



Photo by Allen Phillips, courtesy Wadsworth Atheneum.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

2017 was an exciting year for French America Museum Exchange! We appointed new leadership and welcomed a new museum in North America, and announced a Project Support program. Our Annual Conference was held at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut, and FRAME reached a variety of audiences with one exhibition and three education programs. In addition, we increased our social media presence and launched the redesign and optimization of our website.

NEW LEADERSHIP AT FRAME NORTH AMERICA

FRAME named William Beekman as Co-President and Luisa Adrianzen Guyer as Executive Director for North America. William Beekman is a retired partner at the international law firm Debevoise & Plimpton in New York City, where he worked his entire legal career. Mr. Beekman is an Honorary Trustee of The New York Historical Society and a member of the Board of Trustees of the MacDowell Colony. He is a director of The American Friends of the National Gallery, London, a member of the Library Council of the Museum of Modern Art, and he serves as Secretary of the Paris Review Foundation. Luisa Adrianzen Guyer's career has focused on optimizing an organization's resources, performance and relationships. Prior to joining FRAME Ms. Adrianzen Guyer was Executive Director at Converge 45, Associate Director of Development at the Portland Art Museum, and Director of Development at Portland Institute for Contemporary Art. Mr. Beekman and Ms. Adrianzen Guyer are aiming to re-invigorate FRAME's activities in its member museums in Canada and the United States through increased engagement with member museums in France, strategic planning, and increased resources.

French American Museum Exchange (FRAME) is a consortium of 31 museums in France and North America that promotes cultural exchange in the context of museum collaborations. FRAME fosters partnerships among its member museums to develop innovative exhibitions, educational and public programs, professional exchanges among museum staff, and maintains a bi-lingual website to reach global audiences.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

FRAME adopted a new organizational structure at the Fall Board Meeting held at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art on October 16. The new structure balances Officers of the Board in FRAME France and North America, and appoints Susan Talbott and Pierre Provoyeur as Expert Directors. Émilie Vanhaesebroucke, FRAME France, was promoted to Executive Director. She and Luisa Adrianzen Guyer join FRAME's Officers.

In addition, Philippe de Montebello and Pierre Rosenberg were appointed Honorary Directors, and Sophie Lévy, Director of the Musées d'art de Nantes was appointed to the Board. Ms. Levy replaces outgoing board member Joëlle Pijaudier-Cabot, Director of the Musées de Strasbourg.

OFFICERS

Marie-Christine Labourdette, French Co-President FRAME (through February 28, 2018)
William Beekman, North American Co-President FRAME
Émilie Vanhaesebroucke, FRAME Executive Director for France
Luisa Adrianzen Guyer, FRAME Executive Director for North America
Davin Staats, Treasurer
Zoe Kahr, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Expert Directors

Susan Talbott, Executive Director, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia
Pierre Provoyeur, Conservateur général honoraire du patrimoine, Paris
Émilie Vanhaesebroucke, FRAME Executive Director for France
Luisa Adrianzen Guyer, FRAME Executive Director for North America

Museum Directors

Auréli Albajar, Head of the Service des publics and Attachée de conservation, Musée des Augustins de Toulouse
Sylvain Amic, Director, Museums of Rouen
Nathalie Bondil, Director and Chief Curator, Montréal Museum of Fine Arts
Bruno Girveau, Director and Conservateur général du patrimoine, Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille
Christoph Heinrich, Director, Denver Art Museum
Michael Hilaire, Director Musée Fabre de Montpellier
Zoe Kahr, Deputy Director for Exhibitions and Planning, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Marie-Christine Labourdette, Director, Musées de France
Sophie Lévy, Director, Musées d'Arts de Nantes
Alex Nyerges, Director, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Ronna Tulgan Ostheimer, Director of Education, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown

Philanthropic Directors

William Beekman
Michel de la Chenelière
Hélène David-Weill
Constance Goodyear Baron
Davin Staats
Robert and Elisabeth Wilmers
Gary Wolff

