The 2009 conference will be held in Norman, Oklahoma, October 21-24. The program will open with a welcoming reception on Wednesday evening and conclude with a banquet on Saturday night, offering three full days of conference sessions, evening activities, and late night sessions in between. Our local hosts at the University of Oklahoma are teaming with the Philbrook Museum in Tulsa to arrange many opportunities to experience the diverse art and culture of Oklahoma with distinguished speakers, an artist panel, and visits to campus museums. Optional pre- and post-conference tours will facilitate visits to museums and tribal cultural centers around the region. Registration materials and hotel booking information will be available in the next newsletter.

The conference will be based at the Embassy Suites hotel, a beautiful new facility that can meet all our needs for accommodations, meals, and meeting space. All rooms are suites, offering generous space for those interested in room-sharing. The idea of including lunches as part of the conference proved very popular in 2007, and we will be arranging that again.

Norman is served by Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City. An airport shuttle provides door-to-door service to Norman. For those arriving by car, parking is readily available at the Embassy Suites.
Pre- and Post-Conference Tours

Tours before and after the conference will allow those with extra time to visit a few local museums and tribal cultural resources. The local committee is arranging a number of options as described below. Further details and registration information will appear in the next newsletter.

PRE-CONFERENCE TOURS - Wednesday, October 21

Tour Option #1 – Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur, OK (about 1½ hours south of Norman, OK)

This is a one-day tour of the Chickasaw Nation’s cultural complex on 110 acres adjacent to the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The complex includes an Exhibit Center featuring displays on tribal history, culture, and the arts, as well as a library and archive, amphitheatre, and space for stomp dances and other community activities and programs. There will also be interpretive material on native vegetation and traditional homes and communities. Anticipated cost will be $20-30 including lunch.

Tour Option #2 – Collections of the Oklahoma History Center and the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, OK (about 30 minutes north of Norman, OK)

This one-day tour includes behind-the-scenes visits to two major collections of historic and contemporary Native American materials. The OHC includes exhibitions on the diversity of Native communities throughout the state, as well as early collections from other areas, including a painted tipi c. 1865 once owned by Mato Numpa (Yankton). The NCWHM has an extensive collection of Native American ethnographic objects from across North America, as well as the Silberman Collection of Native paintings, etchings, drawings, and other material. Staff will provide tours of the collections at both places. On the way, there will be a short stop at the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum being built in Oklahoma City. Anticipated cost will be $20-30 including lunch.

POST-CONFERENCE TOUR – Sunday, October 25

Tours of the Philbrook Museum of Art and the Gilcrease Museum of the Americas, Tulsa, OK (about 2 hours from Norman, OK)

This one-day tour to collections in Tulsa will include behind-the-scenes access to collections in both the Philbrook and Gilcrease museums. Both institutions have historic and contemporary materials from throughout North America, from clothing, pottery, and baskets to contemporary paintings and jewelry.

At the Philbrook, NAASA members will be able to view the permanent collection of pottery, baskets, and paintings, as well as the recently-acquired Eugene B. Adkins Collection, which includes more than 1,200 pieces of jewelry and silverwork. Lunch will be served. At the Gilcrease, participants will enjoy a collections tour led by curatorial staff and will be able to view the galleries and grounds before returning to Norman in early evening. The cost per-person will be between $20-30 including lunch.

Charles Loloma (Hopi, 1921-1991), Snake Pin, c. 1974
The Eugene B. Adkins Collection at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, OU, and the Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Welcome from the School of Art

The School of Art and Art History at the University of Oklahoma is particularly pleased to be one of three hosts for the NAASA conference in 2009. This is an especially auspicious time for us to welcome our NAASA colleagues, as our School has just begun a new interdisciplinary doctoral program focusing on Native American art and art of the American West. This unique program synthesizes “traditional” art history with studies in material and visual culture and will make connections also with anthropology and Native American and American Studies.

