From Curatorial Files to Linked Open Data: Cataloging the Art Collection at Columbia University

Roberto C. Ferrari & Melanie Wacker

Columbia University Libraries

8th International Conference of Art Libraries
The Rijksmuseum
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
4 October 2018
HISTORY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

1754 = Founded as King’s College by royal charter of George II with 8 students
1785 = Renamed Columbia College after Revolutionary War
1896 = Rebranded as Columbia University in the City of New York
1897 = New campus in Morningside Heights neighborhood
2017 = 32,429 students, 4114 full-time faculty, and 18 schools, from Arts & Sciences to Physicians & Surgeons
ART PROPERTIES, AVERY LIBRARY

• Curator
• Administrative Asst.
• Art Handler
• 2 Graduate Student Interns

• Registrar & Digital Content Librarian, Avery Library

COMMITTEE ON ART PROPERTIES (Provost-appointed)

• Director of Avery Library (Chair)
• Curator of Art Properties
• Dean, School of the Arts
• Faculty, School of the Arts
• Chair, Dept. of Art History & Archaeology
• Faculty, Dept. of Art History & Archaeology
• Faculty, Graduate School of Architecture
• Director of Rare Book & Manuscript Library
• Director of Wallach Art Gallery
• Representative: Alumni & Development
• Representative: Facilities
• 2 Student Representatives
Micali Painter, Etruscan Amphora, ca. 500 BCE
Bequest of Dr. George N. Olcott in 1912

Charles Willson Peale, Portrait Miniature of Alexander Hamilton, ca. 1780
Gift of Edmund Astley Prentis in 1964

Florine Stettheimer, Portrait of Myself, 1923
Gift of the Estate of Ettie Stettheimer in 1967
Florine Stettheimer (1871-1944)
*Portrait of Myself*
1923, oil on canvas laid on board
40 3/8 x 26 3/8 in. (102.7 x 67 cm)
Inscribed "Florine St" at top
Gift of the Estate of Ettie Stettheimer in 1967
Florine Stettheimer’s *Portrait of Myself*: A Selective Exhibition History

- **Florine Stettheimer** (Museum of Modern Art, NY, Oct-Nov 1946)
- **2 Jahrzehnte amerikanische Malerei 1920-1940** (Germany, Switzerland, and Belgium, Jun-Dec 1979)
- **Florine Stettheimer: Still Lifes, Portraits & Pageants, 1910-1942** (3 venues in United States, Mar-Nov 1980)
- **Friends & Family: Portraiture in the World of Florine Stettheimer** (Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY, Sep-Nov 1993)
- **Debating American Modernism: Stieglitz, Duchamp, and the New York Avant-Garde** (Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, NM, & Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA, Jan-Aug 2003)
- **The Power of Conversation: Jewish Women and Their Salons** (Jewish Museum, NY, & McMullen Museum, Boston College, Boston, MA, Mar-Dec 2005)
- **Florine Stettheimer** (Lenbachhaus Kunstbau, Munich, Germany, Sep 2014-Jan 2015)
- **Florine Stettheimer: Painting Poetry** (Jewish Museum, NY, & Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON, Canada, May 2017-Jan 2018)
OFFICE OF ART PROPERTIES
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Accession No. 67.11.5
Accession Date...

Artist STEVENS, Florine

Country American 20th C.

Classification Painting

Title Portrait of Myself, 1923

Medium/Support Oil on Canvas - on masonite or canvas mounted on hardboard

Signed/Date/Location u.l. "Florine St.

Inscribed/Location

H. 103.7 cm. W. 92.7 cm. D. - cm.

Mat/Frame Size

Restorations/Condition: good condition

Provenance: 7 May 91: Brown spots, discolorations including some discolored retouches. (old)
Radiating cracks from pink flower LL of C. Series of small brown spots on her rt. hand. Drying cracks in her hair, L of C.

Photographs Schles.

Credit Line stevens, florine

400 103 C/4002071-103 C/1111 156-156
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accession Number</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Creator</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Creator Link</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Portrait Subject</th>
<th>LOANED</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Century</th>
<th>Extra</th>
<th>Latest</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Creation Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sculpture</td>
<td>Meisner, Clemens</td>
<td>1867</td>
<td><a href="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/agents/n0008115">http://id.loc.gov/authorities/agents/n0008115</a></td>
<td>Foundry</td>
<td>Public sculpture</td>
<td>The Cowl</td>
<td>20th Century</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Australian</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>N.D.</td>
<td>Taiwanese</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Portrait of Myself

Creator: Stettheimer, Florine; 1871-1944, artist.
Title: Portrait of Myself.
Physical Properties: 1 painting: 40 3/8 x 26 3/8 in. (102.7 x 67 cm); with frame: 41 1/8 x 27 1/16 in. (104.4 x 68.8 cm).
Oil on canvas laid on board.
Inscription: Inscribed "Florine St" at top.
Credit: Gift of the Estate of Ette Stettheimer, 1967.
Subjects: Stettheimer, Florine; 1871-1944, depicted.
Subjects: Paintings (visual works) > American > 20th century.
Genre: Self-portraits > American > 20th century.
Format: Art Work (Original)
Bookmarked: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11868423

Available from:
Avery Art Properties - By appl. (Non-Circulating)
Today's Hours: 9am - 5pm
By appointment only. See the Avery Art Properties webpage
Call Number: 1967.17.005
Portrait of Myself

Inscribed "Florine St" at top.

