



## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2023

### **ARLIS/NA Honors Dr. Marilyn Russell with the 2022 Distinguished Service Award**

WESTFORD, Massachusetts – The Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) is pleased to announce Dr. Marilyn (Mari) Russell as the recipient of the 2022 Distinguished Service Award. She is the 32nd person to receive the society's highest honor. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual whose exemplary service in art librarianship, visual resources curatorship, or a related field has made an outstanding contribution to art information.

Jon Evans presented the award to Mari at the society's 51st anniversary conference and convocation ceremony in Mexico City, on Thursday, April 20, 2023.

Mari's deep and far-reaching contributions to the society and to the field of art librarianship perfectly embody the accomplishments ARLIS/NA values most. She is now a retiree member and librarian emerita of Haskell Indian University in Lawrence, Kansas. Mari has been very active in ARLIS/NA with service in divisions, committees, chapters (Central Plains and Mountain West), and as president in 2010. She has been a model and mentor to many.

Mari is widely known as a scholar/artist/librarian/advocate, and she is a proud member of the Minnesota Chippewa tribe. Mari's love for her heritage had a strong influence on her choice of positions as Director of Library Programs for the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and as Library Director at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence.

Mari was writing and teaching about indigenous/Native American art and culture and speaking out as a Native American artist and art librarian long before diversity efforts were commonplace. In her career as an academic librarian, she combined teaching studio art and Indigenous/Native American art history with her work as a professional artist. As a colleague said: "Mari has been instrumental in creating awareness about indigenous/Native American art



and culture through her presence, numerous publications, and presentations... and did I mention she is a professional artist?"

As Mari wrote in 2001 in describing her multiple roles, "We as Native Americans (and as all peoples) must focus on who we are, where we are, and where we are heading. We must cultivate what sustains us and weed out that which deprives us. We are woven together, like a tapestry, by threads of life, mutual respect, and memory..."

For her contribution to art librarianship and to ARLIS/NA in particular, the society is pleased to honor Mari Russell with the 2022 Distinguished Service Award.

The nomination was submitted by Jane Devine Mejia and Richard Saladino. Members of the 2022 ARLIS/NA Distinguished Service Award Sub-committee were: Andi Back, Rebecca Friedman, Laura Graveline, Katie Keller, and Lori Salmon.

### **About the Art Libraries Society of North America**

Founded in 1972, the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) is a dynamic, international organization of close to 1,000 individuals devoted to fostering excellence in art and design 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 every level.

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