The Art Properties Collection

- Art collection owned by Columbia University
- 10,000+ works of art
- Displayed throughout the campus and held in storage
- Art Properties home page: [http://library.columbia.edu/locations/avery/art-properties.html](http://library.columbia.edu/locations/avery/art-properties.html)
John Singleton Copley
*Portrait of Myles Cooper*
ca. 1768, oil on canvas

Standing Buddha, China
Northern Qi dynasty (550-577),
limestone with marble base

Florine Stettheimer
*Landscape No. 2 with Bathers*
1911, oil on canvas

*Slide courtesy of Roberto C. Ferrari, Curator of Art Properties and Margaret Smithglass, Registrar and Digital Content Librarian, Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library*
Charles Willson Peale
*Portrait Miniature of Alexander Hamilton*, c. 1780
watercolor on ivory
Gift of Edmund Astley Prentis

Anna Hyatt Huntington
*Cranes Rising*, 1934, bronze
Gift of the artist

Hiroshige
*The Cave Shrine of Kannon*
Japan, Edo period
1855, woodblock print
Gift of Mrs. Horace Stebbins

*Slide courtesy of Roberto C. Ferrari, Curator of Art Properties and Margaret Smithglass, Registrar and Digital Content Librarian, Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library*
Why BIBFRAME?

- Many libraries own art objects
- Art objects have been described in MARC
- Larger institutions often have libraries as well as museums -- lack of communication
- 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)
The Project

- Project team consisting of librarians and domain specialists
  - Amber Billey (Metadata Librarian)
  - Roberto C. Ferrari (Curator of Art Properties)
  - Kate Harcourt (Director, Original and Special Materials Cataloging)
  - Erin Petrella (Metadata Assistant)
  - Margaret Smithglass (Registrar and Digital Content Librarian, Avery Library)
  - Project Coordinator: Melanie Wacker (Metadata Coordinator)

Project wiki: https://wiki.cul.columbia.edu/display/CBT/Columbia+BIBFRAME+Test+Home
The Project

- Objectives
  - Evaluate the suitability of the BIBFRAME model and vocabulary for describing art objects
  - Identify and document any descriptive needs of art objects that are currently not covered by BIBFRAME.
  - Evaluate other linked data ontologies and initiatives in the art domain.
  - Develop a profile for the description of art objects.
  - Convert a selection of art resources data to the Art Properties Profile
  - Engage with related projects in the museum/art library domain
  - Participate in data exchange with other partners.
  - Develop workflow to connect public facing linked data with core library functions (acquisition, inventory, circulation)
  - Evaluate the project and share recommendations
The Data

- Currently in spreadsheet format (no collection management system)
- Uses controlled vocabulary for most elements (LC/NAF, TGN, AAT)

Contains:
- General descriptive information (e.g. creators, classification, roles, titles, dates)
- History of the art work (e.g. exhibition notes, provenance)
- Acquisition information (e.g. donor, acquisition date)
- Condition and Preservation information (e.g. condition description, condition date, conservation)
- Location and circulation information (e.g. status, campus location)
Characterization of Sample Data

- Sample data describing 112 art objects in the Art Properties collection
  - Subset of the overall collection, so should not be seen to represent the entire collection

- Formats
- Creators
- Titles
- “Ofness” vs. “Aboutness”
- Events
- Physical Description
- Location
- Acquisitions Type Information
Literature Review

- Contemporary literature on art and linked data
- Information-seeking behavior for art and visual resources
- Non-MARC metadata schema development and modeling for art and visual resources
- Mapping descriptions for art and visual resources into MARC
Art and Linked Data

- Controlled Vocabularies and Thesauri
  - Getty Vocabularies
    - AAT, ULAN, TGN, CONA
  - Library of Congress Linked Data Service
    - NAF, LCSH, LCGFT, ...
  - FAST

- Ontologies
  - CIDOC CRM
  - VRA RDF
  - VRA as a BIBFRAME profile

- Mappings
  - Art Properties data in VRA (XML & RDF)
  - Art Properties data in LIDO (XML)
  - Schema.org (OCLC)

- Other Projects
  - American Art Collaborative
Issues Discovered

- Definition of “Work”
- Properties lacking in BIBFRAME
  e.g. Culture, Inscriptions/Signatures
- Events are problematic
  e.g. Lifecycle events vs. Events as topics/subjects
- Restricted information
  e.g. Insurance value, exact location (such as an office), donor information, etc.
Next Steps

● Experimenting with tools: Karma and Vitro

● Continue use case development

● Reaching out to peer institutions
e.g. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs

● Continue evaluation of existing art-focused ontologies and BIBFRAME 2.0 (once released)

● Data modeling, ontology and profile development

● Data transformation/creation
Thank you!

Questions?

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