
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS & DANCE: *IN RETROSPECT*

The frightening point is that it seems so recently that Professor François Bucher came to my office to discuss his idea for creating a symposium for art history graduate students, who needed and deserved a forum for presenting their research. He believed we should be able, as well, to create and publish a scholarly journal, linked to the papers in the symposium and open to other graduate student scholarship. That meeting occurred in 1979 and was followed by the enthusiastic support and hard work of the art history faculty, under the leadership then of Patricia Rose. The symposium and the journal *Athantor* have now been in existence for over twenty years. Both are flourishing as never before.

The enterprise has been a happy and healthy cooperation between the Dean's Office, the Department of Art History, and the FSU Museum of Fine Arts; and *Athantor* owes much of its success to the love for writing and good scholarly research displayed by the Museum's director and journal editor, Allys Palladino-Craig. Her rigorous attention to detail and perseverance in refining the efforts of students have balanced beautifully with the critical review of the art history faculty. The result has been to render *Athantor* a respected and well-circulated journal with a defined purpose serving the art historical community and higher education.

Ultimately, *Athantor* is from the students and for the students. Most are headed toward careers in the best job in the world, university positions professing knowledge. They are the future of the discipline, and I know that many have been aided by participation in *Athantor*.

Seeing the consistent quality and steady growth of the journal makes me realize that there are parallels with the FSU School of Visual Arts and Dance, which is responsible for presenting the symposium and publishing *Athantor*. I say with a great sense of pride and some genuine sadness that this volume of *Athantor*, number XX, is the last edition over which I will preside as Dean. This is a poignant time for me. When I step down and return to the regular faculty at the end of this year, I will have entered my thirtieth year as Dean of the School, a long and pleasurable tenure at a distinguished research university among colleagues of distinction. My profound appreciation for those individuals key in founding and advancing *Athantor* and the symposium—Doctors Bucher, Rose and Palladino-Craig—and for the students who contributed their research is clearly implied in earlier sentiments. To that I should like to add my gratitude to the current leadership and faculty who, with real dedication and genuine concern for the welfare of the students and the standards of the discipline, continue to ensure the success of this mission into the future. Thank you Professors Paula Gerson, Karen Bearor, Jack Freiberg, Nancy de Grummond, Cynthia Hahn, Roald Nasgaard, Robert Neuman, Christopher Pfaff, Daniel Pullen, Jehanne Teilhet-Fisk, Lauren Weingarden, and recently arrived Bradley Fratello. Keep stoking the cosmic furnace.

Jerry L. Draper, Dean
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Günther Stamm Prize for Excellence

Representations of Others in Early Christian and Byzantine Art by Ljubomir Milanović won the Günther Stamm Prize for Excellence at the 2001 Art History Graduate Student Symposium.