

FRAME | FRench American Museum Exchange

To Our Friends, Colleagues and Community Members;

As December comes to a close, we look back on a rough year with COVID-induced social distancing, quarantines, lockdowns, and interruptions to all facets of our personal and professional lives. If 2020 has shown us anything, it's that we must be nimble and adaptive – and we can! The museum community is filled with talented and creative people who share a passion for arts and culture and this keeps us all pushing forward. For so many, art has been the key to survival during the pandemic. Whether through limited in-person visits or through vibrant online engagements, art has the power to inspire, unite, and heal. This year, more than ever, a connection to the arts has never been more important. Museums and life as we once knew it will return, stronger than ever. The new year ahead brings vaccines and much hope. Let us all embrace the vitality gained from our many collaborations this year as we stride forward, explore new possibilities, and expand the FRAME network.

On behalf of all at FRAME, we send our best wishes for a joyous holiday, and a very happy and healthy New Year!



Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims. Photo Credit: Nita Lee Roberts.

FRAME Virtual Fall Conference

The 2020 Annual Conference, canceled due to the Covid-19 health crisis, was reshaped as a virtual webinar on September 30 – Friday, October 1. The theme of the two-day conference was Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The conference included two keynote addresses by Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims, independent curator, who discussed DEI in North American museums, and Jean Francois Chougnnet, President of Museum, who spoke about the situation in France. The two Expert Directors of FRAME, Susan Talbott and Pierre Provoyeur moderated a roundtable panel discussion on DEI with seven members from the FRAME network that included:

- **Gary Tinterow**, Director, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- **Valerie Cassel Oliver**, Sydney and Frances Lewis Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art Richmond, Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond
- **Diva Zumaya**, Assistant Curator of European Paintings and Sculpture, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)
- **Moridja Kitenge Banza**, Artist and Educational Program Officer for World Cultures and Togetherness, Montréal Museum of Fine Arts
- **Laurent Védrine**, Director, Musée d'Aquitaine, Bordeaux
- **Sophie Onimus-Carias**, Curator in Chief in charge of the Educational Department, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon
- **Mathilde Schneider**, Curator and Director of the Museum of Antiquities and of the Museum of Natural History, Rouen

More than 100 FRAME members attended this two-day virtual conference.



Jean-François Chougnnet. Photo by Agnès Mellon. Courtesy MUCEM.

FRAME Fall Board Meeting

The FRAME Board of Directors held a virtual Board Meeting on October 30. Here are the main highlights:

- Following the positive outcomes of the FRAME Virtual Fall Conference, the Board decided to make DEI a priority for FRAME. The Board established a DEI Task Force to address the next steps.
- Nathalie Bondil resigned from the Board after leaving the Museum of Fine Arts in Montreal. The Board elected Gary Tinterow, Director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston to replace her. The Board acknowledged Nathalie's many exemplary contributions to the FRAME network.
- Michel de la Chenelière and Elisabeth Wilmer's terms on the Board ended. The Board expressed its deep appreciation for Michel and Elisabeth's leadership of FRAME, and in particular noted Elisabeth's long and generous service on the Board, along with her late husband, Robert. The Board will announce replacements for Michel and Elisabeth in early 2021.
- Given the uncertainty of international travel this Spring, the Board decided not to plan for an in-person meeting in Giverny but rather to plan for a virtual conference in May. More details will follow.
- The Board confirmed the dates for the Fall Annual Conference in Marseille on September 21-23, 2021.
- To coincide with the FRAME conference, the [Surrealism in American Art](#) exhibition will remain on view at the Centre de la Vieille Charité in Marseille through September 26, 2021.



Centre de la Vieille Charité, Marseille - Photo Credit: Adobe stock

Project Support Grants

At the October Board Meeting, FRAME awarded a project support grant for \$14,200 to our colleagues at the Bordeaux and Strasbourg museums, in particular, at the Historical Museum and the Alsatian Museum of Strasbourg, and at the Aquitaine Museum and the Jean-Moulin National Center of Bordeaux who plan to add their collections and histories to the *Ports of Exile, Home Harbours* exhibition. They are looking for an American partner to collaborate with them.

The genesis for this project began in April 2020 with a FRAME Emergency Support Grant to four museums: the Fabrique des Savoirs in Elbeuf- a Rouen Metropolis Museum; the Musée d'Histoire de Marseille-Mémorial des Déportations, Marseille; the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts as well as the Montreal Holocaust Museum, which worked together to conceive the virtual exhibition. The purpose was to highlight the individual and collective fates of the Jewish population during the Second World War on both sides of the Atlantic. The virtual exhibition includes public documents, photographs, and objects, most never exhibited before, that follow the fate of Jewish citizens who were forced from their homes and persecuted, deported, murdered, or saved. The virtual exhibition is posted on the FRAME website. [Read more.](#)

