

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE *of* ART + DESIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Kristin Guiter, (202) 639-1867, kguiter@corcoran.org

Christine Cimino, (202) 633-8597, ciminch@si.edu

**STATEMENT REGARDING THE SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES AND
THE CORCORAN COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Smithsonian Associates at the Smithsonian Institution and the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design will discontinue a partnership established in 2005 to offer a Master of Arts degree in the History of Decorative Arts, effective at the close of the 2011-2012 academic year.

In the fall of 2011, the M.A. program will begin a transition to continue as a partnership of The Smithsonian Associates and George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

“The Corcoran welcomes this transition,” said Kirk Pillow, interim president of the Corcoran College of Art + Design. “Our graduate programs in design, book arts, and arts education have record enrollments. They require specialized art-historical training as part of their curricula. This change will enable the Corcoran to focus on that training and to develop new art and design history graduate programs that complement our existing roster of degrees.”

Graduate students currently enrolled in the program and who complete degree requirements by May 2012 will graduate with a Corcoran degree. Current students and future enrollees who complete requirements after May 2012 will be granted a George Mason degree.

“There will be continuity for all students in the program, and all students will experience no interruption to their studies as they complete the degree,” said Barbara Tuceling, director of The Smithsonian Associates. “Degree requirements, scholarship support, and services provided to all students will remain unchanged for current students while future students begin to apply for admission to George Mason.”

The Smithsonian-Corcoran program has awarded 36 master’s degrees to graduates who have gone on as Corcoran alumni to research and professional roles in art museums, historic home collections, the U.S. Federal Consortium of Collections, and other centers for the study and appreciation of the decorative arts.

For more information about the MA in History of Decorative Arts program, visit www.smithsonianassociates.org/masters.

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