

Yale Center for British Art Director Receives a Prestigious 2017 Soane Foundation Honor

NEW HAVEN, CT (October 6, 2017) – The Sir John Soane’s Museum Foundation honored Amy Meyers (Yale PhD 1985), Director of the Yale Center for British Art, on Wednesday, September 27, at the Rainbow Room in New York City. Meyers was presented with a 2017 Soane Foundation Honor for her leadership, under which the Center has become one of the foremost destinations in the world for the study of British art and culture. Every year this foundation celebrates Sir John Soane’s singular contributions as an architect and educator by bestowing Soane Foundation Honors on present day innovators, leaders, and visionaries in the fields of architecture, design, urban planning, museums, architectural education, and philanthropy at a celebratory gala dinner in an architecturally significant venue in New York City.



“Amy embodies the spirit of Sir John Soane,” noted Lisa Ackerman, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the World Monuments Fund, in her presentation of the honor. “Both stand for excellence in scholarship and education. Both want the world to be a better place through providing opportunities to enrich our lives through discovery, beauty, and engagement.”

Over the past fifteen years of her directorship, Meyers has created a robust research and education program, attracting a range of international scholars and expanding the museum’s reach to a larger, more diverse audience. One of her most enduring contributions is the conservation and revitalization of the landmark building designed by Louis I. Kahn to house founder Paul Mellon’s (Yale College, Class of 1929) extraordinary gift to Yale University. With meticulous attention to Kahn’s design, Meyers guided the project through three phases of renovation, in accordance with a unique conservation plan developed under her leadership, ensuring that the Center’s unparalleled collection of British art would have a properly distinguished home well into the future.



This year’s Soane Foundation Honor recognizes Meyers’s visionary spirit and acknowledges her work as a highly respected art historian who affirms deeply the importance of collaboration among colleagues and institutions. The Center has collaborated with Sir John Soane’s Museum on numerous projects and programs over the years, including the exhibitions *Mrs. Delany and Her Circle* (2009–10), *Enlightened Princesses: Caroline, Augusta, Charlotte, and the Shaping of the Modern World* (2017), as well as the forthcoming *The Paston Treasure: Microcosm of the Known World* (2018).



THE CENTER'S DIRECTOR RECEIVES A 2017 SOANE FOUNDATION HONOR

In addition to Meyers's recognition, the renowned English architect Sir David Chipperfield also was honored during this year's Visionaries Gala Dinner. Previous Soane Foundation Honorees with Yale affiliations have included the architect Robert A. M. Stern (MArch 1965) in 2008; Yale University Press (accepted by John Donatich) in 2010; Allan Greenberg (MArch 1965) in 2011; and Norman Foster, Lord Foster of Thames Bank (MArch 1962, DFAH 2003), in 2013.



ABOUT SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM

Sir John Soane enjoyed a long and distinguished career as an architect, teacher, and collector. When he died at age eighty-four in 1837, he left his London home, located at Lincoln's Inn Fields, to the nation. Sir John Soane's Museum is internationally recognized as the best house-museum in the world. It is a masterpiece – where ideas, form, function, light, and space blend to create a magical harmony – or as Soane himself described it, “The Poetry of Art and Architecture.”



Visit the Soane Museum at www.soane.org.

ABOUT SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM FOUNDATION

Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation in America was founded in 1991 as a forum for art, architecture, and the decorative arts, within the Soanian tradition. Throughout the year, the foundation offers a variety of enriching lectures and foreign study tours for its members. It sponsors fellowships for outstanding graduate students and others to pursue studies at the museum and in the UK. The core mission of the foundation is to raise funds for the conservation of Sir John Soane's Museum and its extraordinary collections.



Visit the Soane Museum Foundation at www.soanefoundation.com.

ABOUT THE YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

The Yale Center for British Art houses the largest collection of British art outside the United Kingdom. Presented to the university by Paul Mellon (Yale College, Class of 1929), the collection reflects the development of British art and culture from the Elizabethan period onward. The Center's collections include more than 2,000 paintings, 250 sculptures, 20,000 drawings and watercolors, 40,000 prints, and 35,000 rare books and manuscripts. More than 40,000 volumes supporting research in British art and related fields are available in the Center's Reference Library. In May 2016, the Center reopened to the public following the completion of a multiyear project to conserve its iconic Louis I. Kahn building.



Visit the Center online at britishart.yale.edu.

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PRESS CONTACTS

Yale Center for British Art

Ronnie Rysz: +1 203 436 3429 | ronnie.rysz@yale.edu

Kristin Dwyer: +1 203 432 2856 | kristin.dwyer@yale.edu

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