

ROBIN GRAEME NICHOLSON

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 200 N. Boulevard, Richmond, VA, 23220 Tel: 804-340-1425
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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Art and exhibitions professional with extensive experience in museums, academia, corporate and for-profit art organizations, in USA and Europe.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2006- DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR EXHIBITIONS,
VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, Richmond, Virginia.
Senior staff member, head of exhibitions division, and part of strategic leadership team at the premier art museum of the southeast US.

Principal roles

- direct exhibition planning process for museum
- lead research into innovative and popular exhibitions
- manage, with dedicated staff, exhibition contracts, budgets and schedules.

2006- EMERITUS CURATOR,
THE DRAMBUIE COLLECTION.
Consultant on long-term loan of collection to the Scottish National Portrait Gallery and the National Trust for Scotland.

1992-2006 CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS,
THE DRAMBUIE COLLECTION, Edinburgh, London, and Miami.
Curator and exhibition programmer for major corporate art collection of British painting and 17th-19th century decorative arts.

1987-1992 GALLERY MANAGER, THE FINE ART SOCIETY, Edinburgh, Scotland.

1985/6 CURATORIAL INTERN, DEPARTMENT OF PRINTS AND DRAWINGS,
NATIONAL GALLERY OF SCOTLAND, Edinburgh.

EDUCATION

1984-87 UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, England (Pembroke College)
MA (Cantab)

Part I: Archaeology and Anthropology; Part II: History of Art

1983-84 QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, Ontario, Canada

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS / AWARDS

Present Affiliate Graduate Faculty, Department of Art History, Virginia Commonwealth University; International Committee, The Jacobite Studies Trust;
Member: International Exhibition Organizers Group; Museums Association (UK), Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society, College Art Association, American Association of Museums.

2008 Museum Leadership Program at the Getty Leadership Institute, Los Angeles: one of only 31 participants awarded a place on this highly competitive annual residential program for museum directors and senior staff.

2004-2006 UK Program Committee, International Association for Professional Art Advisors.

2003-2006 Chairman, Scottish Society for Art History.

2003 Nominee, International Association for Professional Art Advisors Excellence Award.

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2001-2006 Reviews Editor, Journal of the Scottish Society for Art History.
1990-1992 Chairman, Edinburgh Galleries Association.

PUBLICATIONS (selection)

Books

Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Making of a Myth: A Study in Portraiture, 1720-1892, (Bucknell University Press: Lewisburg/Associated University Presses: London, 2002)

Selected reviews:

"a closely argued and perceptive study which will be a valuable source of reference for all who are interested in 18th century portraiture.." *Journal of the Scottish Society for Art History*

"Excellent...blends a formidable knowledge of Jacobite and eighteenth-century history with art history...a substantial contribution to the material culture history of a European court" *Biography*

"Nicholson's range, sharpness and attention to detail are impressive to the point of being delightful..." *British Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*

The Drambuie Collection: The Art Collection of The Drambuie Liqueur Company, (Edinburgh, 1995)

Articles, Exhibition Catalogues, Encyclopedias

"Lochaber No More: Landscape, Emigration, and the Scottish Artist 1849-95", *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide*, vol 7.1, 2008 (peer reviewed);

"From Ramsay's Flora MacDonald to Raeburn's MacNab: the use of tartan as a symbol of identity", *Textile History*, 36.2, 2005 (peer reviewed);

"From Fever to Fresh Air': *The Evergreen, The Yellow Book* and the Threat of Decadence", *Journal of the Scottish Society for Art History*, Vol 9, 2004 (peer reviewed);

"Highland Habits: the iconography of the Sobieski Stuarts", *Scottish Studies Review*, vol 4, no 2, Autumn 2003 (peer reviewed);

"Engraved Jacobite glasses", *The Magazine Antiques*, June 2003;

Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Royal House of Stuart, 1688-1788, Works of Art from The Drambuie Collection, exhibition catalogue, 2002;

"The Tartan Portraits of Prince Charles Edward Stuart: Identity and Iconography", *British Journal of Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Vol. 21, 1998 (peer reviewed);

"Portraiture and Patronage of the Exiled Stuarts", *Journal of the Scottish Society for Art History*, Vol. 3, 1998 (peer reviewed);

Collins Encyclopaedia of Scotland - co-editor and writer of entries on art and artists (London, 1994 and 2002);

"Colourists in Fashion", *The Antique Collector*, April 1991;

British Artists in Meiji Japan, exhibition catalogue, The Fine Art Society, London and Edinburgh, 1991;

The McTaggart and other Artist Families, exhibition catalogue, The Fine Art Society, Edinburgh, 1990;

"Scottish Neo-Romantics", *The Antique Collector*, August 1989.

