

Dear Friends, Colleagues, Contributors, Congress attendees and others present. After the great success of the 2014 AiA Congress, we are most proud and pleased that the AiA 2016 edition turned out to be another great success. Over the last three days we have explored the possibilities of the E-related or Internet World in our field, witnessed and heard about the newest possibilities within technical research and worked on a better future by improving our educational system. This Congress also saw the launch and transfer of the result of the 2014 edition: the AiA Mediation Board. But also new projects arise, such as the development of standardization for our field and the guidelines for a Technical Catalogue Raisonné.

These amazing feats were only possible due to the help of a very special group of people:

First and foremost we would like to thank Mister Louwman, whose contribution has made the entire Congress possible. Mister Louwman has not only been involved from the very beginning, he also opened the doors of his museum to the Congress, and provided us with crucial help in the form of Ronald Kooijman, Jeroen Kooijman en Odette Bosch-Migchels.

We would also like to thank The City of The Hague, the Mayor and his staff, in particular Hans Mellema. They have been supporting AiA in its endeavors from the very start, their contribution culminating in the AiA Mediation Board being hosted in this City of Peace and Justice.

Furthermore we would like to thank our main benefactor ARIS, in the capacity of Lawrence Shindell, for his Material and non-Material contribution. And we like to thank Bonham's Auctions London for their support. Bruker, Artory and SAFFA also deserve a special mention of gratitude, as it was their contribution that stimulated great research through the AiA Award 2016.

But most of all we would like to thank the field, in the form of our most distinguished speakers, panel members and poster submitters. We would like to especially emphasize the hard labor of the Workgroup members, those present today and those who couldn't be here. Over the last couple of months they have been working hard to discuss and prepare the Guidelines, which will serve as the basis for improvement in our field. As we put it in 2014: This was a Congress of the field, by the field, for the field. And we couldn't be more proud that this year it's true again.

Last but not least we would like to thank the supporting staff and the congress-team for their effort, without their practical contributions, the people present here would surely have been lost.

The AiA Foundation looks brightly towards the future, having great hopes for the initiatives mentioned and raised during this Congress.

Authentication in Art Chairman Prof dr Nico Schrijver