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Virginia M. Mecklenburg
Senior Curator

Virginia Mecklenburg is a senior curator of painting and sculpture at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. She has been on staff since 1979. Her research interests include American art and culture, Ashcan art, New Deal art, American abstraction, pop art and Latino art.

Mecklenburg has organized more than 25 exhibitions, the most recent of which were *Telling Stories: Norman Rockwell from the Collections of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg* (2010), *Modern Masters from the Smithsonian American Art Museum* (2008) and *Earl Cunningham's America* (2007). She co-organized the exhibition and wrote the catalog *Edward Hopper: The Watercolors* (1999), and co-organized *Metropolitan Lives: The Ashcan Artists and Their New York* (1995); the accompanying book won the Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Award in 1997.

Other projects include consulting on the museum's educational website and virtual movie theater "Picturing the 1930s" and directing the interactive video *American Abstraction, 1930–1945: The Artists Speak* that received the American Film and Video Association's Blue Ribbon award in 1991.

She has written on George Bellows, Richard Estes, William Glackens, Edward Hopper, Robert Indiana, Georgia O'Keeffe, John Sloan, Robert Vickrey and other 20th-century painters for exhibition-based publications as well as for magazines and journals such as *American Art*, *American Art Review* and *The Magazine Antiques*. She has lectured widely and serves on advisory committees for the Inter-American Development Bank, the Museum of Latin America (OAS), the Reynolda House Museum of American Art and the Washington Sculptors Group.

Mecklenburg received a bachelor's degree (1968) and a master's degree (1970) from the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her doctorate in art history (1983) from the University of Maryland at College Park.

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