Honorary Directors

Philippe de Montebello
Pierre Rosenberg

ACTIVITIES

EXHIBITIONS

Tactile Gallery, musée Fabre in Montpellier

This exhibition and educational gallery opened in December 2016 in partnership with the Louvre, the Fédération française des Aveugles de France and FRAME. Due to its huge success, the closing date was postponed twice, finally closing at the end of November 2017. 80,000 visitors experienced the show and the tools created by the musée Fabre in Montpellier. The *Gallery* offers a new way to experience sculpture - by touching casts from the Fabre's collection. Innovative educational tools are based on trials and assessments with vision impaired people. The *Gallery* adapts traditional museums visit protocols, welcomes otherness and encourages access to a variety of visitors (families, adults, youth, vision-impaired). The goal is to recreate the *Tactile Gallery* in other FRAME museums.

The objects and some tools would be updated to include casts for each FRAME host museum and to give a wide overview of sculpture from antiquity to date. FRAME educators spent one day out of the March 2017 Education Meeting at the musée Fabre in Montpellier (see below) exploring the *Tactile Gallery*.



Photo courtesy of FRAME

Millet USA. L'influence de Millet en Amérique, Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille



Photo courtesy of Palais des Beaux-Arts, Ville de Lille

The exhibition is presented in tandem with a retrospective dedicated to Jean-François Millet. *Millet USA* shows the influence of Millet on American artists of the 20th century. His noble, solitary and poetic representations of peasant life inspired several representations of peasant and workers seen as American pioneers' contributions to America's wealth with equal grandeur and beauty. The exhibition highlights movies that reference Millet including *Days of Heaven* by Terence Malick and *Heaven's Gate* by Michael Cimino. FRAME France attended the official exhibition opening with the Mayor of Lille on October 11, 2017. The

shows are on view from October 14, 2017 to January 21, 2018

Thanks to Alex Nyerges, Director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, FRAME was able to assist Lille in borrowing rare vintage photo prints from Lewis Hine, Dorothea Lange, Arthur Rothstein and Walker Evans.



EDUCATIONAL AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Curating a Culture of Respect

The Clark Art Institute, the Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille, the musée Fabre in Montpellier and the musées de Strasbourg are part of this four-year pilot project along with their partner schools. This anti-bullying program aims to raise awareness about violence and to prevent this problem among our youth. It also aims to make students aware of their capacity to shape their world and to adopt responsible behaviors through dialogue between students about significant works of art. Reflections on “How art can change the world” and “How art can change your world” have been developed in Williamstown and Strasbourg. Lille worked with a theater company and a photographer to portray the emotions represented in the works and to increase awareness about the types of violence that can creep into the lives of our youth. A public presentation was organized in Lille on June 8, 2017. Students made a zine echoing the collections and the questions raised throughout the year with the help of designers, and presentation took place in Strasbourg on June 18. Finally, posters referencing the program were posted on the windows of the partner school in Montpellier, and the educational tools which were created last year are now available in English and on the program’s website.



Photo courtesy of Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille



Photo courtesy of Musées de Strasbourg / Collège Hans Arp



Photo courtesy of musée Fabre, Montpellier



Photo courtesy of Clark Art Institute, Williamstown

Bridges Across Borders

Through the discovery and knowledge of art and heritage, this language program – that promotes English or French classes to pupils 7th-9th grades – gives thought to geographical or psychological borders between countries and people.. Experiencing art provides cross-cultural exchanges about this topical subject. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Collegiate School of Richmond along with the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux and the Collège Cassagnol in Bordeaux have been participating in this program since 2015 and organized correspondence exchanges between students in 2017. In the 2016-2017 school year, they were joined by the Saint Louis Art Museum and Ladue School, and the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Tours and the Collège Lamartine in Tours.

