



Association of Art Museum Directors

120 East 56th Street
Suite 520
New York, NY 10022
Tel: 212.754.8084
Fax: 212.754.8087

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While introducing a speaker at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts recently, I greeted the crowd with a “happy back to school” message. It is hard not to feel this way in September as this month brings a new degree of intensity and focus after a long summer. We are all opening fall exhibitions, embarking on dynamic programs, and welcoming new busloads of children back through our doors.

In the remaining months of 2010, we will engage several million people in the experience of enjoying works of art, and hundreds of thousands of school children will visit too. More than 20,000 works of art will be freshly installed and on display, and there are an estimated 5,600 hours of classes, artist talks, and other stimulating events taking place.

From coast to coast and all places in between, art museums this fall are presenting exhibitions on almost any topic to meet the public’s interest. I am particularly looking forward to *Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico* (October 2, 2010 – January 9, 2011) at LACMA; *Yves Klein: With the Void, Full Powers* (October 23 – February 13, 2011) at the Walker Art Center; *American Modern: Abbott, Evans, Bourke-White* (October 2, 2010–January 2, 2011) at the Amon Carter Museum; *Treasures of Heaven: Saints, Relics, and Devotion in Medieval Europe* (October 17, 2010–January 17, 2011) at the Cleveland Museum of Art; and *Titian and the Golden Age of Venetian Painting* (October 17, 2010, through January 2, 2011) at the High Museum of Art, which will eventually come to the MIA. There are many other exhibitions across North America to fit nearly every art historical time period or particular personal taste and I only wish I could see them all.

Of course, all of these exhibitions, programs, and events add up to the engagement that art museums foster with their communities, not to mention programs serving adults and children with different needs, such as those highlighted in a recent article in [*Autism-Aspergers Digest*](#). We work on so many different levels to make art essential for everyone and I’m proud to be a part of this creative and compelling profession.

Kaywin Feldman
Director, Minneapolis Institute of Arts