

THE CLARK



Director of the Library

The Clark Art Institute (The Clark) seeks nominations and applications for a creative, transformative, and dynamic leader for its next Director of the Library. This position is an excellent opportunity for a thoughtful, pragmatic, and inclusive leader to provide strategic vision and leadership, expert day-to-day management of people and processes, and collections expertise appropriate to the depth and breadth of the Clark's noted collections. The Clark seeks an individual who can collaboratively design new and innovative services that demonstrate the value of its distinctive collections to the intellectual work of a global community of scholars, teachers, researchers, and the broader public.

The Clark has a staff of approximately ninety and a budget of \$25 million, from a combination of dedicated acquisitions and other endowments. The Director of the Library will have the opportunity to create exceptional services and collections in support of the research mission at the Clark and around the globe. Reporting to the Deputy Director of the Clark and working in close partnership with the Hardyman Director of the Clark, Olivier Meslay, the Director of the Library will help develop and implement the library's strategic priorities as they align with the Clark's, in an exceptionally stimulating intellectual environment.

ABOUT THE CLARK ART INSTITUTE

In 1950, Sterling and Francine Clark chartered the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute as a home for their extensive art [collection](#). After considering several options, including founding a museum in Cooperstown, New York, or in Manhattan, the Clarks chose Williamstown, Massachusetts, based on Cold War concerns about locating their collection in a major urban center and, more loosely, on certain familial ties with Williams College. Opened to the public in 1955, the Clark has built upon this extraordinary foundation of works from the private collection of Sterling and Francine Clark to become one of the most beloved and respected art museums in the world, known for its intimate galleries and stunning natural setting. Best known for its collection of French Impressionism and its important holdings of works by leading American artists, the Clark has continued to add to its collections through new acquisitions, and its long history of collaborating with contemporary artists and art historians ensures continued vibrancy and relevance in an ever-changing world.



One of the few institutions in the United States that combines a public art museum with a Research and Academic Program, the Clark is a leading [international](#) center for research and discussion on the nature of art, art history, and visual culture.



Its close connections to Williams College and its partnership in the Williams/Clark Graduate Program in the History of Art further deepen the Institute's connection to scholarly concerns and to the continued growth and development of the field. Members of the Clark's curatorial and Research and Academic Program staff serve in teaching capacities for the Williams/Clark graduate program.

The Clark is governed by a twenty-three-member Board of Trustees and is visited by some 200,000 people annually. The Clark's 2021 revenue was \$22 million. Annual revenues derive from investments, memberships, contributions and grants, public programs, and retail and admission sales. Visitors from near and far travel to experience the Clark's exceptional collections in an intimate setting, not only to view art on the inside, but also to view the spectacular architecture by Pritzker Prize-winner Tadao Ando set on a 140-acre campus of great natural beauty.

To learn more about the Clark, please visit the following links:

History: <https://www.clarkart.edu/about/history/overview>

Sterling and Francine Clark: <https://www.clarkart.edu/about/history/sterling-francine-clark>

Architecture: <https://www.clarkart.edu/about/architecture/overview>

Annual Reports: <https://www.clarkart.edu/about/financial-data/annual-reports>

MISSION

The Clark is one of only a handful of institutions globally with a dual mission as an art museum and a distinguished center for research and higher education, dedicated to advancing and extending the public understanding of art.

The Clark's mission and geographical location define three essential aspects of its character and identity: the quality of its art, the beauty of its pastoral setting, and the depth of its commitment to the generation of ideas.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2022 the Clark's Board of Trustees approved a new, seven-year strategic plan that focuses on connecting participants and visitors to the Clark with art, ideas, and nature.

Highlights of the Clark's recently approved strategic plan that are focused on the library include:

- Establishing an endowed library acquisition fund to allow for continued expansion of the depth and breadth of the library collections, including underrepresented material and material not currently in the collection;
- Revising descriptive and interpretive practices about objects in all collections (art and library) and across all platforms of engagement to share narratives that embrace new voices, multiple perspectives, and include consideration of historic facts that have been missing from traditional interpretation;
- Creating a library exhibition program that showcases diverse artists and topics;
- Researching and installing both a next-generation library operating system and a digital asset management system to create greater accessibility to the library, archives, and photography collections;
- Developing and implementing a plan to digitize more library and collection material and make this available online; and,
- Creating a library multimedia user space for meetings and research, providing the necessary equipment and technology to support viewing/listening to all forms of media in the collection.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Clark Art Institute is committed to the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). It is actively engaged in a serious, institute-wide initiative to examine every area of its programming and operations to make sure that the Clark’s commitment is reflected in everything that it does.