EXHIBITIONS (selection)

Landscapes from the Age of Impressionism

February-May 2008, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (coordinator)

Mystery

October-November 2007, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond (co-curator)

Rule Britannia! Art, Royalty & Power in the Age of Jamestown

April-August 2007, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond (co-curator, coordinator)

Loyalty & Exile: The Jacobites and America

April-June 2004, Ellis Island Immigration Museum, New York (curator, organizer, coordinator)

Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Royal House of Stuart, 1688-1788: Works of Art from The Drambuie Collection, February 2003-December 2005, Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, FL;

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Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah, GA; Headley-Whitney Museum, Lexington, KY; Albany Institute for History and Art, NY; Winterthur Museum, DE; University of Richmond Museums, VA; Dixon Gallery, Memphis, TN; The Fleming Collection, London, UK (curator, organizer, coordinator)

Jacobite Art and Culture - Works from The Drambuie Collection

August 2001, Phillips, Edinburgh (curator, organizer, coordinator)

The King over the Water: The Life of James Francis Edward Stuart, 1688-1766

April-September 2001, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh (sponsorship coordinator, contributing curator)

A Scots Trinity, Three Scottish Collections

November 1997, Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair, London (curator, organizer, coordinator)

Look, Love & Follow, Prints and Medals of the Jacobite Cause, July-December 1996, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh; Duff House, Banffshire (co-curator)

Slàinte Theàrlaich: The Drambuie Collection of Jacobite Drinking Glasses, June-August 1996, Inverness Museum and Art Gallery (curator, organizer, coordinator)

Scottish Masterpieces from The Drambuie Collection, October 1995, Chambers Institute, Peebles, Scotland (curator, organizer, coordinator)

Opening the Window: British Artists in Meiji Japan, 1880-1900, August-October 1991, The Fine Art Society, Edinburgh and London (co-curator, coordinator)

CONFERENCES / PANELS

Panel Presenter, "Exhibition Planning", Association of Art Museum Curators Annual Meeting, MoMA, New York City, 2009;

Panelist, "Audiences, Identity and Controversy", Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, 2008;

Panel Presenter, "Cultures in Context: African and Native-American Art in the Age of Jamestown", Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2007;

Panel Presenter, "Creating a Strategic Plan for Exhibitions", ArtWorks for Virginia Annual Conference, 2007;

Chair and Organizer. "What's on at the Museum Right Now? Exhibition Strategies in the 21st Century" Special Symposium, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2006;

Conference Chair and Organizer, "Art & Scotland: the Last 21 Years," National Gallery of Scotland/Scottish Society for Art History, 2005;

Paper, "Themes of decadence in 1890s art periodicals", SSAH Conference, L'Institut Français, Edinburgh 2004;

Panel Presenter, "Facets of Art in the Workplace" NACAM Annual Conference, New York City, 1997;

Session Chair, "Jacobitism and the Scottish Enlightenment" University of Aberdeen Quincentennial conference, 1996.

RECENT GUEST LECTURES

Romantics, Colourists and Portraitists: Three Centuries of Scottish Painting, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, April 2008;

"A Very English Art": Painting in Watercolors in the 18th and 19th Centuries, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, June 2007;

Creating an International Art Exhibition, Friends of Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, May 2007

The British Royal Family and the Stuart Legacy, Wellington Society for the Arts, Dallas and Houston, November 2003;

A Dangerous Beauty: the Art of the Jacobites, Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, February 2003, Telfair Museum, Savannah, April 2003 and other venues 2003-05;

"Heavenly Faces": Stuart portraiture and the divine right of kings, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, June 2001;

MacDonnell of Glengarry by Sir Henry Raeburn, National Gallery of Scotland, May 2000.