Laura K. Nemmers
Curriculum Vitae – September 2021

Museum Collections Consultant
Gainesville, Florida
352-256-1780
lauranemmers@gmail.com
lauranemmers.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Museum Collections Consultant **2014 – Current**
Providing expert collections care services to museums, historical societies, archives, libraries, historic homes, private collectors, galleries, businesses, and non-profits in the U.S. and internationally. Consultant services comprise: 1) Collections care, including storage, handling, inventories, assessment, facilities planning, insurance, shipping and organization; 2) Documentation, including accessioning, research, condition reporting, loans, and cataloging/description; 3) Exhibitions and traveling exhibitions, including courier services, installation, label fabrication, planning, and loans; and 4) Training, lectures and writing, including workshops, custom training for staff, project planning and reporting, digitization plans, grant writing, strategic planning, and developing policies, procedures and best practices.

Selected Consultations

Art Bridges Foundation
September 2021
Provided oversight of packing, condition reporting and installation of works on loan to Cornell Fine Arts Museum at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
January 2021
Provided oversight of de-installation of exhibition, *Cross Pollination: Heade, Cole, Church and Our Contemporary Movement* including packing, crating and condition reporting of works on loan to the Cummer Museum of Art in Jacksonville, Florida.

Foosaner Art Museum, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida
2020-2021
Assisting with preparation for museum closing including preparing checklists and designing forms for transfer and disbursement of collection. Reviewing files for legal title. Discussing collection documentation concerns and legal procedures with University attorney. Assisting with locating transfer institutions.

Historic Melrose, Inc., Melrose, Florida **2020-current**
Managing archives processing and housing for collection of Rosemary Dauer.

Anne Noggle Foundation **2017- October 2021**
Competed inventory and organization of the entire collection of photographs by Anne Noggle. Created tracking spreadsheets and re-housed the collection. 2020, assisting with locating transfer institutions for collection disbursement. Assisting with organizing and determining object checklists for disbursement. Creating documentation paperwork for transfer of collection. Assisting with packing objects for shipment.

Lightner Museum, St. Augustine, Florida **2017- December 2021**
Assisted with grant preparation and writing for collections storage and inventory project. After grant awarded in September 2017 (and again in 2019), serving as project consultant responsible for cataloging and re-housing the collection, storage space planning and preparation, and advising on collection care.

Boca Raton Museum of Art **2018**
Prepared textiles for exhibition installation.

Dasburg House, President's House, University of Florida **2016-2018**
Completed inventory of art gifts, loans, and private collections. Created documentary photographs of the collection. Created collection registration forms including loan agreements, condition report forms, processing manual, file procedures, label formatting, in and out receipts, and form letter formats. Used PastPerfect database to catalog objects in the collection. Condition reported and tagged collection objects.

Anne and Gordon Samstag Museum of Art,
University of South Australia, Adelaide **2016**
Completed condition reports of gifts to the museum from the United Stated. Arranged international shipping of objects. Arranged and supervised professional photography of objects.

Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention, Gainesville, Florida **2016**
Created archives plan for the papers of Dr. James Robert Cade. Assisted with organizing materials for future collections move.

Center for Architecture Sarasota, Florida **2015**
Logistics planning for exhibition, including coordinating shipping, condition reporting objects, and arranging installation.

Elling O. Eide Foundation, Sarasota, Florida **2014-2015**
Assessed furniture collection at historic home, and developed plan for relocation of the collection to an off-site facility, including requirements for space, personnel and materials.

St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, Florida **2013**
Consulted on collections plan, general collections care, forms, and policymaking.

Mary Brogan Museum of Art & Science, Tallahassee, Florida **2009**
Consulted on collections storage and preservation practices.

George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida **2005-2006**
Consulted on exhibition design, wrote label copy, and assisted with installation of *John Ormsbee Simonds Remembered: Visionary Landscape Architect, Planner, Educator and Environmentalist (1913-2005).*

Project Associate **July 2016-2018**
Florida Association of Museums
Worked with the Special Project Manager to create, write, and disseminate information and content about the Florida Connecting to Collections Program. Created curriculum for workshop series. Recruited and communicated with participants throughout the state. Lined up speakers for the workshops. Created and disseminated information about the program to participants. Assisted with online community forum. Served as workshop facilitator for North Florida.