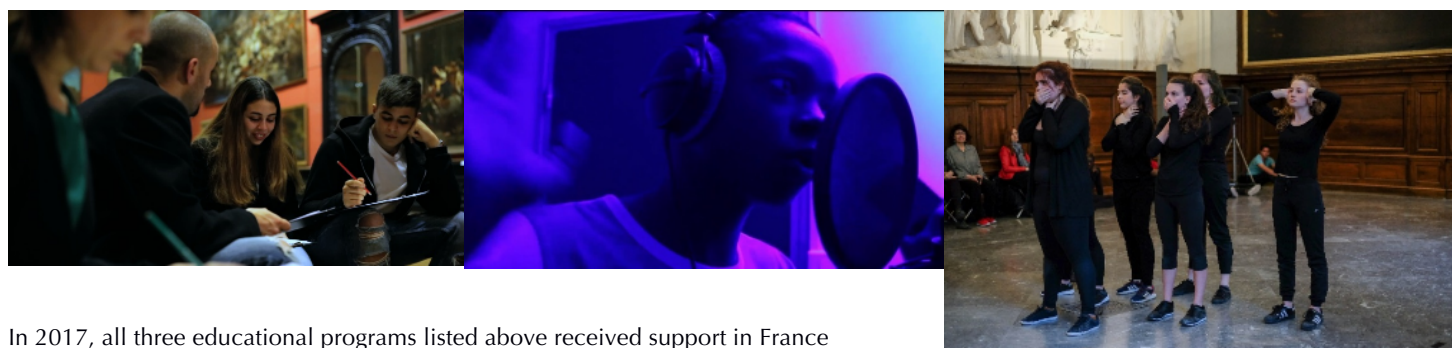
The program is also an opportunity to become better acquainted with American and French Art. Several conversations have already taken place, including some about Alexander Calder whose works are in both Saint Louis and Tours. The artist used to work near Tours at his studio in Saché from 1953. The French students visited his studio and made a mobile inspired by Calder that they gifted to the American students.



Art of Inclusion

This program was launched in 2016 by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Its goal is to foster social cohesion and to make the museum a welcoming place where cultures can meet and exchange, and where everyone realizes that they have a place in society. This program is aimed at young people (under 25 years old) who come from diverse backgrounds.

The musée des Augustins de Toulouse, the musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, the musées de Marseille partnered along with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts last year. In France, Toulouse and Lyon continued their activity in 2017 and presented their work to the public. The musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon presented three pieces choreographed by Abdou N'Gom, Stylistik company, on March 18, 2017. The event included a press conference with the project partners (FRAME, Maison de la Danse in Lyon, etc) and was an opportunity to bring together several heads of Educational Department from FRAME French museums.



In 2017, all three educational programs listed above received support in France by the Ministry of Culture.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

FRAME EDUCATIONAL MEETING, MONTPELLIER

A FRAME educational meeting was held at the musée Fabre on March 16-17. 34 participants from 12 member museums attended, including Thomas Bastien, Director of Education and Wellness at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts. Thomas was part of a panel discussion with three other specialists in Art Therapy (Ruth Nahoum, art-therapist from INECAT; Lionel Raufast, psychoanalyst and associate professor at the Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier III; Fabienne Nardot, psychiatrist, Montpellier). In addition, Thomas spoke about the Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy and the MMFA's philosophy regarding this topic. The meeting also included a Tactile Gallery presentation (see above), and a Curating a Culture of Respect workshop (see above).



Photos courtesy of FRAME



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, NEW YORK CITY

The spring Board meeting was held at Lazard offices on April 3rd thanks to the hospitality of our treasurer Davin Staats. 10 Board members attended the meeting. William Beekman introduced himself and officially applied for the Presidency of FRAME in North America. He was elected as a Board member at the meeting, and the Board convened via conference call on April 18 so all North American Directors could participate in his election. William Beekman was then elected North American Co-President of FRAME.

MUSEUM DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

North American Museum Directors' Meetings

The directors of North American FRAME member museums met twice in 2017. Between 7 and 10 directors took place in the meetings. The first meeting took place during the AAMD meeting in Seattle on May 22 and was led by Susan L. Talbott. The conversation provided an opportunity for directors to provide feedback on current activities and voice suggestions and comments on any new activities or improvements they would like to see in the future. The second was held during the Annual Conference in Hartford. FRAME hired Maureen K. Robinson, a well-known museum consultant, to speak with directors about the topics raised in Seattle, and to hold a roundtable discussion in Hartford. FRAME Leadership has taken museum directors' feedback and suggestions to heart, and is implementing a variety of strategies aligned with re-invigorating activities in its member museums in Canada and the United States through increased engagement with member museums in France, strategic planning, and increased resources.

