

Beth: Thank you, Katie and the members of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, for allowing us the pleasure of introducing this year's winner, Louis Adrean. To his colleagues, faculty, students, and all others who have visited Ingalls Library at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Lou Adrean has been the definition of art librarianship. His exhaustive knowledge of both the library and museum collections combined with his years of experience as a researcher, scholar, and mentor in the field of art information have indelibly merged the mental image of art information professional with Lou.

I first met Lou as a newly minted art librarian when I began working at the Cleveland Institute of Art fourteen years ago. Lou was so very kind and helpful in supporting the undergraduate students from my institution. Many years later when I joined the staff of the Ingalls Library, I had the good fortune of having Lou as a boss. I can't begin to tell you everything he taught me. I have never met anyone who is so generous with their knowledge, and who also possesses an ardent desire to help others succeed.

Rachel: I can't point to a specific date and time where I could say I met Lou. He was just always there. From when I ventured into the Ingalls Library during my undergrad years looking for the course reserves, to when we were sitting in his office on the cusp of my embarking on a new chapter in my career—after over a decade working at the Library, I was moving on to the Library at the National Gallery of Art.

Throughout all these experiences and milestones, Lou was there as a gentle presence. A mentor and an example to aspire to. I know that Lou has been there through my journey to become the librarian I am today, even before I knew I was on that journey myself.

The impact of Lou's mentorship is not confined by geography; curators, students, and library colleagues all over the country cite Lou as a formative influence on their careers. He embodies patience, and collegiality with all, especially when training students and new reference staff. His ability to convey complex, convoluted information in a digestible format is unparalleled. His approachability, humility, and kindness worked together to build the confidence of budding professionals.

Beth: Lou guided over 300 students through their graduate research in his role as adjunct faculty in the joint program in Art History and Museum Studies offered by Case Western Reserve University in association with the Cleveland Museum of Art. Letters of support from a handful of the graduate students and faculty included comments such as "Lou is an exceptional librarian—highly knowledgeable, highly capable, perceptive, judicious, and supremely generous." And our favorite, "Lou is unfailingly approachable." One former student wrote "My interest in pursuing an MLIS filled him with genuine excitement for the new generation of professionals who sought to enter the field."

A member of ARLIS/NA for the past 34 years, Lou has demonstrated professional and intellectual engagement by contributing as a speaker at many conferences and holding multiple

leadership roles within the society at both the national and chapter level. He has encouraged countless librarians to join and participate in the organization.

Lou has been at the forefront of technological and pedagogical developments within art information science. He led Ingalls Library's implementation of automated software in 1989 and consistently adopted and trained public-facing library staff on the latest professional guidelines for reference services. Millions of museum visitors have benefitted from his support of curatorial research for new acquisitions, and special exhibitions.

Rachel: Many people offered letters of support for Lou's nomination, but we would especially like to thank the Society members who are here with us today—Stefanie Hilles and John Hagood. Some of the more memorable quotes include "my goals include making sure my students feel as comfortable in the library as Lou made me feel and answering research questions with the same care and consideration." Another offered, "Almost every guest from northern Ohio brings stories of how Lou helped them. We hear how it was Lou who helped them answer questions—even to ask questions. Lou, who helped shape their research ideas. Lou, who unveiled what provenance was. Lou, who explained what "Lugt" was." And finally, another continued the sentiment in saying that "His persistence is remarkable, his knowledge of reference resources unsurpassed, his attention to detail unmatched."

As our Society reflects on our last 50 years, and looks forward to its future, there could not be a more appropriate time to honor a man who has had an impact on so many lives. Forever humble, we hope that he can now see the sheer number of minds, careers, and lives he's touched, shaped, and broadened.

To quote from one last letter of support for his nomination, Kathryn Wayne, a DSA winner herself, said "Lou's career can only be characterized as distinguished as a result of his many professional achievements and life-time dedication to the profession of museum librarianship. He is truly deserving of the ARLIS/NA's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award." And it is our great pleasure to introduce Louis Adrean.