Registrar **May 2006 – February 2015**
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida
Head of Registration department with four full-time personnel, four part-time personnel and three interns. Responsible for the intellectual and physical control of loans and objects in the permanent collection. Managed the accession paperwork, loan paperwork, packing and shipping arrangements, research inquiries, inventories, insurance, digitization projects, conservation and preservation activities, and rights and reproductions for objects. Assessed and planned object storage. Responsible for the supervision of installations and de-installations and exhibition preparation. Responsible for serving as a courier and installing traveling exhibitions (national and international). Responsible for directing all object processing including cataloging, cleaning, photographing, condition reporting, labeling, storing and maintaining records. Maintained The Museum System database (TMS). Served as principal advisor to the Director and other senior staff regarding collections management issues. Served on committees related to collections care and museum projects. Responsible for tours and educational access to the collection. Worked on grant funded projects, strategic planning and building construction projects. Supervised and trained professional staff, temporary employees, and volunteers. Mentored and supervised graduate and undergraduate student interns, and directed law students researching copyright for objects. Responded to inquiries from the public. Provided instruction to classes in diverse subjects including law, entomology, art history, studio art, museum studies, anthropology, and photography. Responsible for managing departmental budget. Represented museum to donors, to media, and by attending state, regional and national conferences. Developed and updated collection related policies and procedures.

Exhibitions Registrar **November 2005 – May 2006**
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida
Maintained documentary files and permanent records. Managed accessions for incoming gifts and purchases. Worked with lending and borrowing institutions to arrange shipping and insurance, and to negotiate loan agreements. Arranged outside photography and completed in-house photography of collection and exhibitions. Coordinated rights and reproduction needs, and obtained non-exclusive copyright for objects in the permanent collection. Assisted curatorial and preparation staff with exhibition needs. Planned, supervised and assisted with installations and de-installations of exhibitions. Responded to inquiries from the public. Supervised and trained one employee and student interns. Maintained files and records utilizing TMS database.

Registration Assistant **May 2005 – November 2005**
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida
Assisted with processing new acquisitions. Completed condition reports and in-house photography. Entered data into TMS. Assisted with changing exhibitions. Prepared objects for study purposes. Escorted visitors and staff into collection areas as needed. Prepared departmental weekly schedules.

E. Robert Langley Intern **May 2005 – August 2005**
Registration, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida
Implemented the Campus Loan Outreach Program for the University of Florida. Entered data for the Program into TMS. Photographed selected works for the object binder. Worked with the Registrar on daily Registration activities.

Art in State Buildings Program Assistant **January 2004 – April 2005**
College of Fine Art, University of Florida
Worked with the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs Art in State Buildings Program to facilitate the acquisition of art as mandated by the State for public buildings at the University of Florida. Coordinated and prepared materials for art selection committee meetings. Was responsible for handling artist inquiries and for completing necessary paperwork associated with the Art in State Buildings Program.

Dixie Neilson Registration Intern **September 2004 – December 2004**
Registration, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida
Implemented a Campus Loan Outreach Program for the University of Florida. Communicated with numerous university museums and galleries in the United States to discuss similar programs. Wrote policies and procedures and created a site inspection worksheet. Performed site inspections for prospective borrowers. Photographed many items to be placed in a binder for lending agencies. Entered data into RMS for the project.

Registration Intern **June 2004 – August 2004**
Palmer Museum of Art, Penn State University
Assisted in the completion of an inventory and assessment of over 3000 works on paper. Performed preservation activities to ensure the stability and safety of the objects. These activities included rehousing materials in archival containers, interleaving fragile objects,

completing condition reports, creating a new database, inputting information, and supervising 16 volunteers.

Marshall Criser Intern **September 2003-December 2003**
Education Department, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida
Created Family Guide for exhibition entitled *Santos: Contemporary Devotional Folk Art of Puerto Rico.* This document was distributed nationally. Conducted research on Puerto Rican history and the creation of Santos figures. Created educational outreach materials and planned family day activities for the *Santos* exhibition. Assisted education staff with teacher workshops. Created and implemented evaluation materials for *Santos* family day and teacher workshops. Also assisted with family day activities for *Arts of Asia* exhibition.

Museum Education Intern **June 2003-August 2003**
Museum of Fine Art, Florida State University
Edited and finalized layout of educational packet for Chinese ceramics exhibition, *Of Hands and Fire, Masterpieces of Chinese Cera*mics. Conducted outreach to summer camps, educating students about the work of abstract artist, Trevor Bell. Researched the art and life of Trevor Bell for outreach materials. Curated exhibition entitled *Expressive Structures* at a Tallahassee elementary school that featured the works of local artists. Created activity guide for *Expressive Structures* exhibition.