Current and recent work include:

- A staff-wide DEIA Advisory Group has been formed and is working to assess current operations and programming, to support staff training, and to make recommendations so that internal practices for staff—as well as external relationships and programs with and for the public—are informed by principles of DEIA.
- The Clark’s Board of Trustees has formed a DEIA and Engagement Committee to address DEIA considerations at a leadership level and to ensure that the Institute’s commitment to these principles is integrated into all areas of the organization and its practices.
- The Clark recently approved a new strategic plan and, with the full support of the Board of Trustees, DEIA principles are core values in every phase of the Clark’s planning for the future.
- Working with the approval of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Community, the Clark has developed a [Land Acknowledgement statement](#).
- The Clark seeks to make its buildings, campus, and programs [accessible](#) to visitors of all abilities.

MUSEUM PROGRAM

The Clark’s Museum Program encompasses both its permanent collection and a vibrant series of exhibitions and public programs. The Clark’s permanent [collection](#) features European and American paintings, sculpture, works on paper, photographs, and decorative arts from the Renaissance to the early twentieth century. The collection is internationally recognized for its rich holdings in French Impressionist and Academic paintings, British oil sketches, works on paper, and silver, and is particularly noted for its holdings of works by American artists Winslow Homer, George Inness, and John Singer Sargent. Based on the founding gift from [Sterling and Francine Clark](#), the collection has expanded over the years through its active and on-going acquisition program. Significant gifts



and bequests, including the gift of the Sir Edwin and Lady [Manton Collection of British Art](#) and the gift of paintings by George Inness by Frank and Katherine Martucci, have enriched the Clark's important collection. The Clark's exhibition program is noted for its continual focus on scholarship and on advancing new art historical perspectives on artists, movements, and specific eras. The Clark's own curatorial team often works in collaboration with other museums and with independent scholars to develop original exhibition concepts that are presented in Williamstown and at other museums around the globe. The Clark's public program initiatives are closely tied to its exhibition programs and present a rich array of projects that further public appreciation of art and of related cultural projects.

The Clark's educational efforts are mirrored in the work of its Museum Program. The Clark offers extensive educational programs to the public including school field trips, outreach programs, lectures, film series, concerts, studio art courses, and group tours.

RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Research and Academic Program (RAP), which began in the late 1990s, partners with both local and international institutions and was part of the vision the Clarks had when they created the Institute. The program awards between ten to sixteen residential fellowships a year, offering scholars, curators, independent researchers, and artists opportunities to conduct research, write, plan exhibitions, or pursue independent study projects free from the confines of their typical professional obligations.

The Research and Academic Program supports scholarship in art history, visual culture, and interdisciplinary inquiry that challenges how we think about writing art history and addresses the complexity of our contemporary world. It is particularly dedicated to projects that reimagine the borders and geographies of art history's dominant narratives. RAP hosts [fellowships for individuals](#) who pursue innovative research projects at the Clark. RAP also creates and collaborates on programming that invests in thoughtful and passionate debate through [colloquia, exhibition concept workshops, public lectures, and the Clark Conference](#). Through public and academic events, international partnerships, and an active role in the [Williams College/Clark Graduate Program in the History of Art](#), the Clark aims to make art history accessible to a diverse audience while supporting research that shapes how we understand and imagine our world.

RAP is a core part of the Clark Art Institute. The combination of solitude found in nature and the lively academic community fostered among scholars offers an exceptional opportunity for the pursuit of intellectual inquiry.

RAP has received generous support from a broad range of foundations and institutions. The Manton Foundation established an endowment in support of the program in 2007. The program's

directorship was endowed by the Starr Foundation in 2008. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Getty Foundation have both provided integral support for programming and fellowships.

To learn more about RAP, please visit: [https://www.clarkart.edu/research-academic/about-rap/about-rap-\(1\)](https://www.clarkart.edu/research-academic/about-rap/about-rap-(1)).

LEADERSHIP

OLIVIER MESLAY, HARDYMON DIRECTOR



In August 2016, Oliver Meslay became the fifth director of the Clark. Previously, Meslay served as Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs with the Dallas Museum of Art. Prior to that he was the Chief Curator at the Musée du Louvre for both the Louvre-Lens Project, and for the Louvre’s British, Spanish, and American Paintings collections for more than a decade. Educated at the Université Paris-Sorbonne and Ecole du Louvre, Meslay has dedicated his life to art and culture. An avid writer, Meslay has been published widely, and is the author of numerous books, catalogue entries, and articles. In 2009, the French government honored his artistic leadership in representing French culture with the award of the Chevalier des Arts et Lettres.

