

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 17, 2015

Media Only: Amanda Young, (860) 838-4082
amanda.young@wadsworthatheneum.org

Susan L. Talbott Appointed to Rank of Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters by Minister of Culture in France

Susan L. Talbott, Director and C.E.O. of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, has been appointed to the rank of Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters by France's Minister of Culture, Fleur Pellerin. Talbott's service on the Board of the French Regional American Museum Exchange (FRAME) has brought international attention to the Wadsworth Atheneum, as well as facilitated the touring of innovative exhibitions to other museums in the United States and France. This honor is fittingly awarded on the eve of Talbott's retirement from her post as Director and C.E.O. of the Wadsworth Atheneum.

"This distinction recognizes Susan Talbott's continued involvement in favor of the Franco-American cultural cooperation and her exemplary career in the service of art and museums," said Marie-Christine Labourdette, Director of the Musées de France and Co-President of FRAME. "The award is also a testimony to Susan's professionalism and, more personally, a celebration of our unwavering friendship."

Talbott was knighted by Pierre Provoyeur, Director of FRAME France during FRAME's annual meeting at the St. Louis Art Museum on Sunday evening, and received a medal in honor of her contributions to the organization.

"One of the first distinctions for the Wadsworth Atheneum during my tenure was the invitation to join FRAME, and with a distinguished collection of European Art and substantial holdings of French Art, it was a marvelous opportunity for us to collaborate with our French and American colleagues," said Talbott. "I am overwhelmed by this honor and my commitment to Franco-American friendship will always be at the forefront, even as I move on to the next phase of my career."

As a Trustee on the Board of FRAME, Talbott worked with a small team to rewrite the bylaws and reorganize FRAME's structure and qualifications for membership. Talbott also

spearheaded the organization of a FRAME-sponsored exhibition at the Wadsworth Atheneum: “Reunited Masterpieces: From Adam & Eve to George & Martha,” and also collaborated with the Musée Fabre de Montpellier Agglomération, Montpellier, France; the Musée des Augustins, Toulouse, France; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, to organize, “Burst of Light: Caravaggio and His Legacy,” an exhibition that received acclaim word-wide.

About FRAME

French Regional American Museum Exchange (FRAME) is a consortium of 26 major museums in France and North America that promotes cultural exchange in the context of museum collaborations. FRAME fosters partnerships among its member museums to develop innovative exhibitions, educational and public programs and professional exchanges among museum staff, and maintains a bi-lingual website to reach global audiences.

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Founded in 1842, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest continuously operating public art museum in the United States. The museum’s nearly 50,000 works of art span 5,000 years, from Greek and Roman antiquities to the first museum collection of American contemporary art. The Wadsworth Atheneum’s five connected buildings—representing architectural styles from Gothic Revival to modern International Style—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Conn. Hours: Wednesday – Friday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: \$5 – 10; discounts for members, students and seniors. Free admission 4 – 5 p.m. Wednesday – Friday. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: thewadsworth.org.

###