EDUCATION

2005 Master of Arts in Museum Studies (MA), University of Florida
Thesis: *The Campus Loan Outreach Program at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art*
2003 Bachelor of Arts in Art History (BA), Florida State University

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Registration Practicum **January 2005 – May 2005**
Registration, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida
Researched the value of a collection of Southwest Native American ceramics and baskets. Responsible for taking photographs of items in the collection to be entered into a database.

Museum Education Independent Study **January 2005 – May 2005**
Education Department, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida
Assisted with the implementation of the Art for Life senior outreach project. Determined works of art to be used for the program. Worked with the Registration department to acquire copyright for images that were photographed for the program.

Volunteer **August 2003 – May 2005**
University Gallery, University of Florida
Assisted with installation and de-installation of Gallery exhibitions. Assisted with Gallery openings. Answered phones, greeted visitors, assisted staff with general office needs.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, *Behind the Scenes: Exploring Museum Collections Storage* conference, participant, Philadelphia, PA, Fall 2017.
- The Museum System (TMS) Basic Training - Gallery Systems, New York City
- From Manager to Motivator - University of Florida Training and Development
- Accountability in the Workplace: A Manager's Guide to High Standards, Great Results - University of Florida Training and Development
- Power of Feedback - University of Florida Training and Development
- Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, *East Asian Art: Historical Context & Modern Preservation of Paper-Based Works* conference, participant, Philadelphia, PA, Fall 2010.
- Protecting your Museum's Treasures: A Painting Conservation Seminar with Rustin Levenson – Appleton Museum, Ocala, Florida

PUBLICATIONS

Laura Nemmers, Jason Steuber and Allysa Peyton, "In Memory of Toshiko Takaezu: Artist, Mentor Friend." *Ceramics Art and Perception*, #87 (March-May 2012).

Steuber, Jason, Laura Nemmers and Tracy E. Pfaff, editors, *Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art at Twenty Years: The Collection Catalogue*, including two chapters: "Conserving and Preserving: Two Decades of Collection Stewardship and Care" (author) and "Advancing Digitization: Art and Technology" (co-author with Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler). 2010. Winner of Florida Book Award Gold Medal, 2010.

Laura Nemmers and Jason Steuber, "Otagaki Rengetsu and Bai Ming: Ceramics Firsthand at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida." *Ceramics Art and Perception*, #81 (September 2010).

On Guard! Protecting Collections from Deterioration, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art brochure (English version: 2010; Spanish version: 2011). American Association of Museums Design Competition Honorable Mention, 2010.

SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

American Alliance of Museums, 2003-present
Southeastern Registrars Association, 2009-2010, 2014-present
Florida Association of Museums, 2006-present
Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists, 2015-present

Board of Directors, Alachua County Historic Trust: Matheson Museum, Gainesville, Florida, 2015-2016.

Statewide Mentor, Florida Connecting to Collections:

- Developing Emergency Response Plans & Collections Care Enhancement- Threats and Priorities, mentoring three museums in the northeast region, 2015-2016.
- Collections Management/Development Policies, mentored two museums in northeast region, 2013.

Invited participant, IMLS *Connecting to Collections* Forum, "Stewardship of America's Legacy: Answering the Call to Action," Buffalo, New York, Summer 2009. See *Connecting to Collections: A Report to the Nation* (Institute of Museum and Library Services, 2010), p 20-21.

University of Florida Samuel P. Harn Museum, 2005-2015:

- Committee on Collections
- Exhibitions Committee
- Asian Wing Construction Committee
- 20th Anniversary Planning Committee
- Web Design Planning Committee
- Search Committees (Photography Curator, Associate Registrar, etc.)

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

New England Museum Association, virtual conference, *Managing the Afterlife of a Collection,* facilitator/moderator, Fall 2021.

Southeastern Museums Conference, Chattanooga (virtual), *Managing the Afterlife of a Collection,* session leader/moderator, Fall 2021.

Florida Connecting to Collections (a Florida Association of Museums project funded by IMLS): 1) *Intellectual Property from the Museum Point-of-View* webinar presenter, May 22, 2017, Historic Capital Museum, Tallahassee; 2) *Label Schmabble: Marking and Labeling your Collection*, webinar presenter, June 23, 2017, Historic Capital Museum, Tallahassee.

Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists, New Orleans, *Challenges of Large Scale Paintings in Museum Collections*, Fall 2015.

Southeastern Museums Conference, Jacksonville, *Collections Care and Storage by Florida Connection to Collections,* presenter, Fall 2015.

Florida Connecting to Collections (a Florida Association of Museums project funded by IMLS): *Developing Emergency Response Plans* workshop facilitator, June 26, 2015, St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum.

Florida Association of Museums Conference, Jacksonville, *Pests in the Museum*, session lead/presenter, Fall 2014.

