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
October 4, 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
- 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
- Undergraduate Student Representative
- Graduate Student Representative
Gift of Edmund Astley Prentis in 1964

Micali Painter, *Etruscan Amphora*, ca. 500 BCE
Bequest of Dr. George N. Olcott in 1912

Florine Stettheimer, *Portrait of Myself*, 1923
Gift of the Estate of Ettie Stettheimer in 1967

Bruce Davidson, *New York City (Black Americans)*, 1962
Gift of Hugh and Sandra Lawson in 2015
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

- *2 Jahrzehnte amerikanische Malerei 1920-1940* (3 venues in Germany, Switzerland, and Belgium, Jun-Dec 1979)
- *Florine Stettheimer* (Lenbachhaus Kunstbau, Munich, Germany, Sep 2014-Jan 2015)
OFFICE OF ART PROPERTIES
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Accession No. 67.17.5
Accession Date

Artist: STETTHEIMER, Florine

Country: American 20th c.
Classification: Painting

Title: Portrait of Myself, 1923

Medium/Support: Oil on Canvas - on masonite or canvas mounted on board

Signed and Dated/Location: u.l.: “Florine St.”

Inscribed/Location:

Measurements:

E. 40 1/4 in. W. 26 7/8 in. D. in.
E. 160.7 cm. W. 67 cm. D. cm.

Mat/Frame Size: 41 1/8 X 27 1/4

Restorations/Condition: good condition:

- Yellowish brown foreign matter scattered throughout, including long vertical "drip" at R.-visible mostly in background.
- Yellow areas (artist?) U.R. of C., L.B. edge.

Provenance:
7 May 99: Brown spots, discolorations including some discolored retouches. (old?) Radiating cracks from pink flower L. of C. Series of small brown spots on her rt. hand, drying cracks in her hair, L. of C.

24 Aug. 91: no change.


Sept 09: Horizontal rift on right side approx. 23 in. long, 13 in. from bottom. Bubbled area on top edge, right of center. - ?

Photographs: Schiff #600 103 C/#600731 103 C/ Clemente, #90-156

Credit Line: Stettheimer bequest, 1967
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accession Number</th>
<th>Classification Primary</th>
<th>Classification Secondary</th>
<th>Creator 1</th>
<th>LCNAF Linked Data 1</th>
<th>Qualifier 1</th>
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Portrait of Myself

Stettheimer, Florine, 1871-1944

New York, New York, United States

1923

paintings

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 69.8 cm)

Oil on canvas laid on board; Gift of the Estate of Ettie Stettheimer, 1967.

Inscribed "Florine St" at top.

Stettheimer, Florine, 1871-1944

View Object in Context

Order a Reproduction
Display XML Metadata

 Browse Location's Digital Content

Accession no.: 1967.17.005

Jewels in her crown
<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>Descriptive Metadata</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
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<td>Portrait of Myself</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Name 1</strong></td>
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<td>Primary?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Role 1</strong></td>
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<td>Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Single or Start Date</td>
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<td>Self-portraits</td>
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<table>
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<th><strong>Physical Information</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Extent 1</strong></td>
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</table>
BIBFRAME

- 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
LD4P

- 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
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>
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</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>
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<tr>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>High</td>
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<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
Awards

Awards:resource1 award:receives award:receivedBy :awardWinner1

Awards:awardWinner1 award:hasAward award:isAwardOf :award1

"1987"^^edtf:edtf

Awards:awardWinner1 ex:hasActivity ex:isActivityOf :selectorActivity1

Awards:selectorActivity1 bf:agent ex:isAgentOf :agent1

Awards:awardWinner1 ex:hasActivity ex:isActivityOf :awardGranterActivity1

Awards:awardGranterActivity1 bf:agent ex:isAgentOf :agent2
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
# Portrait of Myself

| Still image | (work) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Titles</th>
<th>Work Agent And Origin Information</th>
<th>Instance Parts And Accompaniments</th>
<th>Subject, Type And Genre</th>
<th>Related Instances</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>View All</th>
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</thead>
</table>

## Titles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preferred title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portrait of Myself</td>
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</table>

## Work Agent And Origin Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Agent activity or role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stettheimer, Florine, 1871–1944</td>
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## Instance Parts And Accompaniments

<table>
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<th>Associated title date</th>
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<td>1923</td>
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## Subject, Type And Genre

<table>
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<td>Stettheimer, Florine, 1871–1944</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Testing: Karma
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

Columbia University
Thank you!

Roberto C. Ferrari
(rcf2123@columbia.edu)
&
Melanie Wacker
(mw2064@columbia.edu)

Columbia University Libraries