

TO: Corcoran Community  
FROM: Peggy Loar, Interim Director and President  
RE: Corcoran November Update  
DATE: November 27, 2013

Dear Corcoran Community Member ,

As we move into the holiday season, I want to send you and the entire Corcoran community my best wishes during this joyous time of year. Those of us who love the Corcoran have much to appreciate right now, much to be grateful for, and as we think back on the progress we've made, much to look forward to in 2014.

At the Gallery, audiences are enjoying, and being deeply moved by, *American Journeys--Visions of Place*, the major reinstallation of our renowned collection of American art from before the Second World War. As I walk through the galleries, I hear visitors marveling that they didn't know our holdings were so rich. In fact, they couldn't have known. This installation puts more paintings on view than have ever been seen before in these galleries--a strong sign of the renewed self-confidence that has taken hold at the Corcoran.

Among the exciting temporary exhibitions on view at the Gallery is Alex Prager's *Face in the Crowd*. This exhibition has been dazzling visitors with still photography and moving image. The exhibition's related programming offers special opportunities for further engagement at the Corcoran, including a series of films selected by the artist, showing some of the influences and inspirations for her work. From December through March, we look forward to having people join us for Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's *The Red Shoes*, Charles' Laughton's *The Night of the Hunter*, and Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*.

We are also offering important opportunities for involvement beyond our walls. On December 7, *Question Bridge: Black Males* will be on view in our galleries and simultaneously at the Corcoran's Community Gallery at THEARC. This important media project uses video to enable 150 black men from around the country to discuss with one another the issues that unite, divide, and puzzle them. Through a website, a custom mobile app, a live roundtable, and educational curricula, the Corcoran's diverse audiences will themselves get to participate in the conversation.

At the College, opportunities continue to flourish for tomorrow's American artists. Just this week, aspiring young talent from across the country participated in National Portfolio Day, giving them a chance to present their work to Corcoran faculty, receive advice about their future direction, and discuss the possibility of a Corcoran education. In February, our current students will be able to engage with the most recent of our distinguished Visiting Artists, Mia Feuer, whose remarkable installation work, *An Unkindness*, is currently on view in our *NOW at the Corcoran* series.

Thinking back over the time since I arrived at the Corcoran, I am astonished at how the Trustees, donors, staff, faculty, and students have all pulled together in a very short time to strengthen this institution. It has truly been a community effort. The work is not yet done; the final definition of our partnership with University of

Maryland, along with our progress on many other fronts, continues. But I am confident in the future of the Corcoran, because I can already see the difference we have all made in the fortunes, the vision, and the morale of this great institution. To me, this is the best reason for expressing gratitude in this holiday season: to thank you all for everything you've done.

Sincerely,

Peggy Loar

Interim Director and President, Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design