

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Mary Agnew

617-512-7489, Magnew@wellesley.edu

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**THE DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE PROMOTES
CLAIRE WHITNER TO ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CURATORIAL AFFAIRS
AND SENIOR CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS**



WELLESLEY, Mass. – Dr. Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro Director of the Davis Museum at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, has promoted **Claire Whitner** to **Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs and Senior Curator of Collections**.

In her new position, Whitner will work with Fischman to oversee all curatorial matters at the Museum, define the vision and direction for the collections, edit publications, and create programs that draw on and expand the missions of the institution. She will supervise the curatorial team, coordinating closely with other Davis departments as well as with faculty, students, and staff on the Wellesley College campus. Whitner will assume her new role on May 1, 2016.

“Claire’s work in the course of her short time at the Davis has already resulted in an award-winning publication and two highly-lauded exhibitions, and her promotion is extremely well-deserved,” said Lisa Fischman. “Her proven commitment to excellence in scholarship, her professional network and collegial standing, and her demonstrated adherence to the highest museum standards will help us continue to enhance our diverse collections and to enrich our programming.”

During her time at the Davis Museum as Associate Curator, Whitner has curated two major exhibitions, *New View: 2014 Faculty Exhibition*, for which the accompanying catalogue won a design award from the New England Museum Association, and *The Krieg Cycle: Käthe Kollwitz and World War I*. She recently edited a volume of new scholarship on Kollwitz, *Käthe Kollwitz and the Women of War: Femininity, Identity, and Art in World Wars I and II* undertaken in collaboration with the Smith College Museum of Art and distributed by Yale University Press.

Whitner joined the Davis Museum in 2014 from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), where she garnered vast expertise in Northern Old Masters as a Curatorial Research Fellow in European Paintings. Prior to her tenure at the MFA, Whitner was a Curatorial Assistant at the Skirball Cultural Center, and a Research Assistant at the J. Paul Getty Museum. Whitner earned a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in German Language and Literature from the University of California, and a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and German from The Johns Hopkins University. Whitner's postgraduate dissertation focused on the emergence of modernist poster design in Berlin at the turn of the century.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College's liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming— classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today's leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2300 undergraduates from every state and 75 countries.

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