



Art Gallery
of Western Australia

Perth Cultural Centre, Perth WA 6000
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Art Gallery of Western Australia Director announced

Dr Stefano Carboni, Curator and Administrator of the Department of Islamic Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and Visiting Professor of Islamic Art, The Bard Graduate Center for the Decorative Arts, New York, has been appointed Director of the Art Gallery of Western Australia (AGWA).

AGWA Chair Helen Cook said Dr Carboni has an outstanding curatorial, academic and teaching background with an extensive record of exhibitions and publications as well as broad lecturing experience throughout Europe, Asia and the USA.

“The Board and I are thrilled with this significant appointment and the opportunity to bring an internationally acclaimed curator, art historian, administrator, teacher and author to lead the Art Gallery of Western Australia,” Ms Cook said.

“This is a very exciting announcement for the Gallery and I believe for the arts in this State.

“Dr Carboni’s appointment follows an extensive Australian and international search and comes at a time when Perth is looking to attract the very best talent in the world and to play a greater role on the global stage in many industries including the arts.

“Dr Carboni will bring a fresh and truly international perspective and vision to the Art Gallery and the WA arts community, building on the significant strengths of our staff and curatorial team.

“Importantly, with internationally acclaimed credentials from the Universities of London and Venice, Dr Carboni has deep understanding of cherishing and fostering art heritage and will bring this discipline to the further development of the Art Gallery as an institution that celebrates and collects significant contemporary, historical and indigenous art,” Ms Cook said.

Dr Carboni said he was looking forward to taking up his appointment on 20 October 2008 and joining the Perth community with his Australian wife and their two children.

“I welcome the opportunity to combine my familiarity with Australian galleries and museums as a regular visitor to this country with my international experience to further internationalise the Gallery through strong relationships with major museums around the world in the United States, Europe and Asia,” Dr Carboni said.

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“My vision for the Art Gallery of Western Australia is to build on its reputation as a premier State and Australian arts institution. I see this as a key part of my service to the Gallery and the people of Western Australia.

“I also look forward to working with the Board and staff to further engage the local and regional community in the many activities of the Gallery and in reaching out to WA’s very active arts community.

“In addition, there are, I believe, many opportunities to build on the excellent work underway at the Gallery in engaging the youth of Western Australia in the visual arts.”

Ms Cook said she wished to acknowledge Gary Dufour’s contribution as acting director following Alan Dodge’s retirement in late 2007.

The decision to appoint Dr Carboni was made in May 2008, followed by contract negotiations and international migration processes. The Director General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet consulted the Leader of the Opposition regarding the formalisation of Dr Carboni’s appointment during the caretaker convention period.

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The West Australian



Profile of Dr Stefano Carboni

- Dr Carboni was born in Venice, Italy.
- He and his Australian wife of Russian descent have two children aged 7 and 5.
- He has held the position of Curator and Administrator of the Department of Islamic Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York since June 2005.
- He has held curatorial positions with The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York since 1992.
- His academic qualifications include a Ph.D. degree in Islamic Art and Archaeology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; and a BA/MA in Arabic Language and Literature and Islamic Art at the University of Venice, Faculty of Oriental Languages.
- Dr Carboni has an outstanding academic and teaching background that includes the prestigious position of Visiting Professor of Islamic Art, Bard Graduate Center for the Decorative Arts, New York; and extensive lecturing throughout Europe, Asia and the USA.
- He is the author of over 10 books and 40 articles and has delivered countless lectures and seminars in the USA, Europe and Asia.
- His exhibition *Venice and the Islamic World 828-1797* was ranked as one of the five best of the year for 2007 by the *Wall Street Journal* and the catalogue of his exhibition *The Legacy of Genghis Khan, Art and Culture in Western Asia 1258-1356* won the prestigious Alfred H Barr Prize in 2002.
- He is multilingual and in addition to full fluency in Italian and English he speaks, reads and/or writes classical and modern Arabic, colloquial Egyptian, Russian, French and Spanish.
- Dr Carboni has played a role in international art issues and was a key member of the team of directors, curators and conservators who proposed actions to be taken about the looting of Iraq's artistic heritage and its dispersal after the occupation of that country by the allied forces led by the USA in 2003.