Meslay is committed to broadening the Clark’s reach by nurturing its diverse community through exhibitions, public programs, and other presentations created in collaboration with leading artists and Berkshires cultural organizations. The ability to create meaningful moments for multiple audiences is a pillar of many of the Clark’s exhibitions. Throughout the pandemic, “The Clark Connects,” a digital platform for virtual viewings of the museum’s art, has expanded the museum’s reach allowing accessibility to the public who would otherwise be unable to visit the museum at this time. Since joining the Clark, Meslay has placed special emphasis on integrating the natural beauty of its campus into its programmatic activities. He spearheaded the development of the Clark’s first outdoor exhibition, *Ground/work*, which opened to great acclaim in summer 2020. By keeping its grounds open during the pandemic, Meslay further underscored the Institute’s focus on art in nature and deepened the Clark’s commitment to serving its community by providing access to the restorative powers of art.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

“One of the loveliest communities in New England” —*The New York Times*

Nestled in the Berkshires in the northwest corner of Massachusetts, equidistant from New York City and Boston, Williamstown is a center of arts and culture in its own right. Tranquil yet progressive, visitors from near and far visit Williamstown and its surrounding areas for its world-renowned art museums, educational centers, natural beauty, and extensive recreational opportunities. Despite its diminutive size, Williamstown is home to Williams College, the Clark Art Institute, Williams College Museum of Art, the Tony-award winning Williamstown Theatre Festival, and Images Cinema, one of the nation’s oldest single-screen independent movie theaters.

Williamstown was originally part of the lands that were home to the Mohican people. The town was settled in 1749, as a trading outpost and a barrier community to prevent Dutch colonists from encroaching on Massachusetts from nearby New York. The town was incorporated in 1765 and was primarily focused on dairy farming, sheepherding, and wool production.

Hundreds of years later, Williamstown boasts an active intellectual community, which thrives in the historically rich town. Williamstown features many landmark homes and a number of active family-owned farms, many of which provide farm-to-table food experiences.

Visitors and residents alike enjoy many nearby hiking trails including the Appalachian Trail and Mt. Greylock, the highest peak in Massachusetts. To the north lies the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont. In 2019 the town's population was 7,434. Area hotels, Williams College, and the Clark make up the majority of the area's employment.

For information about living and working in Williamstown, Massachusetts, visit:

<https://williamstownma.gov>

<https://destinationwilliamstown.org>

THE BERKSHIRES

The Berkshires, a highland geologic region encompassing the mountains of western Massachusetts, named among the *12 Last Great Places* by The Nature Conservancy, offers a multitude of cultural experiences, and is known as a center for the visual and performing arts.

Attractions include the Norman Rockwell Museum, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA), Williamstown Theatre Festival, Tanglewood Music Center, The Mount (the former home of Edith Wharton), Barrington Stage, the Berkshire Theatre Group, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, the Berkshire Museum, and America's first and longest-running dance festival, Jacob's Pillow.

For more information on arts and culture as well as lodging and dining in the Berkshires, visit Berkshires.org.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY



The Clark houses one of the most distinguished art research libraries in the country, with nearly 300,000 volumes in over sixty-five languages. Focusing on post-medieval European and American art, the collection is outstanding in the fields of Italian and Northern Renaissance, Baroque, and nineteenth-century French art, the history of photography, and international contemporary art, as well as theory and visual culture.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The library's diverse special collections enhance both library and museum holdings. Highlights include the founding collection of [Robert Sterling Clark's rare books](#), the history of photomechanical reproduction, early illustrated printed books, decorative arts, sample books, and twentieth- and twenty-first-century artists' books.

To learn more about what is featured in special collections, visit:

<https://www.clarkart.edu/Library/Special-Collections/Special-Collections>.

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The library also houses the Clark Archives, which were established to preserve, organize, and make accessible the Institute’s historic records. The primary components of the Archives are the [Sterling and Francine Clark Papers](#) and the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute Records. All archival materials in both collections are documented in guides that are open to the public and fully searchable. The archivist also serves as the Institute’s records manager for both analog and digital materials. The archives project was made possible in part through grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation.

To learn more about the Archives and its collections and correspondence, please visit:

<https://www.clarkart.edu/library/special-collections/archives>.

THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE LIBRARY

Reporting to the Deputy Director of the Clark, the Director serves as a key member of the Clark’s leadership team and contributes to the overall strategic direction of the Institute. The Director is responsible for guiding the Institute’s libraries and archives and staff to support and advance current and future research and scholarly dimensions of the Institute as developed by the



administration. In conjunction with the office of the Hardymon Director of the Clark, the Director of the Library develops policies, budgets, and collaborative initiatives with colleague institutions. In addition, the Director acquires, preserves, and provides physical and intellectual access to a broad research-level collection in art history and related fields in a variety of formats. The Director ensures provision of service to library users.