French Museum Directors' Meetings

Marie-Christine Labourdette chaired two museum directors' meetings in April 26 and September 18 at the Direction des musées de France. Between 10 and 12 members participated at each of these meetings out of a total of 15 French member museums. The goal was to share news from the network, and prepare the Giverny meeting and the annual conference in Hartford. In addition, the Tactile Gallery was presented to French museum directors, and François Blanchetière, curator of 19th-20th century art the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Tours and a sculpture specialist agreed to become curator in charge of a future FRAME Tactile Gallery.

GIVERNY

A group of about twenty FRAME members from France and North America met in Giverny on May 30-June 1 to discuss projects and exhibition ideas, including *Nocturnal Landscape in the second half of the 19th Century*, and *The Art of Dining between France and America*. A small strategic committee met under the chairmanship of the two FRAME co-presidents, William Beekman and Marie-Christine Labourdette. The event was made possible thanks to the support of the Terra Foundation for American Arts who has hosted our spring meetings in Giverny for many years. FRAME is also grateful to the Musée des impressionnistes and the Fondation Claude Monet for their warm welcome.

FESTIVAL DE L'HISTOIRE DE L'ART, FONTAINEBLEAU

The United States of America was the guest country at this year's Festival. French and American art historians, curators, academics, researchers, art dealers and students shared their passion for art from June 2 to 4 through hundreds of conferences and special visits in every part of the château. The 7th edition of the festival welcomed a record 45,000 visitors. The Festival was chaired by Pierre Rosenberg, Honorary Director of FRAME and Emeritus President and CEO of the Louvre, and Jeff Koons was the guest of honor. A panel discussion about FRAME past, present and future discussed a wide variety of exhibitions organized by the network. The discussion was led by William Beekman and Marie-Christine Labourdette. Susan Talbott, Jean-Patrice Marandel (Los Angeles) and Pierre Stépanoff (Montpellier) discussed the FRAME exhibition *Bodies and Shadows, Caravaggio and his Legacy* (2012-2013); Guy Tosatto, director of the museum of Grenoble, spoke about the very first French *Georgia O'Keeffe* (2015-2016) retrospective (another FRAME exhibition); and Pierre Provoyeur, and Chantal Meslin-Perrier, conservateur général and Associate Researcher at the Institut national d'Histoire de l'Art (INHA) in Paris, presented the proposed FRAME exhibition *The Art of Dining between France and America* (1700-1939). The theme of this year's festival was Nature, and the Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille presented their retrospective about Jean-François Millet and the FRAME exhibition *Millet USA* (see above) at a program devoted to current exhibition programming in France.

LIFE OF MUSEUMS – AUDIENCES' MOMENT



Photo courtesy FRAME

FRAME was invited by the French Ministry of Culture to participate in the *Life of Museums – Audiences' Moment* (*Vie des musées. Temps des publics*) conference in Paris on June 21-23. More than 530 people, mostly museum professionals responsible for educational departments, re-examined educational practices in 21st century museums. FRAME coordinated a workshop with the Musée de la Marine and the Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac about *The Art of Inclusion: Democratic Dialogue and Museum*. FRAME also facilitated a panel discussion about educational tools used to foster inclusion where the role of education at a museum; its impact on the public; the importance of co-creation with partners and the public and networking were discussed. FRAME members Aurélie Albajar (Toulouse), FRAME Education advisor and Board member, Sophie Onimus-Carrias (Lyon), Isabelle Beccia (Bordeaux), Fanny Leroy (Marseille) and Céline Villiers (Lille), and Emilie Vanhaesebroucke (FRAME France) participated in the panel. FRAME museums including, Montpellier, Montréal, Nantes, Paris, Rouen and Strasbourg also took part in the conference.

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FRAME's Annual Conference convened 50 participants from 26 of 30 member museums in Hartford, CT on October 16-18. Delegates were welcomed at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art by Director Tom Loughman at an opening night reception in the Morgan Great Hall.

