Annual Report 2015
Decorative Arts SIG

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Leadership Update

Jessica Shaykett of the American Craft Council, Minneapolis, MN, served as coordinator for the Decorative (Dec) Arts SIG in 2015-16.

Incoming coordinator for 2016-17 will be decided at the SIG meeting during the 2016 conference

Membership Update

As of February 10, 2016, 147 ARLIS/NA members have expressed interest in the Dec Arts SIG and are part of the SIG Google Group.

Activities

The Dec Arts SIG held its 2015 annual meeting during the ARLIS/NA Conference in Ft. Worth Texas on March 20th. Topics covered during the meeting included the following:
- Launching a collaborative makers’ mark project in conjunction with work the Smithsonian Institution Libraries are doing to digitize these resources
- Establishing a website/blog for the Dec Arts SIG
- Session proposals for the ARLIS/NA-VRA Joint Conference in Seattle 2016
- Informal presentation by Michelle Johnson of the MFA Houston on a project she is currently working on to document occupation trade terms

In partnership with the Reference and Information Services Section (RISS), in 2015 the Dec Arts SIG organized a session proposal for the 2016 ARLIS/NA conference entitled “Contemporary Glass: Seattle and Beyond.” The proposal was accepted and the panel will take place in Seattle on Thursday, March 10th from 3:30-5:00pm. Beth Hylen, reference librarian at the Corning Museum of Glass and RISS coordinator, and Perry Price, education director at the American Craft Council (filling in for Jessica Shaykett from the Dec Arts SIG) will moderate the panel. Featured speakers include Ken Clark, archivist for glass artist Dale Chihuly; Jim Baker, Executive Director of the Pilchuck Glass School; Walter Lieberman, a Seattle-based glass artist; along with Hylen and Price.

In January 2016 the Dec Arts SIG launched a website/blog, available at http://decarts.arlisna.org

ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan
The Decorative Arts SIG is currently focused on the following strategic goals:
Goal 1.D. Provide opportunities for members to participate in shaping the role of the profession in the changing environment of art information and scholarship.

**Activity:** Facilitate an ongoing dialogue concerning new advances in the decorative arts through the establishment and continuous update of a website and blog for the SIG

**Status:** In progress. Website/blog was launched in January 2016; content for the 2016-17 year will be solicited at the 2016 SIG meeting

Goal 4.A. Provide a framework and forum for resource sharing collaborations between members and outside institutions, organizations and consortia

**Activity:** SIG members continue to discuss ways to collaborate on the digitization and sharing of makers’ marks resources. A Google Group was created in 2015 to facilitate conversation among group members, and a “Resources” page was established on the SIG website to share online tools useful to information professionals working in the decorative arts.

**Status:** In progress.

Goal 4.C. Increase awareness of the importance of unique and special collections and their significance in supporting the missions of their parent organizations.

**Activity:** Provide resources and opportunities for ARLIS/NA members working in the decorative arts to present at conferences and contribute to dialogue on issues in this specialized area of the arts. In addition, raise awareness of organizations and collections devoted to decorative arts research and preservation.

**Status:** Completed (2016 conference session organized and accepted) and also In Progress (we’ll continue to find ways to engage SIG members and promote members’ work)

**Issues/Requests for the Executive Board**

The Dec Arts SIG has no issues for the Executive Board at this time.