Seminars will draw upon the exemplary resources at the University of Oklahoma, including those of the Sam Noble Museum, whose collections are especially strong for the areas of Native North and Central America. In addition to 19th and 20th century ethnographic objects and art, the Sam Noble holds the Fred and Enid Brown Collection of 20th century American Indian fine art. We will utilize also the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art (which has superb holdings in American and Native American art, including the renowned Adkins Collection), and the Western History Collection (including historic maps and photographs). Regional resources include the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City; the Gilcrease Museum and the Philbrook Museums in Tulsa; and the Southern Plains Indian Museum in Anadarko. Plus, now under construction on a 400 acre site along the Oklahoma River in Oklahoma City is the new state-sponsored Native American Cultural Center and Museum. Using the resources of these institutions, select doctoral students will investigate objects, archives, and theories in a program that builds upon and extends a tradition of excellence in art and art history begun at the University of Oklahoma by The Kiowa Artists and their distinguished patron, Dr. Oscar Jacobson, early in the 20th century. During the NAASA conference you will have opportunity to see firsthand the wide range of resources available to artists and scholars at the University of Oklahoma in particular and in the region in general.

In conjunction with the NAASA board, the local organizing committee is planning a series of events, tours, and receptions that we are confident will make your trip to Oklahoma a memorable and rewarding one.

Mary Jo Watson
W. Jackson Rushing

Call for Honor Award Nominations

At each conference NAASA honors an outstanding individual with the Native American Art Studies Association Lifetime Achievement Honor Award. It is intended to honor a living individual who has made a lifetime contribution to the study of Native American art. Previous individuals honored include: Kate Peck Kent (1987); John Ewers (1989); Bill Holm (1991); Gloria Cranmer-Webster (1993); Bud Whiteford (1995); Pablita Velarde and JJ Brody (1997); Arthur Amiotte (1999); Mary Hamilton (2001); Barbara Hail (2003); Jaune Quick-to-see Smith (2005); and Naomi Pascal (2007).

The NAASA Board invites the submission of nominations for the 2009 Honor Award. Please e-mail your nominations, including a statement explaining why this person should be honored, to Linda Lomahaftewa, chair, Honor Award Committee at: llomahaftewa@iaia.edu. Nominations must be received by Friday, March 20, 2009.
Call for Session Proposals

The NAASA Program Committee (Karen Kramer Russell, chair; Bill Anthes, Kate Morris, Norman Vorano) invites formal proposals for organized sessions at the 2009 conference. The call for individual papers will appear in the April newsletter.

Proposed sessions should focus on a particular body of material, and present perspectives for further understanding of the topic. We are particularly keen on receiving proposals for interdisciplinary panels that encourage dialogue among artists, anthropologists, collectors, museum professionals and art historians that attempt to bridge the divide between "traditional" and "contemporary" art.

Session abstracts should be 200 words in length. Each session will include 3-4 papers, each of no more than twenty minutes in length. We are also interested in alternative format sessions, including roundtable discussions, workshops, interviews, film screenings, etc. Session abstracts must clearly define the central issue and intellectual focus (theoretical, descriptive, historical, etc.) of the session, and indicate its organization (papers only, papers with discussant, roundtable, workshop, etc.).

Session Organizers are responsible for soliciting a core group of speakers for their sessions and must be open to considering additional papers from an open call. Organizers should provide, or arrange for, opening remarks to the session. Although it is not necessary to have presenters confirmed at this time, please send the names of potential speakers under consideration and their topics. We will assume that speakers will be using presentation software such as Powerpoint unless special equipment is requested. Slide presentations can no longer be accommodated.

Accepted session proposals will be announced in the April newsletter, along with a call for individual papers for these and for open sessions. The Program Committee will organize individually volunteered papers into sessions related by topic, region, or methodology.

Session proposal abstracts must be received by March 1, 2009, preferably by email.

Please submit to:

Karen_Kramer_Russell@pem.org
Karen Kramer Russell
Associate Curator
Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square
Salem, MA 01970

Elections in 2009 – a Reminder

At each conference the membership selects new officers and several new board members. In 2009, the terms of four board positions will expire as well as those of the President and Vice-President. Now is the time to begin thinking about individuals who would provide strong leadership for NAASA. Contact Kate Morris, head of the Nominations Committee, with your thoughts and suggestions. Email: klmorris@scu.edu
Report of the 2008 Board Meeting from the President

The NAASA board meeting was held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman on October 24-25, amid glorious fall weather. The major business was planning for the 2009 conference. The local organizers, Mary Jo Watson and Jack Rushing (OU School of Art), Dan Swan (OU Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History), and Christina Burke (Philbrook Museum, Tulsa, OK), proposed a rich array of speakers, tours, and museum visits to show past and present art production in the region. Information on various aspects of the meeting appears elsewhere in the newsletter. I personally am delighted to be involved in organizing a conference at the University of Oklahoma, where I worked for several years before pursuing a doctorate in anthropology there. The university has devoted major resources to building, housing, and showcasing Indian art and culture, including enormous expansion of its two museums and creation of a new Native Art program within the School of Art. I look forward to joining our local hosts in sharing these resources with you.