The Conference's program included a roundtable discussion about outreach to new audiences moderated by András Szántó with Sylvain Amic, Director of the museums of Rouen; Stéphanie Devissaguet, General Administrator of the Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille; Christoph Heinrich, Director of the Denver Art Museum; Tom Loughman, Director of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. Delegates participated in several Breakout Sessions over two days, covering exhibitions: including *New Ideas & Project in European and American Art*, *New Ideas & Projects in Modern and Contemporary Art*, *Nocturnal Landscape in the Second Half of the 19th Century*, and *An Elegant Dinner : The Art of Dining Between France and America 1700-1930* ; audience-development program *The Visitors' Club*; and education programs *The Tactile Gallery*, the Wadsworth's Education Programs, and Current FRAME Education Programs (see above).

Delegates also visited The Hill-Stead Museum, The Mark Twain House and The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. FRAME thanks Tom Loughman and his team for hosting a fantastic Annual Conference!



Photo by Defining Studios, courtesy Wadsworth Atheneum

ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY JOINS FRAME

The Albright-Knox Art Gallery was voted into FRAME by the Board of Directors and Members during the Fall Board Meeting and the Annual Conference in October. "The Albright-Knox Art Gallery is honored and delighted to join the FRAME network," said Peggy Pierce Elfvig Director Janne Sirén. "We look forward to exciting collaborations, new partnerships, and dynamic intellectual exchanges with the many distinguished museums that comprise this transatlantic cultural bridge."

The Albright-Knox Art Gallery is the 16th North American museum to join the network, and along with the current 15 French museum members, increases membership to 31 institutions. "The Albright-Knox is a distinguished museum with a particularly well known collection of Modern and Contemporary Art. FRAME is delighted to welcome The Albright-Knox to the FRAME network" said William Beekman, Co-President for FRAME North America.

The Albright-Gallery is planning a Marisol retrospective, which may prove to be a good candidate to be a FRAME exhibition.

FRAME VISITS THE CLARK ART INSTITUTE



Photo, courtesy of FRAME

A small FRAME delegation visited The Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA, following the Annual Conference. The group included Sandra Buratti-Hasan, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux; Juliette Barthélémy, Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille; Sophie Onimus-Carrias, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon; Hélène Fourneaux, Museums of Strasbourg; Luisa Adrianzen Guyer, FRAME North America; and Émilie Vanhaesebroucke, FRAME France.

We were hosted by Ronna Tulgan-Ostheimer, Head of the Education Department, and FRAME Board Member. Ronna organized a comprehensive program for the delegation: we participated in a slow looking tour, met with education department members, and visited MASS MoCA with whom The Clark has established a partnership around *Curating A Culture of Respect* – one of FRAME's Education Program.

In addition, Olivier Meslay, Felda and Dena Hardyman Director, led a special visit of the Manton Research Center and took time to explain the running of the Clark.

PROJECT SUPPORT

FRAME's Project Support program will support proposals that serve FRAME's mission to promote cultural exchange in the context of museum collaborations. During 2018, we hope to award a total \$100,000. The first round of applications will be due on February 28, 2018, and the second round on August 31, 2018. Proposals will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at the Spring and Fall Board Meetings. Awards will be communicated immediately following the Board Meetings.

FRAME DIGITAL PRESENCE

We are bolstering our digital presence by optimizing and redesigning our website, and increasing our social media activity. The new website will serve as FRAME's communication hub for membership and include a member portal. The new look will be shared in March 2018. We are on Facebook ([link](#)) with more than 1500 followers, and recently launched on Instagram ([link](#)).

