

COLIN B. BAILEY NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM



Colin B. Bailey, Photography by
Randy Dodson, © FAMSF

New York, NY, April 16, 2015—The Board of Trustees of the Morgan Library & Museum today announced the appointment of Colin B. Bailey, director of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, as the Morgan’s new director. He succeeds William M. Griswold who left last year to head the Cleveland Museum of Art.

“We are delighted that Colin Bailey has agreed to become the new director of the Morgan,” said Lawrence R. Ricciardi, president of the museum’s board. “He is a scholar of the highest order with an impressive record of leadership at a number of outstanding museums. Moreover, he has extensive knowledge of New York cultural institutions and of the philanthropic world, and also brings to the Morgan valuable international experience.”

Mr. Bailey is a highly regarded specialist on 18th-century French art and a recognized authority on the work of Pierre-Auguste Renoir. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Art History from the University of Oxford. Prior to joining the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Mr. Bailey held a variety of positions over thirteen years at New York’s Frick Collection, including serving as deputy director and the Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator.

“To direct the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco has been an extraordinary privilege,” Mr. Bailey said, in accepting the position at the Morgan. “But the opportunity to return to New York and lead an institution with the reputation of the Morgan was irresistible. Its collections are not only among the most recognized internationally, but also among the most diverse, touching on so many forms of creative expression, from drawing and literature to music, photography, and the arts of the ancient and medieval worlds. There is no place quite like it in the United States, and I look forward to working with its staff, trustees, and supporters to maintain and deepen the Morgan’s preeminent role as a cultural institution—one with the highest standards and a commitment to making its holdings widely accessible.”

Mr. Bailey has previously been deputy director and chief curator at the National Gallery of Canada, in Ottawa, senior curator at the Kimbell Art Museum in Ft. Worth, Texas, and held curatorial posts at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles earlier in his career.

He has been responsible for many celebrated exhibitions. These include *Renoir, Impressionism, and Full-Length Painting* (2012); *Watteau to Degas: French Drawings from the Frits Lugt Collection* (2009); and *Gabriel de Saint-Aubin (1724-1780)* (2007), all mounted at the Frick Collection in New York; *Renoir Landscapes, 1865-1883* (2007), *The Age of Watteau, Chardin and Fragonard: Masterpieces of 18th-century French Genre Painting* (2003), and *Renoir's Portraits: Impressions of an Age* (1997), at the National Gallery of Canada; and *The Loves of the Gods: Mythological Painting from Watteau to David* (1992), at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. His book, *Patriotic Taste: Collecting Modern Art in Pre-Revolutionary Paris*, was awarded the Mitchell Prize for the best art history book of 2002-2003, and in 2011 he authored the well-received *Fragonard's Progress of Love at The Frick Collection*.

Mr. Bailey has taught graduate seminars in 18th-century French art at Bryn Mawr College, Columbia University, and the City University of New York Graduate Center, and has acted as a spokesperson in video, podcast, and broadcast media nationally and internationally. An Officier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres since 2010, Bailey has been recognized by the Foundation for Italian Art and Culture with its 2013 FIAC Excellency Award. He is also a board member of the Burlington Magazine Foundation and the Scientific Committee of Arthéna.

The Morgan Library & Museum's holdings, which number well over a half million objects, are principally in the western European and American traditions. Its collections of drawings and prints, books and bindings, and illuminated manuscripts are preeminent among U.S. institutions. Literary, historical, and music manuscripts holdings, as well as other specialized collections, are also considered among the world's greatest.

The museum's critically acclaimed 2006 addition by award-winning architect Renzo Piano deftly connected three historic buildings dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries around a central, glass-enclosed court. The expansion also doubled the museum's gallery space, allowing the institution to mount over a dozen special exhibitions a year. In 2010, the Morgan restored for the first time its landmark 1906 McKim building, which was the personal library of the museum's founder, financier and philanthropist Pierpont Morgan.

In recent years the Morgan has held a number of acclaimed exhibitions on Surrealism, Roy Lichtenstein, Leonardo da Vinci, Edgar Allan Poe, Jane Austen, Winston Churchill, the role of fashion in medieval illumination, and the children's classics *The Little Prince* and *Babar*. It has also added important collections to its holdings, including a major cache of oil sketches from trustee Eugene V. Thaw, photographs by Irving Penn, literary items related to the life of J.D. Salinger, and drawings from the private collection of Roy Lichtenstein. Its attendance in the almost ten years since reopening in 2006 is sixty percent ahead of the prior decade and its endowment has grown from approximately \$150 million to \$205 million.

"The search committee felt Colin was exactly the right person to build on the gains the Morgan has made since our expansion," said Peter Pennoyer, who chaired the committee. "His scholarly credentials, museum leadership experience, and extensive knowledge of the New York art world, coupled with his overall vitality and intelligence, are a great fit for the Morgan. We all enthusiastically look forward to his arrival."

Mr. Bailey becomes the Morgan's sixth director. Belle da Costa Greene became the first director of the newly public institution in 1924, having presided over the private Morgan library since 1906. She was succeeded by Frederick B. Adams, Jr. in 1948, Charles Ryskamp in 1969, Charles E. Pierce, Jr. in 1987, and William M. Griswold in 2008.

The Morgan Library & Museum

The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today, more than a century after its founding in 1906, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, music venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. In October 2010, the Morgan completed the first-ever restoration of its original McKim building, Pierpont Morgan's private library, and the core of the institution. In tandem with the 2006 expansion project by architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan now provides visitors unprecedented access to its world-renowned collections of drawings, literary and historical manuscripts, musical scores, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, printed books, photography, and ancient Near Eastern seals and tablets.



The programs of the Morgan Library & Museum are made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

General Information

The Morgan Library & Museum

225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405

212.685.0008

www.themorgan.org

Just a short walk from Grand Central and Penn Station

Hours

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

Admission

\$18 for adults; \$12 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop, Café, or Dining Room.