Remembering Professors: Sarah Schroth

Sarah Schroth
Mary D.B.T. and James H. Semans Director
Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University

As I begin the directorship at the Nasher Museum at Duke University, I will draw on the many lessons I learned at the Institute. Foremost, the self-reliance and intellectual courage taught to me by Jonathan Brown is crucial in all that I undertake. The need to support (and find funding for) good exhibitions that will advance scholarship was illustrated to me by Donald Posner. And I will never forget Egbert Haverkamp-Begemann once telling me that one of the important benefits of the Institute lies in the relationships developed with our fellow IFA students. As a new director, I feel I have a supportive network of IFA Alumni who are museum directors today, directors who will readily share the wisdom of their experience.


Remembering Professors: Janne Gallen-Kallela-Sirén

Janne Gallen-Kallela-Sirén
Director
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Between 1993 and 2000, I had the awesome privilege of studying at the Institute of Fine Arts in the company of brilliant, inspiring, and compassionate intellects. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to all of my IFA professors and mentors, notably Jonathan Brown, Colin Eisler, Robert Lubar, Donald Posner, Robert Rosenblum, Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt, and, of course, my advisor and intellectual beacon, Linda Nochlin. They are the reasons behind all of my achievements, first as a graduate student, then as a university professor, and now as a museum director. Collectively, from my IFA professors I learned the joy that can be derived from the pursuit of excellence and the pleasure that dwells in the art of asking questions and in academic discovery in general. From them I also absorbed a passion for exploring the endlessly fascinating marryng of words and images, the art of art history and criticism that is so relevant to us today as we confront the digital world and the most visual of centuries.

Robert Rosenblum's legacy in my life is significant, as he continues to remind me—in spirit—that there is a noble beauty to all aspects of art’s prolific history, even in those chapters that are mostly forgotten and go unnoticed by the general public. Linda Nochlin is one of bravest people I know, and I walk through my days in her company. She taught me mountains, not only about the politics of images and of life in general, but also about the art of moving mountains and of getting things done expeditiously. In April 2013, after working as a museum director in Finland for nine years, I began my tenure as the eleventh director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York. I assume the helm of this great American museum with wings I earned at the IFA from a remarkable band of teachers and friends. Thank you!


