Introductions:

Sara MacDonald, Vice-Moderator for 2004, conducted the meeting in place of Sara Harrington, Moderator, who was unable to attend. Last year’s minutes were read and approved. Everyone introduced themselves and a special welcome was extended to three new members, Melanie Cofield, Melanie Emerson, and Sarah Falls. Ms. MacDonald outlined the purpose of the Round Table and led a brief discussion about the continuing need for a group to focuses on Women and Art.

Conference Sessions/Proposals

This year the Women and Art Round Table did not sponsor any session. However, there was a session of related interest entitled, “Oil Patch to Oil on Canvas: Four Texas Women Collectors”. A similar session last year, which the Women and Art Round Table sponsored, was entitled: “Expanding the Canon: Women Collectors and the Arts.” Sara MacDonald reminded the group that one of the goals of round tables is to sponsor sessions at the annual conference. Sponsoring sessions gives more exposure to the group, interests potential members, and brings special issues to the foreground.

WomArt WebsiteWOMART:

Susan Clarke updated the website, <http://condor.depaul.edu/~sclarke/arlis/womart.htm>, which is also accessible by a link on the ARLIS/NA website. It now includes links to Round Table reports and sponsored sessions that reside on the ARLIS/NA website, full text of the Round Table business meeting minutes from the last five annual conferences, a list of members, instructions for the Womart Listserv, and a webliography of sites related to women and art. This is a work in progress. Ms. Clarke also intends to add links to members’ art related homepages, such as Mari Russell’s website, <http://www.iaia.edu/faculty-staffpages/mrussell/pages/>. There is a move to have ARLIS/NA host all of the groups web sites, but the Round Table agreed that it would be good only if we can keep control over our content and have the ability to update regularly.

WomArt Listserv:

Although we have seldom used the listserv, Carole Goldsmith told Susan Clarke that she is still willing to host it. Miguel Juarez suggested most of our correspondence should be over
ARLIS-L for better exposure. He also suggested another solution, the setting up of a blog. Melanie Cofield said she could set one up. This is a point for further discussion.

Archives:

The “archives” of the group are still in question. Sara MacDonald sent files to Sara Harrington and expected to be getting them back as she becomes current moderator. This transfer of papers was done in the past, but through the years papers were lost and scattered. However, Sharon Wasserman reminded us that the National Women in Art Museum will keep whatever archives we can find. Also, much can be digitized and made available on the website. Ms. Clarke noted that the ARLIS/NA website has put up descriptions of past conference sessions, including those we sponsored.

Bibliographies/Webliographies:

In 2004, the group decided to work on bibliographies and webliographies on the topic of women and art. Sara Harrington created a framework entitled Women and Art: Scholarly Print and Electronic Resources on Women Artists. A six-page print copy of the webpage was passed around to the group. Ms. Harrington and other Round Table members have already contributed parts of it. Ms. Harrington will oversee the project and it will eventually be linked to the Woman and Art Round Table Website. Members’ contributions are welcome.

The structure of the project currently consists of ten large sections: Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Seventeenth and eighteenth-century, Modern, Contemporary, African, Asian, and Latin American. Currently two sections have content and others are listed as “forthcoming.” The Baroque portion was completed by Ruth Wallach, University of Southern California, who aimed at a bibliography of one or two English language materials published on individual artists in the last thirty years. Artists include Mary Beale, Rosalba Carriera, Elisabeth Sophie Cheron, Artemesia Gentileschi, Esther Inglis, Judith Leyster, Maria Sibylla Merian, Louis Moillon, Josefa de Obidos, Clara Peeters, Teresa del Po, Louisa Roldana, Rachel Ruysch, and Elisabetta Sirani. Sara Harrington compiled a bibliography of eleven general histories of women artists in the modern era.

Discussion followed and it was decided that there was a lot of interest in contemporary art and that this could be the focus for the current year. Contemporary art can be broken down in many ways, such as Chicana art, lesbian art, women photographers, etc. Marilyn Russell already has something on Native American women artists and Miguel Juarez has something on Chicana artists. Mr. Juarez suggested that we contact other divisions and round tables, or university departments who may be specializing in a subject of which women artists is the focus or a substantial part. GLRT, Decorative Arts, etc. were suggested. Melanie Emerson, Sarah Falls, and Melanie Cofield were very enthusiastic over what they could do, each one interested in a different aspect of contemporary women artists, and agreed that they would get together to work on this.

Jennifer Hehman discussed the many projects coming out of Indiana related to Indiana women and the arts. She suggested we could compile state-by-state information as well. Susan Clarke’s categorized and annotated list of online resources is currently on the Womart website. It includes links to related listservs, news/discussion sites, organizations, museum and libraries, comprehensive women artists, architects, photographers, and individual women artists. This, too, is a work in progress and suggestions are most welcome. Bibliographies and webliographies should eventually be combined in the overall project.
Sharon Wasserman passed around a WAAND brochure, detailing the database of women artists that the National Museum of Women and Art is compiling. It will be launched next year, a free and invaluable source for researchers.

**UPDATE Editor:**

Jennifer Hehman told us that Update columns are now going to be digitized. She is interested in putting up any columns that are of interest to our group.

**Proposals for the 2006 Conference in Banff:**

The group returned to the question about why we still need to focus on women and art. Do we still need to exist as a group? Why? Why not? Sarah Falls suggested that this could be a good theme for a conference session and might generate interest in the group. She stated the need for feminist scholarship and renewed feminist interest in the arts in the younger generation.

Melanie Cofield expressed an interest in the issue of gender differences and the trends in digitization. How is it affecting women’s roles as arts librarians? Jennifer Hehman brought up the subject of women as art programmers and increasingly as subjects of digital games. Is there a divide because these tend to be male-dominated fields? Discussion followed.

Initial proposals are due May 15. Anyone can propose a session. The idea has to be clear, but the details do not have to be worked out. Speakers receive only a small stipend. Also, it is thought of as an opportunity for ARLIS members to get a chance to present. Miguel Juarez encouraged potential session moderators to put the word out over ARLIS-L because many people will answer and help.

**Incoming Moderator for 2005:**

Sara MacDonald is the incoming Round Table Moderator for 2005-2006. Melanie Emerson volunteered to be Vice-Moderator and was accepted. She will serve as Moderator for 2006-2007. Thank you to Sara Harrington for all her work this past year.