

Education

During fiscal year 2007, the final year during which the Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education was under renovation, the Museum organized and presented 21,248 educational activities and events. These programs, presented both in Museum buildings and in schools, community centers, libraries, and other locations throughout the New York City metropolitan region, involved some 883,995 people in the study and appreciation of art.

Scholarship and research are essential activities for the Metropolitan. The Museum granted residential and travel fellowships to fifty-one graduate students and senior scholars from the United States and around the world; curatorial, conservation, and scientific departments also welcomed fifteen additional guest research scholars. Forty fellows-in-residence presented their work in progress during the Spring colloquia, bringing together scholars from across the region.

The Museum also organized the following symposia and Scholars' Days: "Facing the Middle Ages: A Symposium in Honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the International Center of Medieval Art" (October 14–15, 2006), "Americans in Paris, 1860–1900" (November 30, 2006), "Venice and the Islamic World, 828–1797" (April 22, 2007), "Coaxing the Spirits to Dance: Art of the Papuan Gulf" (May 20, 2007), and "Incisive Images: Ivory and Boxwood Carvings, 1450–1800" (June 21, 2007). A total of 2,149 participants attended these events.

The Grants Committee, which consists of senior academic staff and evaluates individual applications for support, also affirmed awards to thirty-seven staff members for graduate course work, and supported twelve travel grants for staff to pursue their research and study. In addition, the Metropolitan participated in formal staff-exchange programs with The State Hermitage Museum, the Moscow Kremlin Museums, Dresden State Art Collections, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Romanian National History Museum in Bucharest, and the Museum Complex of Bucovina, Suceava.

School class visits to the Metropolitan and The Cloisters numbered 3,385, comprising 117,215 students. Of these classes, 1,134 toured the galleries with a Museum instructor and 1,942 visited under the leadership of their teacher. In addition, 2,490 college classes came to the Metropolitan in the course of their academic study. In every case, abundant materials on the Museum's website were available to prepare classes before their visit and to provide for follow-up in the classroom afterward. Signal achievements of the year were the publication of *The Art of Africa: A Resource for Educators* and *Roman Art: A Resource for Educators*. These volumes bring the number of collection-focused resource materi-

als for educators to fourteen. Moreover, Web-based resources such as online educational features, downloadable teaching materials, and the *Timeline of Art History* contributed materially to student, teacher, and public access to the Metropolitan's incomparable collections. Indeed, the *Timeline*—which assembles authoritative information about art history and the Metropolitan's collection prepared by the entire academic staff—has become a widely recognized authority utilized by some 22,000 visitors across the globe each day.

The Museum also celebrated the opening of the New Greek and Roman Galleries through a printed guide for families and young people, public lectures, gallery talks, teacher training, film, and programs for visitors with disabilities, as well as through the preparation of 114 new audio messages (in English as well as translated into French, Spanish, Italian, and Japanese) contained on the Audio Guide available to all visitors. These additions, plus others achieved during the year, brought the number of audio messages about our collections and exhibitions to 2,850—more than ninety-four hours of commentary. This service continues to be popular, inasmuch as 211,564 visitors chose to tour the Metropolitan or The Cloisters with this device.

The Museum's flagship series of concerts and lectures presented 325 events for our discerning public. The season-opening concert with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra featured the star Dutch violinist Janine Jansen; the highly regarded Pianoforte Series presented nine pianists, notably Andras Schiff, Leon Fleisher, Ivan Moravec, as well as Ivo Pogorelich—whose controversial performance of Beethoven, Scriabin, and Rachmaninoff was the talk of the New York music world. The One World Series featured musicians and dancers from around the world, while a new curatorial lecture series, *Inside the Met*, explored how art is selected, restored, and displayed. Lectures on exhibitions, special gallery tours with curators, courses, book-study groups, and unique events such as *A Tribute to Ballet Great Maria Tallchief* marked the Metropolitan's engagement with our city and our world's cultural life.

The Metropolitan's extraordinary academic staff—certainly the world's largest concentration of art experts under one roof—worked with the Museum's exceptional Volunteer Organization and colleagues in every department to present programs and opportunities for learning at the very highest level of excellence. Remarkably, during a complex year when renovation of the Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education was at greatest intensity, the Metropolitan's service to scholarship, education, and the public maintained extraordinary levels, in both number of offerings and standard of excellence.