

ADAA Releases Results of First Ever Members Survey

2015 ADAA Members Survey Reveals the Vital and Diverse Contributions of Art Dealers to the Broader Cultural Community

New York – April 14, 2016 – The Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) today announced the results of the first ever survey of its national membership, providing new insight into dealers’ vital and multi-faceted roles in the cultural landscape. As the nation’s leading non-profit organization of art dealers, the ADAA encompasses 180 members from 25 cities in the U.S., who nurture artistic talent, conduct art historical research and promote scholarship, commission writers and critics, and provide free and direct public access to art experiences across periods and genres.

Approximately 70 percent of ADAA members participated in the 2015 ADAA Members Survey, conducted in early 2016, which was designed to gather information on the diverse activities of dealers beyond the financial art market. Spearheaded by ADAA President Adam Sheffer, the Members Survey is the first effort to gather substantial data on member dealers’ broad cultural contributions. Representing only a portion of the gallerists operating in the United States, the survey results indicate impactful and wide-ranging contributions of art dealers and provide an important perspective on their roles in advancing and sustaining the international arts ecology.

Major findings from the 2015 survey follow. ADAA members:

- Represented **2,658** artists and estates
- Mounted **1,053** exhibitions that were open to the public
- Produced **441** scholarly publications and exhibition catalogues
- Commissioned **665** writers for gallery publications, essays, and websites
- Organized **1,421** public programs (artist talks, curatorial events and conversations, guided exhibition tours)
- Hosted **3,978** educational groups of all ages in their galleries, from schools, universities, adult-learning programs, and museums

The full results are also available online [here](#).

“While there was an internal and anecdotal awareness of galleries’ activities, such as educational programs or catalogue publishing, there has never before been an effort to quantify and understand the breadth and depth of the art dealer’s broad role and impact in the cultural community,” said ADAA President Adam Sheffer. “As the leading national organization that supports the economic and cultural contributions of U.S. fine art galleries, we felt it was critical that the ADAA begin this information-gathering effort and launch the

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Members Survey. The strength of our members' participation and the inaugural survey results are very impressive, and this initiative will serve as a key tool in the Association's ongoing advocacy for its members and will empower the national community of art dealers to assertively and precisely express their contributions to the cultural landscape."

Given the significance of the 2015 survey results and the enthusiasm from the ADAA membership, the ADAA is moving forward with plans to annualize the survey. Beginning in 2016, the Association will conduct increasingly comprehensive analyses of its member activities and is in the process of identifying partners for this substantial research effort.

About the ADAA

The Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) is a non-profit membership organization that supports the economic and cultural contributions of the nation's leading fine art galleries. The ADAA includes 180 members from 25 cities in the U.S., representing hundreds of established and emerging artists internationally. ADAA members have extensive expertise across primary and secondary markets, and established reputations for upholding best practices in the field. The ADAA serves as a resource and advocate, raising awareness of dealers' critical roles in the international art market and the cultural community.

The ADAA is dedicated to promoting a holistic understanding of the art market's participants and activities, and is a leader on issues pertaining to connoisseurship, scholarship, ethical practice, and public policy. The ADAA's position is further enhanced by its Appraisal Service, which has valued works of art for donation, estate and gift tax, and insurance for over 50 years and represents a depth of art historical and market knowledge. Further, the ADAA Foundation, supported by donations from ADAA members, distributes grants to arts organizations to foster appreciation of art and art history in both public and private spheres.

ADAA activity culminates annually in The Art Show, an integral part of New York City's Arts Week. Held at the historic Park Avenue Armory, in support of the Henry Street Settlement, the fair features the highest quality works from the start of the 19th century to the present and cultivates an intimate and engaged viewing experience. Now in its 28th year, The Art Show has become synonymous with connoisseurship and market expertise, emphasizing one-to-one connections between visitor, expert, and artwork.

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