



Smithsonian
***Donald W. Reynolds Center for
American Art and Portraiture***
Smithsonian American Art Museum

News

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**Smithsonian American Art Museum's Collection Catalog
Wins National Award**

"America's Art," the Smithsonian American Art Museum's new collection catalog, has been awarded the Frances Smyth-Ravenel Prize for Excellence in Publication Design by the American Association of Museums. The Frances Smyth-Ravenel Prize also is known as "best in show." "America's Art" was designed by Karen Siatras, the museum's graphic designer, and Theresa Slowik, the chief of publications, and published by Harry Abrams, New York. The museum also received a second place award for its calendar of events and an honorable mention for "Mixed Media," the member newsletter. Both pieces also are designed by Siatras.

"I am very proud of the museum's creative team and their continuing commitment to elegant design," said Elizabeth Broun, The Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the museum.

The American Association of Museums' competition, which acknowledges excellence in the graphic design of museum publications, is the only national, juried event involving publications produced by museums of all kinds and sizes. This year's contest drew more than 1,092 entries. Twenty-six received a first prize, 23 received a second prize and 70 received an honorable mention.

Competing institutions were divided according to budget: museums with annual operating budgets of \$500,000 or more and those with budgets of less than \$500,000. Within each budget division, entries competed in 16 categories, including books, educational resources, newsletters, fund-raising materials, scholarly journals and CD-ROMs. Entries in all 16 categories were eligible for the Frances Smyth-Ravenel Prize for Excellence in Publication Design.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum collection began with gifts of art donated to the federal government in 1829 and has evolved into one of the world's most important American art holdings, with approximately 41,000 artworks in all media spanning more than three centuries. The museum is located at Eighth and F streets N.W. in the heart of a revitalized downtown arts district, above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station (Red, Yellow and Green lines). When its building opens July 1, the museum will be a dazzling showcase for American art and portraiture that celebrates the vision and creativity of Americans.

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