Change in board membership: With regret I report Molly Lee’s resignation from the NAASA board. Molly tendered her resignation in October, citing the difficulty of supporting travel now that she is retired. We thank Molly for her service, particularly her work in organizing the Fairbanks conference.

In keeping with our by-laws and with full board support, I have appointed Marla Redcorn-Miller to fill the unexpired period of the position, which runs until October 2009. Marla, who is of Kiowa and Caddo descent, is an Art History graduate student at Columbia and is currently based in Oklahoma while working on her dissertation. Many members know her from her education and exhibits work at the Gilcrease and Philbrook Museums in Oklahoma and the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe.

Communications: Over the next year, you will see NAASA taking more advantage of digital communication options – beginning with this newsletter, which is going out electronically rather than in print form. As explained in the previous newsletter, this change will help us communicate with NAASA members in a more timely fashion, as well as reducing costs and saving paper. After asking that anyone needing print service contact me, I received only a single request for a print copy, which I shall be glad to accommodate. We will continue to format the newsletter for easy printing, but it will be print-your-own for easy printing, but it will be print-your-own for those who are not ready to say goodbye to paper.

Another change is in the website, which is moving to a new location at WordPress, a free blogging site. Not to worry - the address (www.nativearts.org) will remain the same and all of the content will still be there. This switch allows us much more flexibility, as well as making it much easier to maintain the site and keep it current. In the past it has been the responsibility of each new president to find a server location to host the site, usually at their home institution. Such relocations are time-consuming, increasingly difficult due to security concerns, and may bar individuals without institutional resources from considering running for office. We are still migrating a few files and tweaking things, but members will soon be invited to take a look at our new digs. (Kudos to Sec/Tras. Marit Munson for setting the new site up!) We welcome your ideas for how to make the site useful and attractive - and we especially welcome volunteers to help us make it happen! Design-savvy members, now's your chance to shine!

Incorporation: While our conferences move from place to place and our website lives in virtual space, NAASA’s legal home is in Arizona, where we are registered with the Corporation Commission as a not-for-profit entity. (Legal incorporation is necessary for donations to NAASA to be tax deductible.) Such registration requires that NAASA have a statutory agent in Arizona. The Baguley Library and Archives at the Heard Museum in
Phoenix has for some years been the official archives for NAASA’s papers, and Mario Klimiades, who directs the library, has kindly agreed to serve as our agent. We need to formalize that agreement by amending our by-laws to add a position of archivist as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the board. A motion to that effect will be circulated in advance of the 2009 conference, to be voted on during the Business Meeting.

*Dues to remain the same:* Among financial issues discussed by the board was an increase in dues, a topic raised at the business meeting during the 2007 conference. NAASA is in generally good financial health. The past two conferences have run a modest deficit, which was covered by using reserves from previous conferences that generated a small surplus. Eliminating costs of printing and mailing a newsletter should bring the overall budget into closer balance. The board agreed that the primary area where we would like to commit more funds is in travel awards, which are so important to encouraging participation by students and native artists. Rather than pursue a general dues increase, the board decided that we first should invite our members to support this goal voluntarily through private donations as well as renewal of memberships at a higher level.

Candace Greene
President, NAASA

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NAASA Board on the OU Campus, October 2008: Bill Anthes, Karen Kramer Russell, Candace Greene, Marit Munson, Linda Lomahhaftewa, Christina Burke, Kate Morris, Jessie Ryker-Crawford, Norman Vorano.
MEMBERSHIP DUES: all amounts are for two years, conference to conference

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Support beyond regular membership goes toward travel awards to increase student and artist attendance at the conference.

Enclosed is my check for:  
- Regular Membership ($35)☐  
- Sustaining Member ($50)☐  
- Patron ($100)☐

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Native American Art Studies Association or NAASA (U.S. currency only, please)

SEND DUES AND THIS FORM TO:

NAASA  
c/o Candace Greene  
Dept. of Anthropology  
NMNH – MRC 112  
Smithsonian Institution  
P.O. Box 73012  
Washington, DC 20013-7012

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip _________________________________________________________

E-mail ________________________________________________________________

New Member ☐ Renewal ☐