

Global Center for Art Historians Collection Development Policy

I. Mission Statement

- a. The mission of the Global Center for Art Historians (GCAH) is to provide bona fide researchers and art history students around the world with hands-on access to paintings, illustrations, artist notebooks, sculptures, rare books, and the like. Our 15 global locations provide each continent (barring Antarctica) with a central repository for the visitation of art historians conducting research involving each particular location. We aim to preserve and promote the preservation of history, culture, and art, and recognize the importance of people and places. At GCAH, we believe research and a dedication to education should be at the forefront of every society.
- b. Scope
 - i. Current holdings vary depending on location. The 15 GCAH repositories correspond to the history of the surrounding area in which they reside.
 - ii. Holding circulations can include, but are not limited to; paintings (watercolor, oil, acrylic, etc.), illustrations (ink, pastel, graphite, charcoal, etc.), sculpture (particular focus on limestone and granite), books (original artist notebooks and books published by artists), and inventions (prototypes and mock-ups).

II. Background Statement

- a. The GCAH serves art historians in whichever phase of their educational and career journey they occupy. From budding art intrigues to seasoned historians, the GCAH provides an in-person experience to foster education, promote research, and maintain stimuli. Since each GCAH location pertains to the city/country in which it is situated, researchers intending to access materials from a different location, and specifically those who cannot afford to travel to see certain documents that pertain to their research, can apply for the Global Travel Grant provided by the GCAH, outlined in Section VI. Photos of certain objects in specified collections are available upon written request.

III. Acquisition Policy

- a. In order to place funds in accordance with the GCAH mission, the GCAH limits efforts of digitization and prioritizes non-digital formats.
- b. Evaluation Criteria
 - i. The material must contain art-historical significance that corresponds to the specific GCAH location
 - ii. The material must prove strong academic research quality
 - iii. The material should align with GCAH's mission
 - iv. If deteriorated, the material must be deemed either important to historical records and/or restorable by GCAH's conservators
 - v. Strong preference is given to tangible, non-digital objects
 - vi. The material *must* be in good standing concerning provenance and ownership (See Section IV Subsection a)

IV. Responsibility, Protection, and Conservation

- a. Responsibility
 - i. The GCAH recognizes the intrinsic emotional value in documents and artwork, and maintains a responsibility to respect familial pieces. Additionally, the GCAH is committed to provenance – the importance of tracking originality, with proper ownership and history of ownership of *strict* adherence.
- b. Protection
 - i. Curators, Archivists, and Conservators at the GCAH take upmost care in the handling of each piece at every location. Each employee is extensively trained in proper attire and required hygiene practices.

- c. Conservation
 - i. Each location of the GCAH is equipped with a detailed force majeure clause which is clearly explained to and understood by all staff members. The GCAH understands that varying locations deal with differing climates and environments; therefore proper measures are strictly in place to make sure every piece and collection is well taken care of.
- V. Deaccession
 - a. Each quarter, the COO of all GCAH locations will commiserate to begin the deaccession process. Seeing as the GCAH contains an enormous collection worldwide, it is important to keep an updated, accurate, balanced collection that pertains to current and predicted researcher needs. A demographic and statistical assessment will be performed to decide which pieces are most prevalent to the current users. The governing bodies will also assess any redundancies throughout all collections and make sure each GCAH location is unique.
- VI. Budget and Funding
 - a. The value of every collection is what binds each GCAH location at its core. Due to the nature of our rare, priceless, and historically valuable acquisitions, a significant portion of GCAH's budget is portioned primarily to insurance, and secondarily to conservation. The remaining non-staffing-related budget is given to the Global Travel Grant.
 - b. The GCAH focuses heavily on collecting tangible items to promote its mission of encouraging academic stimuli and providing users with a unique experience. In order to develop such a grand task, little priority and funding is given to incorporating digitizing software and processing. To provide equal opportunity across all researchers, the GCAH provides a Global Travel Grant to allow fair experiences.
 - c. Global Travel Grant
 - i. In place of digitizing GCAH's records, a portion of the institution's funding will consistently be cycled into the Global Travel Grant. The selection process for this grant is done monthly in which 5 researchers for each of the 15 locations are chosen to visit their desired location. Researchers are chosen based on applications which must demonstrate an intensity of and commitment to their research. The visit comprises a three-day pass to the institution with all travel expenses paid. The GCAH is committed to fair access for researchers across the globe.
- VII. Intellectual Freedom
 - a. The GCAH respects all users from all backgrounds and does not discriminate against any persons. Each GCAH location follows [ALA's The Freedom to Read Statement](#)
- VIII. Gifts and Loans
 - a. Gifts
 - i. Please see Section I Subsection b for current and acceptable holdings.
 - ii. The GCAH evaluates gifts that fall into the scope of its collections. Gifts that fall out of the outlined scope will not be considered. Gifts that are not accepted will be requested to return to its previous owner, and if rejected from this owner, will be sold to benefit the Global Travel Grant.
 - b. Loans
 - i. The GCAH reserves loans to universities which prove scholarly purpose and educational development for the material requested. Faculty from a university may provide a written request to any of the 15 GCAH locations to allow their students to experience the materials in question. As an alternative, cheaper option, faculty may request a web conferencing session with a curator to provide a similar experience for students.