SUBJECTS:
Stettheimer, Florine, 1871-1944

LIBRARY LOCATION:
Browse Location's Digital Content

SHLF LOCATION:
Accession no. 1967.17.005

DIGITAL PROJECT:
Jewels in her crown

Order a Reproduction
Display XML Metadata
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Descriptive Metadata</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Role 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type [Deprecated]</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Place of Origin 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date Created 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Single or Start Date</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date Created Textual</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Physical Information</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Form 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent 1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First announced 2011; Version 1 released in 2012

Successor to MARC 21

Based on linked data principles

BIBFRAME is supposed to work with “various content models” and accommodate “different needs for resource descriptions” (Library of Congress (2012). Bibliographic Framework as a Web of Data. Page 15)

BIBFRAME 2.0 released in April 2016
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded

Participants: Columbia University, Cornell University, Harvard University, Princeton University, Stanford University, Library of Congress

Selected Areas: Ontology Extensions, Workflows, Metadata Production

Extensions: Art, Cartographic, Moving Images, Performed Music, Rare Materials
ArtFrame

- Libraries own art or cultural objects
- Often peripheral to the main collection
- Described in MARC or finding aids, which aids retrieval in the context of the larger collection
  but: does not fully support descriptive needs
Community & Extension Group

Art Libraries Society of North America's Cataloging Advisory Committee (ARLIS CAC)

The Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

The Clark Library

The Morgan Library & Museum
ArtMARC Sourcebook

Cataloging Art Architecture and Their Visual Images
Developments in the Art/Art Library Domain

- Getty vocabularies (AAT, TGN, ULAN)
- CIDOC-CRM
  For example: American Art Collaborative Linked Art
- VRA RDF
  (Visual resources)
- Europeana Data Model (EDM)
- FRBRoo (Object oriented conceptual model for bibliographic information)
- RDA (Resource Description & Access)
## Use cases

### RELATED WORKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title (Goal)</th>
<th>2.0 Discover related works held by the same institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mode of use</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Stakeholders (who uses it)</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Discovery; relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story</td>
<td>A researcher discovers an artwork in the collection and is interested in finding related works, such as sketches or copies made by other artists within the same collection so that the related works can be consulted. Alternatively, a researcher wants to identify related works by or about the same individual (i.e. artist, sitter, donor) in other related collections (e.g. archives, books, event photography, plus art work)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collaboration: ArtFrame & RareMat (ARM)
Analysis/Modeling

- Accession Number
- Attributions
- Awards
- Bibliographic Citation
- Bindings
- Carriers & Bound-withs
- Custodial History
- Exhibitions
- Fonts, Handwriting Types and Notations
- Limitation Statement

- Markings
- Materials
- Measurements of Part, Whole and Arrangement
- Notes in Art
- Pagination and Foliation
- Physical Condition
- Signature Statements
- Style/Period
- Titles in Art
Accession Number
Attribution
Awards
Art and Rare Materials (ARM) BIBFRAME Ontology Extensions

- Core Ontology
- Activity Ontology
- Award Ontology
- Custodial History Ontology
- Measurement Ontology

- ARM vocabularies: Arrangement, Handwriting Type, Origin, Status, Typeface
Application Profile

Some decisions made:

➢ Classes and properties specific to art
➢ Specify BIBFRAME entity levels for each
➢ Specify relationships
➢ Specify controlled vocabularies
➢ Specify order of predicates and predicate groupings for cataloging form
Testing: VitroLib

- Prototype editor, allowing for original cataloging in RDF
- Developed at Cornell University Libraries as part of LD4L-Labs, a collaborative effort by Cornell, Harvard, Iowa and Stanford funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- Based on Vitro
- Features: authorities lookups, drop-down menus, “mouse-over” hints
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Titles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preferred title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portrait of Myself</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Agent And Origin Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agent activity or role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stettheimer, Florine, 1871–1944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instance Parts And Accompaniments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associated title date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject, Type And Genre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stettheimer, Florine, 1871–1944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deliverables & Outcomes

➢ ARM Ontologies: Core, Activity, Award, Custodial History, Measurement
➢ ARM vocabularies
➢ Literature review
➢ Use cases

➢ Modeling recommendations
➢ Application profile
➢ Outline of “future work”
➢ Capacity building
➢ Continued development (for now)
Documentation

➢ ArtFrame LD4P Wiki
➢ ARM Ontology
➢ Application Profile + SHACL Maintenance Recommendations
➢ Art and Rare Materials (ARM) GitHub
➢ Modeling Recommendations
Why Linked Data?

MoMA
The Museum of Modern Art
Thank you!

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Columbia University Libraries