Florida Association of Museums Conference, Jacksonville, *Florida C2C: Developing Collection Management/Development Policies—Focus on Collections Care*, session presenter and instructor for hands-on exercise, Fall 2014.

Florida Connecting to Collections (a Florida Association of Museums project funded by IMLS): 1) *Scope of Collection and Categories of Collections from the Museum Point-of-View* webinar presenter, April 16, 2013, Museum of Science and History, Jacksonville; 2) *Developing Collection Management/Development Policies* workshop facilitator, July 30, 2013, Matheson Museum, Gainesville; 3) *Intellectual Property: Museum Point-of-View* webinar presenter, October 30, 2013, Amelia Island Museum of History, Fernandina Beach.

Florida Connecting to Collections-funded by the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS), Collections Management/Development Policies Statewide Mentor, 2013.

Florida Association of Museums Conference, Tallahassee, Collections and Exhibitions Forum, facilitator, Fall 2012.

Florida Association of Museums, *Conserving and Preserving Collections* workshop, organizer and instructor, Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida, Spring 2012.

Florida Association of Museums, *Conserving and Preserving Collections*, two-day hands-on collections care workshop, Matheson Museum and Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, organizer, instructor, and consultant, Spring 2012.

Florida Association of Museums Conference, Tampa, *Caring for Textiles in the Museum Environment*, panel chair, Fall 2011.

Florida Association of Museums Conference, Tampa, *Caring for Collections* workshop, organizer and co-instructor with Ashley Burke, Fall 2011.

Florida Association of Museums Conference, Tampa, Collections and Exhibitions Forum, facilitator, Fall 2011.

Florida Association of Museums Conference, West Palm Beach, *Caring for Collections* workshop, organizer and co-instructor with Ashley Burke and Veljko Dujin, Fall 2010.

Florida Association of Museums Conference, West Palm Beach, *Harn Museum: Answering the Call to Action*, presenter, Fall 2010.

Florida Association of Museums Conference, Sarasota, *Caring for Collections* workshop, organizer and co-instructor with Ashley Burke, Fall 2009.

Florida Association of Museums Conference, Sarasota, *Digitizing Collections*, presenter, Fall 2009.

GRANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Lightner Museum, Museums for America Grant, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), 2019. Assisted museum with writing projects scope and narrative. Serving as consultant and project assistant to improve the management, preservation, and accessibility of its collections by upgrading the storage environment for its framed works on paper, textiles, and chandeliers. The project will include deaccession of collection items and the purchase of new storage furniture and archival materials to rehouse 3,000 objects.

Lightner Museum, Museums for America Grant, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), 2017. Assisted museum with writing projects scope and narrative. Served as consultant and project manager to gain greater intellectual and physical control over its collections. The project consisted of purchasing furnishings for the processing workspace and accessioning and processing over 800 objects.

Digitization of the Harn Museum Collection, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), 2008-2010. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida. This project created digital images for over 2,000 objects, through digitization and original photography. Role: Co-authored grant proposal, including needs, abstract, and implementation plan; hired and trained new registration assistant and copyright/legal intern; supervised and worked with professional photographer; wrote reports for IMLS; and served as liaison with collaborators, the Florida Center for Library Automation and the UF Smathers Libraries Digital Library Center.

Stabilization of the Harn Museum Collection, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2005-2010. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida. This project improved storage and environmental conditions for the Museum's collections, including upgrading storage areas, rehousing some of the collection, installing climate control, and doubling storage capacity. Role: Participated in developing the grant proposal; arranged and implemented collection moves, worked with vendor to design and install storage furniture, ordered materials, wrote reports for NEH.

Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), 2009. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida. This grant supported the acquisition of a core set of books, DVDs, and other resources, which are essential for collection care and conservation. Role: Authored grant application.

AWARDS

Florida Book Award Gold Medal, 2010, for book, *Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art at Twenty Years: The Collection Catalogue*, co-edited with Jason Steuber and Tracy E. Pfaff.

American Association of Museums Design Competition Honorable Mention, 2010, for brochure, *On Guard! Protecting Collections from Deterioration*.

OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, Museums Level 2 Grants Panel Member, 2015-2016.

Florida Collections Care Forum, online discussion group (facebook.com), creator and administrator, 2012-present.

Co-curated exhibition, *Things That Go Bump in the Night*, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, October 2, 2012 - March 3, 2013.

From Here to There: Museum Standards for Object Handling video produced by Dixie Neilson, participant, 2012.

Florida Association of Public Art Administrators Meeting, participant, Delray Beach, Florida, Summer 2004.