

Education

During fiscal year 2009, the Metropolitan Museum offered an impressive array of educational events and resources to visitors: the Museum presented 21,246 programs serving 829,892 individuals. The challenges of a changed fiscal environment coupled with a transition in leadership in the Education Department prompted a rigorous and extensive self-study that ratified core efforts and streamlined operations. All programs were planned to enrich our visitors' experiences and provide sound orientation. Despite the current economic constraints, we intend to maintain our fundamental commitments to the host of audiences that we traditionally serve.

Scholarship and research are core to our mission, and the Metropolitan offers numerous programs to support both outside scholars and Museum staff projects through travel and research grants, tuition reimbursement, and staff-exchange programs. The Museum awarded residential fellowships this year to forty-eight graduate students and senior scholars from around the world. Fellows presented work in progress in a series of spring colloquia. Four major international symposia exemplified the highest of academic scholarship and research; 2,697 participants came to hear noted specialists, scholars, and curators present research findings in a public forum. Topics included "The Art of India's Deccan Sultans"; "The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Symposium—Beyond Babylon: Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium B.C."; "The Instruments of Passion: The Contest between the Arts"; and "Francis Bacon: A Centenary Retrospective." We invited 614 guests to eight private scholars' days focusing on a number of exhibitions, including "Art of the Korean Renaissance, 1400–1600"; "The Philippe de Montebello Years: Curators Celebrate Three Decades of Acquisitions"; and "Pierre Bonnard: The Late Interiors." Training and development extend to graduate, college, and high school students, for whom the Metropolitan offers sought-after internships designed to immerse individuals in the field and introduce them to possible careers. In the Main Building and at The Cloisters, 307 interns participated in the work of the Metropolitan this year.

Public programs for adult visitors included twenty-eight Sunday at the Met events, in which lectures, panels, demonstrations, and short films were combined in a flexible format to focus on the collection as well as on special exhibitions. Additionally, numerous stand-alone lecture and panel programs took place throughout the year, as did screenings of documentary and feature films. One highlight was a series of award-winning African documentaries organized with the Real Life Documentary Film Festival, Ghana, and presented in conjunction with the exhibition "The Essential Art of African Textiles: Design Without End." Among the notable subscription programs this season were Philippe de Montebello in conversation with art critic and historian Robert Hughes and in a poetry reading with actress Isabella Rossellini. Also of note were appearances by author Edmund Morris and counter-tenor Russell Oberlin. As always, Museum curators—including Barbara Drake Boehm, Gary Tinterow, Walter Liedtke, Morrison Heckscher, Amelia Peck, Thayer Tolles, and Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen—presented exceptional lectures to full audiences and also led a series of private gallery tours. Lectures and discussions through our Community and Workplace Programs introduced the Museum, its collections, and its facilities to a host of individuals and groups. In addition to regular gallery talks and guided tours for adults, The Observant Eye, an ongoing series of gallery discussion programs for young professionals, continued to captivate this dedicated audience.

The program *Downtown Comes Uptown: The Pictures Generation, 1974–1984* included a concert of two multimedia works by Robert Longo and Rhys Chatham and a three-part film series selected and introduced by artists featured in the "Pictures Generation" exhibition for whom movies have played a key role in the development of their work. Other performance highlights at the Met this year included Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals*, performed by the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and narrated by Philippe de Montebello; *Izhak Perlman Plays Chamber Music*, which showcased the legendary violinist in concert with members of his Perlman Music Program; pianist Menahem Pressler, who returned to the Met stage for a chamber program with clarinetist Richard Stoltzman; and a concert by the Guarneri String Quartet, in its forty-third year of annual series here.

More than 197,089 K–12 public, parochial, and private school students visited the Main Building and The Cloisters on class visits. These included Museum-guided tours and also self-guided visits, often led by

teachers who have been trained by Metropolitan staff through teacher publications (available in Nolen Library, online for all to access, or for purchase) and by participation in a variety of Museum initiatives designed to educate K–12 classroom practitioners. During fiscal year 2009, 2,046 teachers attended sixty-six programs, including workshops, open houses for educators, and customized professional development sessions. A new and vital direction in the teacher program area is our increasing presence on the Web, with resources for K–12 educators such as webinars and other forms of online teaching.

This year 31,637 participants attended 1,160 on-site walk-in programs for families, presented by teachers who are skilled at identifying and serving the needs of students with various learning styles through discussion, storytelling, performances, and gallery sketching. As children develop into adolescents, they may participate in programs designed to help foster their individuality and independence as teens apart from their role as students. We engaged 1,824 young people aged eleven through eighteen in classes involving close looking, directed discussion, and selected projects. Such programs open worlds of possibilities that carry forward through many students' lives.

As part of the Museum's goal to be accessible at every level, we continue to develop and offer programs tailored to meet the needs of visitors with a wide range of disabilities, to coordinate accommodations for programs and services throughout the Met, and to act as internal accessibility advisors to all Museum departments. This year, more than 6,000 individuals participated in special programs developed by the Access office; 2,687 students participated in special education school-group tours, and countless others made use of accommodations in the many programs described throughout this report.

During fiscal year 2009, 195,460 individuals used Audio Guides at the Museum, selecting from 100 hours of recorded commentary. As always, we produced audio commentary for both special exhibitions and the permanent collection. Among the many exhibition-related highlights, "The Philippe de Montebello Years: Curators Celebrate Three Decades of Acquisitions" audio program, comprising dialogues with Museum curators, has been posted on the Internet as an incomparable archive for long-term study. Other highlights brought contemporary artists' voices to the forefront, as they discussed their own work or art by others; these included audio for "Provocative Visions: Race and Identity—Selections from the Permanent Collection"; "Pierre Bonnard: The Late Interiors"; and "The Pictures Generation, 1974–1984." Among the new audio interpretation produced for the permanent collection: Oceanic Art, the Wrightsman Galleries for French Decorative Arts; *Costume: The Art of Dress*; family messages for Egyptian Art; the New American Wing, Part 2: The Charles Engelhard Court and Period Rooms; and *Investigations* commentary with scientists and curators.

Digital content for the Museum's website has deepened and broadened this year to include three new *Explore & Learn* features geared to children, parents, and teachers as well as many navigational improvements and substantial content additions to the *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. We have added ninety-four videos, thirty-two audio files, and twenty-seven PDFs since we launched the Museum's iTunes U and YouTube channels in October 2008; thousands now experience our programs through the Internet while we build a library of online content for lifelong learning. We also enhanced the visitor experience for children and their parents in the physical building by adding a unique illustrated poster to the Family Map and by introducing and reissuing other printed guides to the permanent collection. These guides not only orient families but also provide tools for enjoyable parent-child interaction in the Museum setting.

The Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education has now been in operation for a full cycle, and the Museum and its many visitors have benefited from the halls, classrooms, studios, and other teaching spaces that provide such a splendid backdrop for learning at the Metropolitan. In addition to serving as a locus for many Museum programs described above, we have also begun to welcome colleagues and visitors from sister institutions to use our spaces.

The educational work of the Metropolitan Museum, embedded in its central mission from the founding of the institution, is carried out by the entire academic staff and with the Museum's exceptional Volunteer Organization. Together, we endeavor for sustained excellence in ongoing programmatic efforts and in the exploration of new vision and direction for programs.