

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARLIS/NA HONORS ANN BAIRD WHITESIDE WITH 2015 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Oak Creek, WI (March 18, 2016) --- The Art Libraries Society of North America is pleased to announce Ann Baird Whiteside as the 2015 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, the twenty-fifth person who has been honored. Ann is the librarian/assistant dean for information resources at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. The award was presented by Jolene de Verges and Mark Pompelia at the ARLIS/NA + VRA joint conference convocation ceremony held in Seattle, Washington on Friday March 11, 2016.

The Distinguished Service Award honors an individual of any country whose exemplary service in art librarianship, visual resources curatorship, or a related field, has made an outstanding national or international contribution to art information. Ann was simultaneously honored with the Visual Resources Association's Distinguished Service Award, which marks the first time an individual has been chosen for both awards. Ann is also the only person to have served as president of both organizations.

The many letters of support for Ann's nomination highlight her outstanding and sustained service to the profession as an exemplary leader. Ann has served ARLIS/NA for many years in a variety of leadership positions including President, chair of the Standards Committee, and chair of the ARLIS/NA - VRA joint conference task force. At the University of Virginia, MIT, and now at Harvard, Ann works with committees and other groups to encourage collegial communication. Ann was described as far-sighted, patient, inspirational, a creative thinker, and supportive of variant viewpoints. Colleagues pointed out numerous achievements, including leading the SAHARA project, a digital image archive developed by the Society of Architectural Historians in conjunction with Artstor.

In Ann's acceptance speech she noted: "To receive these two awards at the same time from one's peers is truly the best and highest compliment one can receive. And for these awards to be given here at this joint conference reflects so perfectly on my own work on collaborative efforts across both organizations. It is also a tribute to our two organizations here in Seattle at this time. Through my association with our two organizations I have been supported and encouraged to be creative, imaginative, and to do things I would never have imagined doing... As information professionals, we are a critical part of the infrastructure of our cultural heritage institutions. We can lead the changes required to meet the needs of researchers today by continuing to think outside the box about how we support the users of our collections."

The members of the ARLIS/NA Distinguished Service Award Committee are: Laurel Bliss (Chair), Kim Collins, Rebecca Price, and Kristen Regina (ARLIS/NA President and DSA Board Liaison).

About the Art Libraries Society of North America

Founded in 1972, the Art Libraries Society of North America is a dynamic, international organization of more than 1,000 individuals devoted to fostering excellence in art and design

ARLIS/NA

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

librarianship and image management in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The membership includes architecture and art librarians, visual resources professionals, artists, curators, educators, publishers, students, and others interested in visual arts information. To serve this diverse constituency, the Society provides a wide range of programs and services within an organizational structure that encourages participation at all levels.

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