

**PAINTINGS SPECIALTY GROUP  
AIC (AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION)  
MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF PSG MEMBERS**

**Virtual Meeting – Thursday, June 2, 2023**

Pursuant to various written notices electronically posted to the community board of AIC (American Institute for Conservation)’s Paintings Specialty Group (“PSG”), scheduling a yearly ordinary meeting of the members on Thursday, June 2, 2023 at 12 pm-noon EDT, an ordinary meeting of the Board was convened by video conference.

Distributed with the agenda: Minutes from the 2022 ordinary meeting of PSG members.

Laura Eva Hartman serves as Chairperson of the meeting.

The PSG elected officers present at the meeting were Laura Eva Hartman, Cristiana Acerbi Ginatta, Irma Passeri, Julianna Ly, Fiona Rutka, Emily Phillips, Elizabeth Robson, Kelly O’Neill, constituting a majority of PSG elected officers as presently constituted.

**I. Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda** – Laura Eva Hartman, *Paintings Specialty Group Chair*

Specialty Group Chair, Laura Eva Hartman calls the meeting to order. The Chair opens the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement for the ancestral inhabitants of the Dallas area in Texas.

The Chair calls for PSG members to vote to approve the Minutes from the 2022 ordinary meeting of PSG members that were sent in advance through the community board. Minutes from the previous meeting are unanimously approved. Fiona Rutka motions to accept the Minutes, Julianna Ly seconds.

The Chair showed the agenda for the meeting, pointing to each session that will be presented by different PSG officers. The Chair thanked the PSG officers for their work and Ruth for assisting with the presentation.

**II. AIC Board Representatives** – Suzanne Davis (President), Gregory Bailey (AIC Board Liaison)

Suzanne spoke about the 2024 Salt Lake City meeting, which will take place from May 21 to May 25, 2024. The theme is “*Expect the Unexpected: Embracing and Managing Change, Uncertainty, and Surprise.*” The abstract portal will open mid July. The deadline for abstract submission is September 15, 2023 and there will be no extensions. The Board is working on

distributing a revised moderator training and is counting on feedback from the Specialty Group officers.

The Board Strategic Plan for 2023-2025 focuses on 5 priorities:

1. Welcome, Value, and Support Members at All Career Stages
2. Integrate Sustainability into All that We Do
3. Promote and Invest in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access
4. Strengthen Communications
5. Continue to Invest in Our Mission with Good Governance

Summer 2023 tasks: Board Diversity Plan and improving Onboarding for position, and alignment with Specialty Group goals and projects. Specialty Groups leadership are encouraged to share ideas on the IAG Community.

The elections were held later than usual. There was also a problem with the process that is going to be addressed going forward.

The draft of the Bylaws incorporating the approved changes is in the final stages. It'll go to the legal counsel, then be presented to the members.

Reminder, AIC Board post to Member Community to discuss 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property. Especially with the situation in Ukraine. Members are encouraged to express their opinion.

Climate Impact Survey results to reduce the impact of our annual meeting. First: no more tote bags, participants will bring their refillable bottles. Geographic rotation around the country is important for members. The size of the city is less important. The cost and time of the year has a strong impact on the decision to participate to the meeting. Academic programming and networking opportunities are more important than local attractions. A significant number of participants expressed a strong interest in presentations of treatments, with practical aspects. Strong interest in our contribution to climate change. 452 members took the survey. Results were not definitive regarding preferences on the format and frequency of the meeting.

The elected board from the 2023 elections is formed by Suzanne Davis (President), Corina Rogge (Vice President), Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton (Secretary), Elmer Eusman (Treasurer), Sarah Reidell (Director, Communications), Samantha Springer (Director, Committees, Networks, and Task Forces), Beth M. Edelstein (Director, Professional Education), Gregory Bailey (Director, Specialty Groups).

Suzanne thanked the outgoing board members.

Joyce Hill Stoner asked to consider moving the date of the annual meeting because the last week of May is the end of the semester. Suzanne replied that 2024 is already booked, however we are considering changing in 2025 and following years. Ruth explained that the rescheduling of Jacksonville and Salt Lake City caused the meetings to be moved from earlier in May to late

May. Joyce explained that June would be preferable for the students. Suzanne concluded inviting the members to submit their feedback and preferences.

**III. Program for 2023-2024 for the Paintings Specialty Group**– Laura Eva Hartman, *Paintings Specialty Group Chair*

A member survey allowed us to understand what our members find beneficial for their professional development.

