

# CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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### **BIOGRAPHY OF SARAH CASH, BECHHOEFER CURATOR OF AMERICAN ART CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Sarah Cash is responsible for the portion of the Corcoran’s world-renowned collection of American paintings, sculpture, and works on paper dating from 1760–1980. At the Corcoran, she has organized the loan exhibitions *Encouraging American Genius: Master Paintings from the Corcoran Gallery of Art* (traveled 2005–2007); *Norman Rockwell’s Four Freedoms: Paintings that Inspired a Nation* (2004); and *Albert Bierstadt’s California Scenery, Sunset View* (2003). Also at the Corcoran, she has curated many exhibitions from the Corcoran’s permanent collection, including *The Gilded Cage: Views of American Women, 1873–1921* (2002), and has coordinated the Corcoran’s presentation of numerous major traveling exhibitions. She has authored the Abbeville Press book *American Treasures of the Corcoran Gallery of Art* (2000); co-authored a Third Millennium Press book called *A Capital Collection: Masterworks from the Corcoran Gallery of Art* (2002); and has edited many publications and delivered numerous lectures. Most recently, she has organized the major traveling exhibition and scholarly catalogue about John Singer Sargent’s early career, when he devoted himself primarily to marine painting; *Sargent and the Sea* opens at the Corcoran in September 2009 before traveling to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Royal Academy, London, and will be accompanied by a major scholarly catalogue published by Yale University Press as well as an international symposium. She is also developing exhibitions and catalogues relating to such Corcoran masterpieces as Albert Bierstadt’s painting *Last of the Buffalo* and Hiram Powers’ sculpture *The Greek Slave*. Finally, Cash is overseeing a longer-term project of great importance to the Corcoran and to the field of American art: the first scholarly catalogue of the Corcoran’s collection of American paintings in more than forty years, which will be published in 2010.

Prior to arriving at the Corcoran in 1998, Cash served as Director of the Maier Museum of Art at Randolph-Macon Woman’s College (1995–1998) and Assistant Curator at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas (1990–1995). She has also held positions at the National Gallery of Art, the Yale University Art Gallery, and the National Portrait Gallery. Among Cash’s exhibitions prior to arriving at the Corcoran were the Amon Carter traveling shows *Ominous Hush: The Thunderstorm Paintings of Martin Johnson Heade* (1994) and *Thomas Eakins and the Swimming*

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*Picture* (1996). Her publications include the exhibition catalogues for these two exhibitions as well as *American Art: Paintings from the Amon Carter Museum* (1992); *American Naïve Paintings* (1991; volume 12 of the National Gallery of Art's Systematic Catalogue, contributing author); and numerous catalogue entries and articles.

Cash received her B.A. in Art History from Smith College and an M.A. from the Williams College Graduate Program in the History of Art. Additionally, she is a graduate of the Museum Management Institute in Berkeley, California, a program of the J. Paul Getty Trust.

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