

Media Inquiries

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2008 WORLD MONUMENTS WATCH LIST OF 100 MOST ENDANGERED SITES

SELECTION PANEL

Tim Whalen (Chair)

Tim Whalen is the Director of the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles, California. A California native, he holds a B.A. in Art History as well as an M.A. in Museum Studies and Art History from the University of Southern California. His professional association with the Getty Trust dates to 1983, when he served as the Assistant Director of the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, and the Associate Director of the Getty Building Program. In 1991, he assumed the position of Senior Program Officer in the Getty Foundation where he was responsible for grantmaking in support of the conservation of art and architecture worldwide. In December 1998, he was named the GCI's director. He was awarded a Loeb Fellowship in Advanced Environmental Studies at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design for the academic year 1994-1995. He is an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation where he also serves on the Advisors Executive Committee as its vice-chair. In addition, he is a member of the Board of Studies for the Courtauld Institute of Art's Master in the Conservation of Wall Paintings, London; he is also a member of the United States National Commission to UNESCO.

George H.O. Abungu

G.H.O. Abungu is a Cambridge-trained archaeologist and former Director-General of the National Museums of Kenya. He is the founder Chairman of Africa 2009, ISCOTIA and the Programme for Museum Development in Africa, among others. Until May 2005, he was a Guest Scholar at the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles, where he researched strategies for sustainable management and utilization of intangible heritage in Africa. Abungu is C.E.O. of Okello Abungu Heritage Consultants. He is a visiting lecturer at a number of universities, including Göteborg University in Sweden and the University of Western Cape and University of Cape Town in South Africa. He is currently a member of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and also serves on multiple councils for heritage bodies and institutions including International Council of Museums (ICOM) as a member of the Executive Council, and the Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam as an International Advisor. In addition to his work in the conservation of African heritage, he is widely published in the disciplines of archeology, heritage management, museology, and in the subject of culture and development. Dr. Abungu served on the Watch panel in 2006.

Selma al-Radi

Selma Al-Radi is an Iraqi archaeologist and independent scholar. She has worked in Yemen since 1977. In 1983, she undertook the restoration of the sixteenth-century Madrassa Al-Amiryah and is currently overseeing the final phase of the project, including the restoration of interior wall paintings. She is also working on the rehabilitation of the complex of Imamate palaces at the National Museum in Sana'a, Yemen, and preparing a catalogue of the museum's collections for publication. Dr. Al-Radi has excavated sites in Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, Cyprus, Syria and Yemen. She is a Board member of the

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American Institute for Yemeni Studies and long-time director of cultural resource management projects in Yemen. Dr. Al-Radi served on the Watch Selection Panel in 2006.

Roy E. Graham

Roy Eugene Graham, FAIA, is the Beinecke-Reeves Distinguished Professor in Historic Preservation and Director of the College of Design, Construction and Planning Historic Preservation Programs at the University of Florida. After establishing historic preservation program at the University of Texas, Graham spent a decade as Resident Architect of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, where he was overall director of the Departments of Architecture, Planning, Landscape Architecture, Architectural Research and Archives. Later, Graham became Director of the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Virginia. While he was Architect of the Capitol of Texas and Executive Director of the State Preservation Board, Graham developed documentation, research, restoration, fundraising, public education, and a student intern program. He received a special “Hero of Texas Preservation” award from the San Antonio Conservation Society for his work. Graham was awarded a Distinguished Fulbright Scholarship and taught at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, at the same time acting as advisor to Slovene Ministry of Culture. The Council for the International Exchange of Scholars selected Graham to establish a summer “Urban Conservation Institute” located in the city of Koper. Before coming to Florida, Graham was the Director of the Graduate Program in Urban Conservation at the School of Architecture at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He was a member of the advisory Board of the Pontifical Commission for Conservation of the Culture of the Church at the Vatican, and was part of the advisory committee for the restoration of St. Francis Basilica in Assisi after the earthquake. Graham served as Vice President of the Association for Preservation Technology, the Secretary of US/ICOMOS, Committee on Historic Resources and Octagon Committee of the AIA. He is currently the Chairman Emeritus of the Advisory Board for the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training and is a Fellow of US/ICOMOS.