Our goal is to engage all of us, PSG members, with projects that benefit us:

- \* by using some of the accumulated reserves, the cost of these useful initiatives will be kept at a minimum for our members;
- \* by translating in Spanish and possibly other languages materials that relate to our specialty we are increasing accessibility;
- \* by working with the Equity and Inclusion Committee, we can support more student participation;
- \* by continuing the commitment adopted by the past boards, we will support the Stout scholarship fund and CoOL with our yearly donations.

**IV. Report from the Nominating Committee** - Laura Eva Hartman, *Paintings Specialty Group Chair*

The outgoing PSG officers are Irma Passeri (Program Chair for 2023 Jacksonville annual meeting) and Kelly O’Neill (Postprints Editor).

The continuing PSG officers are Laura Eva Hartman (Chair), Julianna Ly (Program Chair 2024 Salt Lake City), Cristiana Acerbi Ginatta (Treasurer & Secretary), Elizabeth Robson (Wiki Chief Editor), Fiona Rutka (Publications Committee Chair), Emily Phillips (Nominating Committee Chair), Kelsey Marino (Nominating Committee), Magdalena Solano (ECPN-PSG Liaison).

The incoming PSG officers are Sydney Nikolaus (Assistant Program Chair 2024 Salt Lake City), Fiona Beckett (Postprints Editor), Erica James (Postprints Assistant Editor), Pam Skiles (Nominating Committee).

Laura thanked all the PSG officers for volunteering.

**V. 2023 PSG Award Presented to Rustin Levinson** – Laura Eva Hartman, *Paintings Specialty Group Chair*

Laura presented Rustin’s accomplishments, thanked her for her contributions to our field, and congratulated her for the award.

**VI. Report on PSG Membership and Survey** – Cristiana Acerbi Ginatta, Treasurer & Secretary

Cristiana summarized PSG current membership.

As of March 2023, our group has 750 members:

- \* 65 Fellows,
- \* 260 Professional Associates,
- \* 263 Associates,
- \* 50 institutional members (plus their 50 benefit recipients)
- \* 18 Postgraduates,
- \* 94 Students.

133 members have participated in the Jacksonville meeting, 79 in person and 54 virtually. Almost 1 in 5 members.

A brief questionnaire was distributed in April to all painting conservators, including non-PSG members. We have received 180 answers (1 in 4 members) and over 60 comments. Cristiana thanked the members the participated in the survey for sharing their thoughts. Then Cristiana presented the results of the survey.

86% of respondents are a current member of AIC and PSG.

Over 70% of PSG members have been in the specialty group for over 5 years.

To the question “How important to your work are the following areas that the group could support?” 77% of the respondents indicated that workshops are very important, 55% supported webinars, 35% stipends for speakers or content contributors. Somewhat important are grants and scholarships (50% of the respondents), foreign language translation (46%) and again stipends for speakers and content contributors (43%).

Examples from the 60 comments with ideas and suggestions were shared on screen.

Regarding the topics of interest, the following received the highest scores:

**CLEANING METHODS:** new methodologies, Modular Cleaning Program, nanogels, introduction to gels, new non-toxic or low toxicity options, emulsions, cleaning of water-sensitive surfaces, cleaning of monochrome surfaces

**STRUCTURAL INTERVENTIONS:** tear mending, lining, structural intervention on works on wood panel

**VARNISHING**

**LOSS COMPENSATION:** fills and inpainting, compensation of losses on gilded surfaces, airbrushing

**ANALYSIS & DOCUMENTATION:** multi-spectral imaging, examination techniques, condition report standard, collection surveys

**CONTEMPORARY ART:** approaches and ethics for treatment of contemporary art, multimedia art

**ADHESIVES & CONSOLIDANTS**

Ideas shared to make continuing education offerings more accessible are:

**WEBINARS:** mixed workshops that combine online sessions and in-person training; virtual activities; talks by experts, including on broader topics such as connoisseurship; writing for publication;

**MULTIPLE SESSIONS:** repeat in-person workshops in several sessions around the country; offer again in-person workshops and webinars that have been recently offered (airbrushing, writing for publication)

**SHARING:** open forums; Zoom calls among PSG members to share successes and mistakes; sharing findings about efficacy of past interventions; greener ideas for packing and shipping; calendar of learning activities organized by FAIC/AIC and other institutions; sharing of new research and publications; postprints; working technical discussion (DistList-like)

**TRAINING MATERIALS:** new digital resources; improvements of existing digital resources

**VII. Report on Wiki pages**– Elizabeth Robson, *Wiki Editor*

Elizabeth shared that the Wiki Committee has several new and returning members who are now tracking entries in progress on a new Trello board.

