloni, Director, Henry H. Wiss Center for Theory and History of Art and Architecture, College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Virginia Tech, 201 Cowgill Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0205 (tel: 540-231-5324).

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## Opportunities

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Position in Pre-Columbian or Latin American Art, University of South Florida, Tampa.

Tenure-track Assistant Professor. Starts August 2003. Competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Specialist in Pre-Columbian, colonial, or modern Latin American art. Candidate must be prepared to teach broad surveys in her/his area. Knowledge of critical theory desirable. 2/2 course load: an undergraduate survey and an MA seminar each semester. USF is a research university that actively supports faculty research. Ph.D. (or close to completion) required. Send letter of intent describing teaching philosophy and research interests, CV, sample of scholarly writing, and names, addresses, e-mails, and telephone numbers of three references to Chair, Latin American Search, School of Art and Art History, University of South Florida, FAH 110, Tampa FL 33620-7350. <http://www.arthistory.usf.edu> Applications must be received by January 10, 2003. AA / EA / EO employer. Women / minorities / Vietnam veterans / persons w/ disabilities strongly encouraged to apply. In accordance with Florida law, all meetings/files available to public.

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## Association of Latin American Art Book Award 2003

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Carolyn Tate, chair of the Association for Latin American Art Book Award committee is pleased to announce the acceptance of twenty nominations for the annual book award. This award is sponsored by the Arvey Foundation, and is now in its third year. This year's nominations are:

*Abstract Art from the Río de la Plata: Buenos Aires and Montevideo, 1933-53.* (Exh. Cat., The Americas Society).

- Borrell Miranda, Héctor Rivero et al. *The Grandeur of Viceregal Mexico: Treasures from the Museo Franz Mayer*. (Exh. Cat., Museo Franz Mayer (Mexico City) and the Museum of Fine Arts, (Houston). University of Texas Press).
- Christenson, Allen J. *Art and Society in a Highland Maya Community: The Altarpiece of Santiago Atilán*. (University of Texas Press).
- Craven, David. *Art and Revolution in Latin America, 1910-1990*. (Yale University Press).
- Flores, Lauro. *Alfredo Arreguín: Patterns of Dreams and Nature / Diseños, sueños y naturaleza*. (University of Washington Press).
- José Juárez, recursos y discursos del arte de pintar*. (Exh. Cat., Museo Nacional del Arte, Mexico City).
- Malosetti Costa, Laura. *Los primeros modernos: arte y sociedad en Buenos Aires a fines del siglo XIX*. (Fondo de Cultura Económica, Mexico City).
- Manuel Alvarez Bravo: Photographs from the J. Paul Getty Museum*. (Exh. Cat., J. Paul Getty Museum).
- Morrill, Penny C. et al. *William Spratling and the Mexican Silver Renaissance: Maestros de Plata*. (Harry N. Abrams, with the San Antonio Museum of Art).
- Padilla, Carmella and Donna Pierce. *Conexiones: Connections in Spanish Colonial Art*. (Exh. Cat., Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, Santa Fe. University of New Mexico Press).
- Perry, Richard and Rosalind Perry. *Maya Missions: Exploring Colonial Yucatan*. (Rev. Ed., Espadaña Press).
- Quirarte, Jacinto. *The Art and Architecture of the Texas Missions*. (University of Texas Press).
- Serrato-Combe, Antonio. *The Aztec Templo Mayor: A Visualization*. (University of Utah Press).
- Sims, Lowery Stokes. *Wilfredo Lam and the International Avant-Garde, 1923-1982*. (University of Texas Press).
- Stone-Miller, Rebecca. *Seeing with New Eyes: Highlights of the Michael C. Carlos Museum Collection of Art of the Ancient Americas*. (Exh. Cat., Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University).
- Troy, Virginia Gardner. *Anni Albers and Ancient American Textiles: From Bauhaus to Black Mountain*. (Ashgate Publications).
- Verlichak, Victoria. *Marta Traba: una terquedad furibunda*. (Universidad de Tres de Febrero de Buenos Aires).
- Vrieze, John, Felipe Solís, Ted Leyenaar, Rudolf van Zantwijk, Beatriz de la Fuente, Ruben Morante López and Miguel León-Portilla. *Mexico: Journey to the Land of the Gods: Art Treasures of Ancient Mexico*. (Exh. Cat., Ashgate Publications).
- Webster, Susan. *Arquitectura y empresa en el Quito colonial: José Jaime Ortiz, Alarife Mayor*. (Abya Yala).
- Whittington, Michael E. (ed.) *The Sport of Life and Death: The Mesoamerican Ballgame*. (Exh. Cat., Mint Museum of Art. Thames and Hudson).