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2018 * MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AAMD Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas - **January 27-29**

FRAME Spring Board Meeting in New York City - **Friday, April 6**

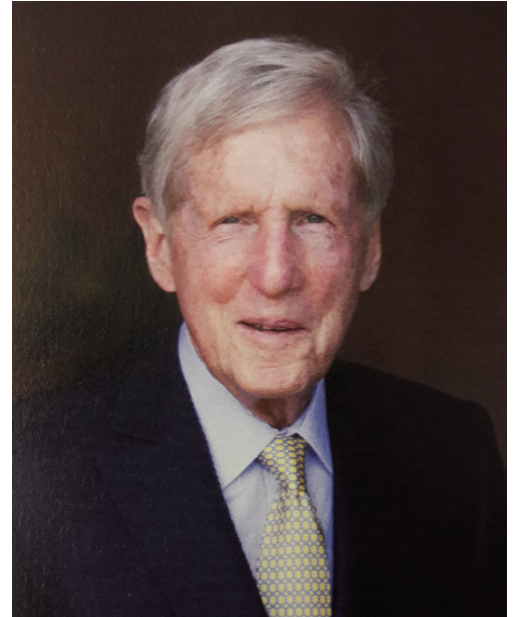
FRAME Planning Meeting in Giverny, France - **May 14-16**

FRAME Fall Board Meeting Nantes, France - **October 23-24** [please note : we are still in discussion with Rennes for an optional visit of collection on the 22nd or the 23rd]

FRAME 2018 Annual Conference in Nantes, France - **October 24-26**

IN MEMORIAM ROBERT G. WILMERS

Robert G. Wilmers, a FRAME philanthropic director, passed away on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at his home in Manhattan at the age of 83. Better known within the FRAME network as Bob Wilmers, he joined the association's board of directors with his wife Élisabeth due to their shared passion for the arts and their mutual interest in French and American culture. Bob Wilmers was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of M & T Bank Corporation since 1983, headquartered in Buffalo, New York. Under his leadership, the institution became one of the largest holding companies in the United States. Bob and Élisabeth's shared taste for modern and contemporary art led Bob to become involved with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, an institution that recently became a FRAME member, and where he was an honorary member of the board of directors.



Francophile and francophone, Bob Wilmers invested in several scientific and cultural organizations to strengthen cooperation across the Atlantic: the FI/AF (French Institute Alliance Française), where he was the President of the Board; the PUF (Partner University Fund), which supports partnerships between French and American research institutions; and of course FRAME. Bob and Élisabeth provided generous support for the FRAME exhibition, *Georgia O'Keeffe and her fellow photographers*, which was the first French retrospective devoted to this icon of American modernism (Grenoble Museum, November 7, 2015 - February 7 2016).

FRAME will remember Bob's extreme affability, his great wisdom, his refinement and his immense love for France. Bob acquired Haut-Bailly in 1998, one of the biggest castles of Pessac-Léognan, and the Château Le Pape in 2012. His passion for wine and French culture also led him to support the development of the now famous *Cité du Vin*, in addition to his patronage of the opera, the museums of the City of Bordeaux, including the Museum of Fine Arts - a FRAME founding member.

After being Knighted, Bob Wilmers was awarded *The Insignia of the Order of the National Order of the Legion of Honor* by Alain Juppé, the Mayor of Bordeaux, on September 21, 2017. The FRAME Board and members extend their deepest condolences to Élisabeth Wilmers, Bob Wilmers' family and loved ones.

FRAME is generously supported
by contributions from
the following individuals and organizations:

Constance Goodyear Baron*

William Beekman*

Michel de la Chenelière*

Hélène David-Weill*

Davin Staats*

Élisabeth Wilmers*

Gary Wolff*

The Terra Foundation for American Art
Ministry of Culture, Direction générale des Patrimoines,
Département de la politique des publics

In 2017, FRAME was generously hosted by the following organizations:

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford,

The Musée Fabre in Montpellier,

and

The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown

THANK YOU!

**Board Member*

CONTACT INFORMATION

FRAME North America

Luisa Adrianzen Guyer

Executive Director

P.O. Box 18029

Portland OR 97218

USA

Phone: +1 (503) 875-6789

Email: lguyer@framemuseums.org

FRAME France

Émilie Vanhaesebroucke

Executive Director

Direction générale des patrimoines,
musées de France

6, rue des Pyramides

75041 Paris cedex 01 France

Phone: +33 (0)1 40 15 35 67

Email: emilie.vanhaesebroucke@culture.gouv.fr