The newest entry is the Frames Glossary, which is now accessible from the home page of the PSG Wiki. Several screenshots from this Wiki entry were shared on screen. Elizabeth thanked Chris Swan (WAG member) at Colonial Williamsburg for this submission.

Elizabeth shared on screen the following note sent by Chris:

"As a frame conservator who has treated and built many frames, my experience and motivation is driven largely by my long-standing affiliation with an American Decorative Arts Museum, established in the British artistic tradition, namely the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. I realize there are many more refinements and influences that are not included here, and I hope this listing inspires other scholars to improve on my initial offering. Lastly, I am indebted to several former interns and conservators who have helped this project over some years' time. Astrid Smith, Sydney Beall Nikolaus, Claire Martin and Elizabeth Robson were indispensable in collecting terms and images, formatting and editing drafts over a several years period. Elizabeth has inspired me to submit the glossary for publication. Thank you." Chris Swan

The focus is now of 18<sup>th</sup> century American. And additional entries are always welcome.

Other pages in the works: Filling, Light, Thankas (with TSG), Glass Supports.

**VIII. Report on Annual Meeting** – Irma Passeri, *Program Chair*

Irma thanked volunteers, moderators and the AIC staff for their work behind the scenes during the meeting in Jacksonville.

This year's program included a PSG/OSG joint session. Because of the success of this initiative, Irma reported that PSG is planning joint sessions with OSG, CAN! and other specialty groups for future AIC annual meetings.

8 presentations were selected for the PSG/OSG joint sessions and 10 presentations for PSG sessions.

133 PSG members have participated to the Jacksonville annual conference, 79 in person and 54 virtually.

Click Netherfield was recognized for the generous support of the joint PSG/OSG sessions.

The title pages of all the presentations were shared on screen.

**IX. Report from the Meeting** – Julianna Ly, Assistant Program Chair

Julianna reported that to mark the first joint session, Paintings, Objects, and CAN! co-organized a reception at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA). The reception offered a unique opportunity to promote new and exciting relationships among conservators from different specialty groups. The reception was sold out with over 200 participants. Because of the success of this initiative, we are planning joint receptions

with OSG, CAN! and other specialty groups for future AIC annual meetings.

**X. Report from the Postprints Editor** – Kelly O’Neill, *Postprints Editor*

Postprints from the 2021 & 2022 Annual Meetings have been combined and are almost in production.

This coming year a new position for Assistant Postprints Editor has been added to the PSG officers.

**XI. Report from Publications** – Fiona Rutka, *Publications Committee Chair*

Fiona reported that this is the first year the Publications Committee Chair position has been active in PSG, and we are developing the role to suit the group's needs.

The Publications Committee Chair has met with the PSG Wiki Editor-in-Chief and the PSG Postprints Editor, written Newsletter content, and begun the process of updating the website.

Looking ahead, work on the website and Newsletter will continue, and we will look to share our news and content on the FAIC-AIC Instagram page. An example of Newsletter content and PSG website were shared on screen.

**XII. Report from ECPN Liaison** – Magdalena Solano, *ECPN Liaison* (in absentia)

Laura explained that Magdalena and the team completed an update of *Caring for Your Treasures: Paintings* pamphlet that includes a new, digestible, easier-to-read format.

Other projects include making additions to AIC's "Language Hub" page which include compiling documents, web pages, and publications that would benefit from translating from English to Spanish and Portuguese either internally or with APOYOnline.

**XIII. Report from the Treasurer** – Cristiana Acerbi Ginatta, *Secretary/Treasurer*

**Membership and Membership Income 2017-2023**

Cristiana discussed PSG’s member numbers and revenue from membership throughout the years. The numbers for 2023 are partial, as of April 30, 2023, before the meeting. Accurate numbers for the yearly membership will be available after the annual meeting. In general, the number of members has been fairly constant since 2019. Membership income has also been constant around \$14,000 since 2020.

**Review of Actual Revenue and Expenses for 2022 and 2023 Budget**

In 2022 PSG reported:

\$18,366 in total revenues from membership, annual meeting and sponsorships.

\$15,750 in total expenses, primarily for the annual meeting, and donations to Stout and CoOL funds.