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## Call for Nominations

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The Association for Latin American Art is seeking nominations for scholars to serve on the book award committee in 2003-2004. This is an excellent opportunity to keep abreast of a wide range of scholarship in our fields. Please contact Joanne Pillsbury ([pillsburyj@doaks.org](mailto:pillsburyj@doaks.org)) for more information on the duties of the committee members, or to forward nominations (self-nominations are also accepted). Mailing address: Dumbarton Oaks, 1703 32<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC 20007.

Nominations are also solicited for the chair of the Association for Latin American Art open session at the College Art Association meetings in Seattle in 2004. As in previous years, this session is designed as an opportunity for the presentation of new research, particularly that of PhD candidates and recent graduates. As above, nominations should be forwarded to Joanne Pillsbury.

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## College Art Association Meetings, New York, 19-22 February 2003 - Preview

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Among the many sessions of interest at the upcoming College Art Association meetings in New York (19-22 February) are two Association-affiliated sessions. Laura Crary will chair the ALAA Open Session, the one and a half-hour session usually held over the lunch hour on Saturday. As has been our practice in the last few years, the session will include three papers, to allow ample time for discussion. Michele Greet, Institute of

Fine Arts, New York University, will deliver a paper on "Ecuador's First Art Journal and the Vanguard Roots of Indigenism," Kacey Harris Parlatore, Emory University, will present "Bird of Pray: The Ecstatic Shaman Figure of Paracas Necropolis Textiles," and Roberto Tejada, State University of New York, Buffalo, will speak on "Interdisciplinary Futures: Latino Studies and Visual Culture."

As previously announced, Andrea Giunta and Laura Malosetti Costa, both of the University of Buenos Aires, will chair the two and one-half hour ALAA-sponsored session (part of the main program) entitled: Images of Power/Power of Images in Latin American Art. This session will focus a theoretical perspective on the uses of images as strategies of power (and resistance) in diverse historical inscriptions in Latin America. A list of the papers in this session, as well as details on times and places, will be circulated on the listserv in January.

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## Important Membership Notice

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Membership forms and pre-addressed envelopes accompany this newsletter to facilitate payment of your annual dues to the Association for Latin American Art. Should you have any questions regarding your membership, or if you would like to submit a change of address, please contact Jennifer Ahlfeldt, Secretary of the Association for Latin American Art, Department of Art History and Archaeology, 826 Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027. Her email address is: [jfa14@columbia.edu](mailto:jfa14@columbia.edu).

Questions regarding ALAA sessions at the College Art Association meetings may be addressed to Constance Cortez, Vice-President of the Association for Latin American Art, Department of Art and Art History, Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053-0264, email: [ccortez@scu.edu](mailto:ccortez@scu.edu) .

For information regarding the Listserv or ALAA's website, please contact Stacie Widdifield, Webmaster of the Association for Latin American Art, Department of Art History, University of Arizona, Tucson,

AZ 85721-0002, tel.: (520) 621-9705, fax: (520) 621-1202, email: [staciew@u.arizona.edu](mailto:staciew@u.arizona.edu) .

General inquiries, comments and suggestions regarding the Association should be directed to Joanne Pillsbury, President of the Association for Latin American Art, Dumbarton Oaks, 1703 32<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC 20007. Her email address is: [pillsburyj@doaks.org](mailto:pillsburyj@doaks.org) .



William Spratling. Arrows Buckle (c. 1960), displayed at the exhibition *Maestros de Plata: William Spratling and the Mexican Silver Renaissance*. Photo courtesy San Antonio Museum of Art.