

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARD GRADUATE CENTER ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL IRIS FOUNDATION AWARDS

New York, February 12, 2017—Dr. Susan Weber, founder and director of Bard Graduate Center, has announced the recipients of the twenty-first annual Iris Foundation Awards for Outstanding Contributions to the Decorative Arts. This year's awardees are **Sir Nicholas Goodison, Alvar González-Palacios, Marie-Louise Bech Nosch, and Titi Halle**. The awards will be presented at a luncheon in New York City on April 5, 2017.

In announcing the awards, Dr. Weber stated: "I'm delighted with this year's honorees. Through patronage, scholarship, and professional commitment, they have dedicated their careers to sustaining the heritage of our world as expressed through its material culture. These awards offer an opportunity to recognize and celebrate their achievements."

Past Iris Foundation Award recipients include many of the most influential patrons, scholars, and dealers in the field of decorative arts. Patrons such as Sir Paul Ruddock, Jayne Wrightsman, Lord Rothschild, Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Richard Jenrette, and Iris Cantor have received the award for their visionary support of museums, galleries, and educational institutions. Among the distinguished scholars who have been honored are Harold Koda, Thomas P. Campbell, Paola Antonelli, Morrison H. Heckscher, Dame Rosalind J. Savill, and Finbarr Barry Flood. Outstanding dealer honorees include, Adrian Sassoon, Martin Levy, Deedee Wigmore, and Michele Beiny Harkins.

2017 Honorees

Sir Nicholas Goodison, Outstanding Patron

Sir Nicholas Goodison is the former chairman of the London Stock Exchange and of the TSB Group. Educated at Kings College, Cambridge, from which he received a PhD in architecture and history of art, he is president of the Furniture History Society, and is former chairman of the Courtauld Institute, the National Art Collections Fund (now the Art Fund), the Crafts

Council of Great Britain, and *Burlington Magazine*. His publications include books on English barometers 1680–1860, the gilt metalwork of Matthew Boulton, and a 2004 report for HM Treasury on private giving and government support. Since 1997, he and his wife, Judith, have donated an accumulating collection of over 100 examples of remarkable contemporary British craft to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, of which a catalogue was published in 2016.

Alvar González-Palacios, Lifetime Achievement in Scholarship

Professor Alvar González-Palacios has authored many books on Italian and French decorative arts. He taught art history at the University of Bologna and has lectured at numerous American museums as well as in England, France, Spain, and Italy. Born in Cuba, he settled in Italy in 1957 and completed his studies at the University of Florence with Roberto Longhi. His recent books include *Persona e Maschera*, a series of portraits of collectors, antiquarians, and art historians (Archinto, 2014); *Il serraglio di pietra. La Sala degli animali in Vaticano* (Città del Vaticano, 2013); and *Las colecciones reales españolas de mosaicos y piedras duras* (Madrid, Museo del Prado, 2001). He is currently preparing an exhibition and a monograph on Valadier to be presented at the Frick Collection in 2018 and at the Royal Palace in Madrid. He lives in Rome.

Marie-Louise Bech Nosch, Outstanding Mid-Career Scholar

Marie-Louise Nosch specializes in Aegean epigraphy and Mycenaean textile production. From 2005 to 2016, she directed the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research—a leading academic institution that promotes, expands, and consolidates textile research and trains young scholars. She has organized international conferences and workshops on textile themes and is the author of numerous papers and editor of anthologies including *Ancient Textiles Series* (Oxbow Books, Oxford). Among her awards are the Elite Research Award from the Ministry of Research and Technology, Denmark; the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Anneliese Maier Research Award; and she is a chevalier of the *l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*, France.

Titi Halle, Outstanding Dealer

Titi Halle is owner and director of Cora Ginsburg LLC. The foremost authority in historic textiles and costume, she has collected, consulted, and appraised for museums throughout the

world. Halle has exhibited at major fairs in Berlin, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco and is on the vetting committees for TEFAF Maastricht and the Winter Antiques Show. A member of the Centre International d'Etudes des Textiles Anciens, the Costume Society of America, and the Textile Society of America, she is a former vice president of the National Antique and Art Dealers Association of America, has appeared on Antiques Road Show, and has lectured at museums throughout the United States. For the last twenty-two years, Cora Ginsburg LLC has published an annual scholarly catalogue that is in libraries around the world.

About the Awards

The Iris Foundation Awards are presented annually to patrons, scholars, and professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the study and appreciation of the decorative arts. Proceeds from the awards luncheon benefit Bard Graduate Center's Scholarship Fund, enabling promising students from all backgrounds to pursue graduate studies, and ultimately careers, in the field. For more information or to make a reservation to attend the awards, call 212-501-3058.

About Bard Graduate Center

Bard Graduate Center is devoted to the study of decorative arts, design history, and material culture through research, advanced degrees, exhibitions, publications, and public programs. Our community encourages creative investigation of objects, from the everyday to the esoteric. For more information about the Gallery, MA, and PhD degrees, programs and events, publications, and more, visit bgc.bard.edu.

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