Edward Impey

Edward Impey is the Director of Research and Standards at English Heritage in the United Kingdom. Dr. Impey held a British Academy Post-Doctoral fellowship at Oriel College, Oxford, for four years, carrying out research on medieval buildings and medieval history in France and England. Prior to joining English Heritage in 2002, Dr. Impey was the Curator of Historic Royal Palaces at the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, where he was responsible for research, conservation, education, presentation and interpretation at five Royal Palaces. In his current post at English Heritage, he manages research, conservation, archives, and ITC, as well as the curation, presentation, and interpretation of over 400 historic properties and 32 Registered Museums. His research interests include British and European architecture and archaeology, and he is a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. Dr. Impey has also published widely in the fields of history, archaeology, architectural history, and conservation.

Christopher Lightfoot

Christopher Lightfoot is an Associate Curator of Greek and Roman Art at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, where he has most recently managed the reinstallation of the New Greek and Roman Galleries, which opened in April 2007. Dr. Lightfoot received a doctorate from the University of Oxford, where he studied ancient history and archaeology, with a focus on the frontiers of the Roman empire. Since 1993, he has been the director of the excavations at the late Roman-Byzantine city of Amorium (Afyonkarahisar) in Turkey, a project that is dedicated both to the conservation and excavation and study of the site. Dr. Lightfoot has also participated in excavations at Sagalassos (Burdur) and Tille (Adiyaman), and undertaken research in various museums in Turkey. Prior to joining the Metropolitan Museum, he was a visiting lecturer in the Department of Archaeology and History of Art at Bilkent University in Ankara (1992-1995), assistant director at the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara (1986-1992), and research assistant in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities at The British

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Museum. In addition to numerous academic publications, Dr. Lightfoot has also translated many Turkish books and articles into English.

Blanca Niño Norton

Blanca Niño Norton is an architect and the founding president of ICOMOS Guatemala. She is an advisor to the Minister of Culture and a member of the faculty of the School of Architecture of Francisco Marroquin University, Guatemala. Ms. Niño Norton has coordinated and promoted workshops on a variety of cultural themes and lectured on topics including vernacular architecture, intangible heritage, and illicit trafficking of cultural property. Her interest in the latter led her to create the Illicit Traffic Unit in the Ministry of Culture. Ms. Niño Norton consults on national and international cultural heritage projects and is a Project Officer for Cultural Programs at UNESCO Guatemala. She also works on conservation projects for independent collections and museums.

Michael Petzet

Professor Michael Petzet has been the President of ICOMOS International since 1999. He studied art history and archaeology in Munich and Paris. After many years with the Bavarian State Conservation Office and the Bavarian Administration of Historic Palaces, he became Vice Director of the Central Institute for History of Art and organized the exhibition of the Bavarian State and the City of Munich on the occasion of the Olympic Summer Games in 1972. From 1972 to 1974 he was director of the Lenbachhaus, the Art Museum of the City of Munich. For 25 years (1974-1999), in his position as Conservator General, Prof. Petzet directed the Bavarian State Conservation Office, the central authority for the protection and conservation of monuments and sites in Bavaria. He is the author of numerous books and articles on French architecture of the seventeenth and eighteenth century, art and monuments and sites in Bavaria and on general problems of monument conservation. He is the editor of several series of publications on conservation. Prof. Petzet also served on the panel in 2006.

Eduardo Rojas

Eduardo Rojas is a Principal Specialist in Urban Development with the Social Programs Division of the Sustainable Development Department at the Inter-American Development Bank. His areas of specialization include local development, urban heritage preservation and housing sector reform. He also serves as Team Leader and Advisor of Project Teams in the assessment of innovative urban development, municipal finance, housing, and urban heritage preservation loans. Prior to joining the Bank, he worked with the Regional Development Department of the Organization of American states and as assistant professor of urban planning in the Master Degree Program in Urban Studies of the Catholic University of Chile. He is a regular contributor to technical journals, the author of several books and regular lecturer at European and American universities. He holds a degree in Architecture from the Catholic University of Chile, an M.Phil. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Edinburgh, an M.B.A., with a concentration in Finance from Johns Hopkins University and a Diploma in Environmental Management from Centre d'Etudes Industrielles, Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. Rojas served on the Watch Panel in 2006.

Gamini Wijesuriya

Gamini Wijesuriya, currently based at ICCROM in Rome, holds academic qualifications in architecture, conservation, and archaeology/heritage management from Sri Lanka, the United States, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands and has many years of field experience. As the Director for Conservation of the Department of Archaeology of Sri Lanka, he was responsible for managing the country's heritage conservation program from 1983 to 2000. As a Principal Regional Scientist of the Department of Conservation of New Zealand from 2001 to 2004, he was responsible for developing science and research strategies enabling conservation to be underpinned by the best scientific knowledge. Dr. Wijesuriya served on the 2002 Watch Selection Panel.