

PRESS RELEASE

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ARLIS/NA Honors John Latour with the 2025 Distinguished Service Award



WESTFORD, Massachusetts – The Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) is pleased to announce John Latour as the recipient of the 2025 Distinguished Service Award. He is the 35th person to receive the Society’s highest honor in the 40th anniversary year of the DSA. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual whose exemplary service in art librarianship, visual resources curatorship, or a related field has made an outstanding national or international contribution to art information.

The award was presented to John at the Society’s 54^h anniversary conference and convocation and awards ceremony with keynote speaker in Montreal, on Tuesday, May 5 from 4:30 – 6:15 PM EDT, by Rebecca K. Friedman, DSA Subcommittee Chair, and Dr. Nicola Pezolet, Professor & Chair in Art History, Concordia University in

Montreal. John was only the second Canadian winner of the Distinguished Service Award after a gap of 31 years.

John has been Teaching & Research Librarian at Concordia University since 2018. He has demonstrated more than thirty years of commitment in service to both art librarianship and the wider arts community, serving in numerous leadership and service roles and mentoring many students and colleagues.

John has played a deep and lasting role within the arts community of Quebec and across Canada, having held positions at important art information centers like the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Artexte Information Center, and the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. He is a practicing artist, is highly knowledgeable about modern and contemporary art, especially within his immediate region and in Canada, and has both helped students to under

the broader cultural landscape of his surrounding area and has served on many MFA committees and juries.

John has been a long-time member of and has served as both president and secretary twice each, as well as served on committees for the Montreal-Ottawa-Quebec Chapter. He researched the Chapter's history (the first ARLIS/NA chapter in Canada), created a membership directory, and researched its history and published the findings in a publication that represents a "remarkable act of service . . . to those who have shaped it [the Chapter] over time" according to one writer in support of John's nomination. He served as co-chair of programming for the online annual conference in 2021 and "helped ensure the conference remained intellectually vibrant and collegial, reflecting his steady, thoughtful leadership." He also oversaw the Registration & Hospitality desk at the Montreal conference. He regularly attends the ARLIS/UK & Ireland conference and has presented there.

John is deeply devoted and intellectually engaged with students and faculty. He helps artists and scholars with research needs "with clarity and care." He is a fundamental presence within the Faculty of Fine Arts at Concordia and provides extensive support to students beyond his core functions. He is a unique bridge between the more rigid world of academia and a more flexible and dynamic creative world.

John's publication *Who Was Who Was Who in Contemporary Canadian Art* (2023) has been reviewed positively and described as "an enormous contribution to Canadian contemporary art research." His exhibition-related work at Concordia led to the global touring of [MANUAL](#). He founded and chaired the Library Exhibition Committee at Concordia and has raised the profile of the spaces the group oversees. His dedication to an engaging and diverse program has been recognized and appreciated.

Professor Pezolet has described John as "one of the kindest, most approachable, and most dedicated scholars and library professionals I have had the privilege to work with in my career in Canada, the United States and France." A fellow art librarian describes John as "representing the very best of art librarianship: [he is] dedicated, scholarly, collaborative and humane."

For his contributions to art librarianship, to ARLIS/NA, and to the arts community in Canada, the Society is pleased to honor John Latour with the 2025 Distinguished Service Award.

The nomination was submitted by H el ene Brousseau, Pamela Caussy, and Ad ele Flannery. Members of the ARLIS/NA Distinguished Service Award SubCommittee were: Rebecca Friedman, Courtney Hunt, Gwen Mayhew and Leah Sherman.



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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