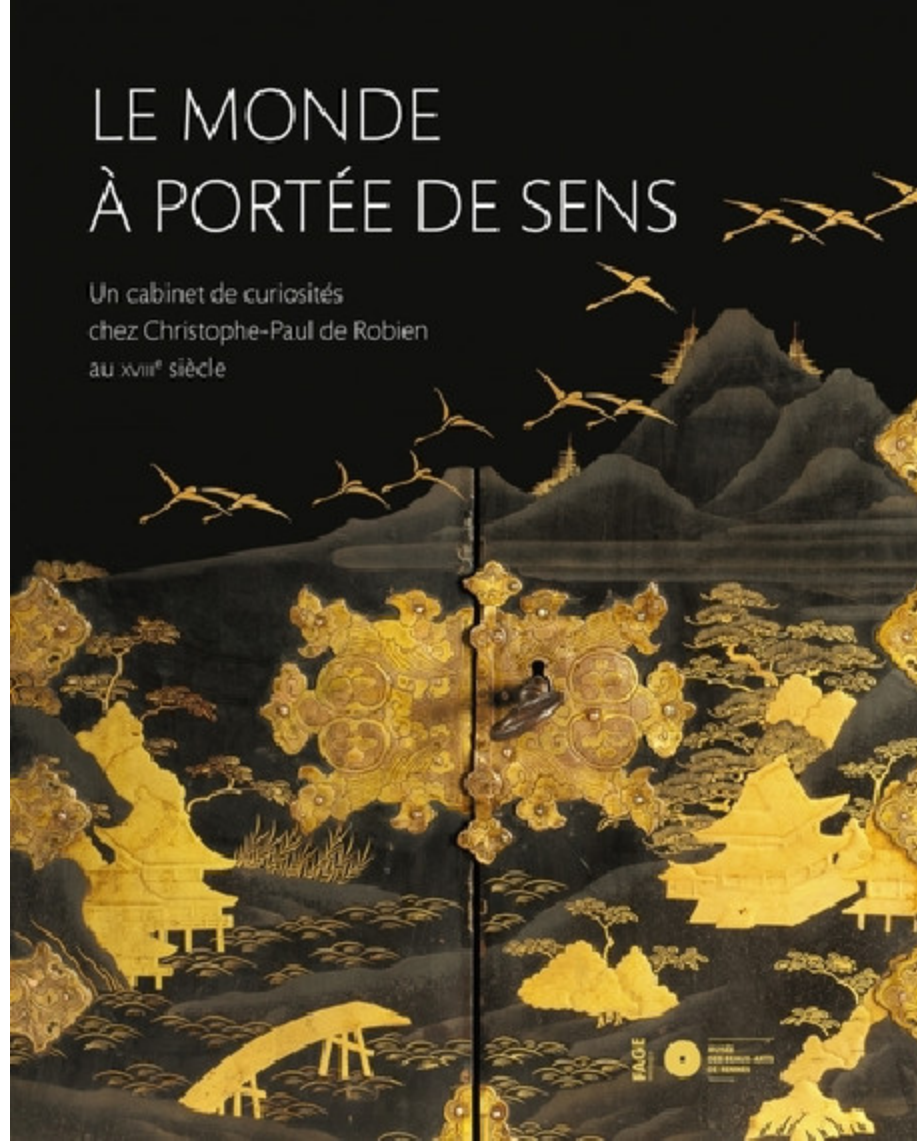


Evacuation of Jewish objects in 1939, gift Maréchal de Lattre, Historical Museum – Photo credit: Museums of Strasbourg, M. Bertola.

News from the FRAME Network

Le Monde à portée de sens: A cabinet of curiosities at Christophe-Paul de Robien's in the 18th century

The Musée des Beaux-Arts in Rennes has published *Le Monde à portée de sens: A cabinet of curiosities at Christophe-Paul de Robien's in the 18th century*, under the editorial management of François Coulon, curator of the collections of archaeological and non-European objects. This first volume of a vast undertaking, which will include several other volumes, presents the non-Western collections of the cabinet of natural history and curiosities set up in Enlightenment Europe by Christophe-Paul de Robien (1698–1756), President at the parliament of Brittany. [Read more](#)



Museum of Fine Arts Houston Opens the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building

On November 21, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH) opened the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building, designed by Steven Holl Architects. The new 237,000-square-foot building, the third gallery building of the MFAH, is dedicated to the display of the museum's outstanding and fast-growing international collections of modern and contemporary art. [Read more](#)



The Nancy and Rich Kinder Building at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Photo credit: MFAH.

FRAME Calendar 2021

February 15 – Deadline for Spring 2021 Grant Applications

April (Date to come) – FRAME Board Meeting

May (Date to come) – FRAME Virtual Conference

July 1 – Deadline for Letter of Intent for Fall 2021 Grants

September 1 – Deadline for Fall 2021 Grant Applications

September 21-23 –FRAME Annual Conference in Marseille

October (Date to come) – FRAME Education Conference in Hartford, Connecticut

December 15 – Deadline for Letter of Intent for Spring 2022 Grants



Detail of installation view of Carlos Cruz-Diez's Cromosaturación at MFAH, Paris 1965, Houston 2017.

Photo credit: MFAH

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