The Director leads and manages approximately fourteen talented staff and an annual budget of over \$1 million dollars including operating, acquisitions, and personnel.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Among other essential duties, the Director will:

1. Implement collections development policy including expanding acquisition funding and policy implementation. Select and maintain relations with vendors in the international art book market;

2. Develop and implement preservation and security plans for the collections that meet the highest professional standards;
3. Create an environment that actively fosters research and publication. Support, advocate, and participate in the Research and Academic Program’s initiatives for the Institute;
4. Formulate, recommend, and implement library policies, systems, procedures, and objectives. Direct library resources to maximize workflow and productivity and establish library priorities;
5. Develop, recommend, and monitor operating/capital budgets. Direct and coordinate all department activities to ensure goals are achieved. Advise appropriate administrators on performance and budget variances and significant changes in conditions and issues;
6. Direct the preparation, maintenance, and presentation of reports that are necessary to carry out library functions. Prepare periodic reports to appropriate administrators, the Board of Trustees, and the Research and Academic Program Committee, quarterly and as requested;
7. Oversee collaborative initiatives with OCLC’s Research Libraries Partnership, the Williams College libraries, other libraries and professional organizations to advance acquisitions and service to field and users;
8. Develop a competent, well-trained, properly structured, and highly motivated staff capable of achieving library and Institute goals. Establish and communicate performance standards and provide staff with constructive feedback. Provide coaching and technical information. Coordinate library staff activities within the library and in collaborative efforts undertaken with other departments of the Institute;
9. Expand the library’s contribution to academic, research library, and professional organizations and projects. Attend and participate in national and international professional and scholarly conferences; and,
10. Cultivate current and potential donors, solicit and accept gifts of library materials. Submit grant proposals to federal agencies and private foundations. Maintain exchange partnership agreements.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

In alignment with the Clark’s strategic plan, the Director’s primary role is developing and implementing key strategic objectives for the library as well as setting long-term goals informed by best practices within the profession. The key opportunities and challenges for the next director include the following:

Strategic Vision:

- Serving as a leader and change agent, moving the library and its operations toward an ever-higher standard of excellence, innovation, and access;
- Overseeing the development through purchase and gift of distinctive print and digital materials in order to fulfill the Clark's and the library's mission;
- Ensuring that the library is an environment in which people from a diverse range of backgrounds and perspectives can thrive and develop professionally and in which all staff work together collaboratively.



Digital Innovation and Open Access:

- Creating and articulating a digital strategy that will evolve and expand with the library's needs over time;
- Actively working to advance the creation, use, and visibility of digital content through forward-looking and innovative policies relating to access to the library's holdings;
- Participating in and supporting digital initiatives throughout the Clark to help promote awareness of digital resources.

Engagement with Stakeholders of the Clark:

- Providing practical and intellectual support to faculty and scholars at the Clark, Williams College, and around the world seeking to access the library's resources as part of their work;
- Serving as an enthusiastic and expert resource for researchers from around the world who are interested in the library as a vibrant hub of activity, exploration, and discovery;
- Bringing together collaborators from across the museum and research and academic programs in creative and innovative ways to form partnerships that advance the mission and priorities of the Clark;
- Bringing together collaborators at neighboring institutions, e.g., the [Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art \(MASS MoCA\)](#), [Williams College Museum of Art](#), [Williams College](#), [Bennington College](#), and [Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts](#).

Outreach and Communications:

- Developing public programs, exhibitions, and events to promote the library's collections;

- Contributing to the library’s and the Clark’s fundraising activities by telling the library’s story in an engaging and relevant way to potential funders and friends;
- Helping garner press interest by working with the Communications Department to share information both online and in print.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal candidate will hold an advanced degree in a relevant field and an impressive record of intellectual and scholarly achievement. In addition, they should bring strong leadership skills and administrative experience within an academic and/or research library to the role, as the resources of the library are significant. Other desired qualities for the next Director include:

- Deep familiarity with and appreciation of the history of art;
- A deep understanding of, and practical familiarity with, the future direction of and best practices within the world of academic and/or research libraries and, specifically, special collections;
- Strong written and public speaking skills;
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with staff, peers, management, research fellows, students, and the public;
- Financial fluency and experience with detailed budget creation, oversight, and reporting;
- A high degree of comfort in building relationships with external partners and potential friends of the library;
- A future-forward perspective on digital technology within libraries;
- Experience mentoring and developing a talented staff;
- A commitment to ensuring that the holdings of the library are discoverable, shared, and used by a wide range of researchers and scholars both in person and in digital form;
- Bibliographic knowledge in Western languages; and,
- A demonstrated commitment to creating and maintaining a diverse workplace in which all are welcome and all can thrive.

CONTACT

Please send nominations, applications, and queries in confidence and electronically to:



Matthew Bunting, Managing Associate, Storbeck Search

Naree Viner, Managing Director, Koya Partners

ClarkArtInstituteDirector@storbecksearch.com

The Clark is an equal opportunity employer.