The reserves as of 12/31/2022 stand at \$41,330, with a \$2,616 increase over the previous year.

The total income was short by \$5,634 compared to the budgeted income for 2022, from lower than budgeted membership income, annual meeting income and sponsorship.

However the total expenses were over \$16,000 less than budgeted, resulting in an increase in the end of the year reserves.

In 2023 we are budgeting lower revenues from the annual meeting, and we are planning on using some of the accumulated reserves in initiatives that fulfill our members' needs as expressed in the survey: workshops and webinars, and equity and accessibility initiatives such as support for speakers and students, and translations.

As of April 30, 2023 the total income is \$11,489, total expenses \$6,839, resulting in an increase in the reserves of \$4,650.

The budget for the year is \$18,000 in total income, \$27,745 in total expenses, resulting in a reduction of the reserves at the end of the year by \$9,745. The main expenses are in support of the annual meeting, including travel expense reimbursement for speakers.

Suzanne commented that it's great for AIC if we spend the money on our members since AIC should not look like a for-profit organization.

#### **XIV. Announcements** – Laura Eva Hartman, *Paintings Specialty Group Chair*

Laura announced that the PSG Award will become an annual award (instead of every other year).

Laura also concluded that the program for 2023-2024 will focus on the priorities expressed by the members in the survey.

#### **XV. Open Discussion** – Laura Eva Hartman, *Paintings Specialty Group Chair*

Laura asked the participants to share their comments, ideas for workshops and webinars, any questions.

Linnaea Saunders commented that we have a lot of programming planned (and that's a great thing), however she noticed from last year's meeting that we are having problems finding volunteers. As a board member of CiPP group, Linnaea reports that they are encountering the same problem, and she was wondering how much time PSG officers are dedicating to the group. Laura thanked Linnaea for the question and answered that we are incorporating more assistant positions to lighten the load on PSG officers. The goal is to do as much as we can. Last year most of PSG officers were new to the roles and we are planning on executing this year the goals we set last year. We meet monthly. If CiPP has anything that is working for you, please share it. Linnaea commented that they have many things planned and only a few projects have come to fruition. Laura agreed that it's the same for PSG.

Blair Bailey commented that in the past years PSG election was held at the same time as the AIC board election and the other specialty groups. Blair thinks that PSG has not been following the same rotation and she has been missing the communications or the changes in the board. Blair is not complaining about PSG board, she is trying to understand the system because everyone she asked to did not have answers. Laura referred to Suzanne

Davis' comment at the beginning of the meeting, explaining the problem encountered for the AIC board election. PSG board rotates every two years and there are mistakes do to the transfer of tasks and calendar. Suzanne replied that some groups (photographic materials, textiles) have their own meeting and vote the new board with those meetings. AIC board is looking into standardizing the elections. Emily Phillips commented that it has very hard to find volunteers for PSG. There is a spreadsheet with all the names of potential volunteers that may consider running in the future. The election happened later than expected because there were several people interested in the Postprints position. Before then there was only one volunteer per position, and it would not require for a vote. Emily collected the estimate for the amount of time needed to volunteer per each PSG position, to be able to provide this information to members that are considering volunteering. Laura thanked Emily for her hard work and for accepting to volunteer for an additional year to continue with her project.

Heather Galloway responded to Suzanne's comment that, even though she is in private practice, she has been volunteering for AIC for years. For people in private practice she encourages members to volunteer to get to know and be part of their community. As a spouse of an academic she support the recognition of the advocacy service. Being a volunteer is not bad, it's extremely rewarding, and it should count to maintain the Professional Member designation. Suzanne confirmed that it will count toward the Professional Member designation. Heather encouraged to use it to reach out to potential volunteers as an incentive.

**XV. CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Laura Eva Hartman, *Paintings Specialty Group Chair*

Laura thanked Cindy Schwarz, past Chair, Ruth Seyler (Meetings & Advocacy Director), Linda Budhinata (AIC/FACI Finance Director), Bonnie Naugle (AIC/FAIC Communications & Membership Director), Ryan Winfield (AIC/FAIC Membership Manager), Sarah Saetren (AIC/FAIC Education Manager), and all AIC/FAIC Staff members for their assistance and support.

Laura called the meeting to order. Joyce Hill Stoner motions to call the meeting to order, Fiona Rutka seconds.

Laura adjourns the meeting.

Submitted by Cristiana Acerbi Ginatta, PSG Secretary on June 3, 2024.