

Melissa Sachs

Election Biography

Melissa Sachs employs a wide range of art world experience to inform her understanding of the appraisal profession, from gallery registrar and appraisal services to artist studio management. She began her education at the California College of the Arts (CCA) where she received her BFA. Her extensive experience in the appraisal world started in 2009 while working for Jeremy Stone, ASA, on a large artist's estate of over 1,700 works. Since then, she has worked with ASA appraisers in New York and California. She went on to complete the Certificate Program in Fine & Decorative Art Appraisal Studies at the Pratt Institute in New York and received her Accredited Senior Appraiser designation through the American Society of Appraisers in 2020. Soon after she established her appraisal business, Sachs Fine Art Services, LLC.

Why do you feel you are qualified for this position?

For four years, Melissa has volunteered on the Personal Property Committee's Membership Subcommittee. Serving on this subcommittee has given her the opportunity to collaborate with ASA members on implementing changes to membership outreach while providing her with valuable collegial experiences.

What contributions have you provided ASA as a member or to a comparable organization(s)?

During my time on the Personal Property Committee's Membership Subcommittee, I participated in the development of the new Personal Property Mentorship program from its inception. This included overseeing mentor/mentee pairings, conceiving of a brief educational webinar for mentors, creating end of year surveys for both mentors and mentees, as well as publicizing the program. The program has yielded positive responses from both mentors and mentees, and in 2021 we had seventeen active pairs.

What do you wish for ASA's members?

I would like ASA members to feel as though they are getting value out of their membership -- whether it be through more networking opportunities or educational offerings. I also would like to provide more opportunities to integrate various disciplines and create a more inclusive environment for newer members.

What do you wish for ASA in the profession?

To continue promoting the high level of professional standards the ASA already maintains by encouraging ASA members to continue their appraisal education beyond the minimum requirements for re-accreditation.

Why should members vote for you?

As an individual who is passionate about the appraisal profession, I want to foster an environment of collaboration, collegiality and inclusiveness. Over the years, I have read suggestions for improvements on the Listserv that I would like to implement, while being conscious of the cost benefit. As a non-profit, I recognize that certain changes have to be made with minimal to no cost impact. ASA's members have diverse talents, not just in the appraisal field, and I believe these resources can be tapped into.