

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Lisa Batitto, Public Relations Manager, Newark Museum
Phone: (973) 596-6638, e-mail: lbattito@newarkmuseum.org

49 washington street
newark, nj 07102-3176

newarkmuseum.org
WEB

Newark Museum
FACEBOOK

Newark Museum Awarded Bank of America Art Conservation Project Grant

The Arch of Titus to be conserved as part of initiative to preserve culturally important works of art

NEWARK – The Newark Museum has been awarded a Bank of America Art Conservation Project grant for the conservation of the 1871 oil painting *The Arch of Titus* by George Peter Alexander, Frederic Edwin Church and Jervis McEntee. The program provides grants to nonprofit museums throughout the world to conserve historically or culturally significant works of art that are in danger of deterioration.

"We are honored and delighted to receive this generous grant and are most grateful for the ongoing support from our partner Bank of America," said Newark Museum Director and CEO Steven Kern. "This much-needed conservation work will ensure this treasure can be enjoyed by future generations."

The conservation work will be completed by Felicity Campbell who has been the Museum's main contract paintings conservator for the past 20 years. The work will commence in February and it will be completed by May. *The Arch of Titus* will return to the Newark Museum at that time and be on view in the Museum's *Seeing America* permanent galleries of American art until October, when it will then be featured in an exhibition organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts titled *Frederic Church: To Jerusalem and Back*. The exhibition will be at the Detroit Institute of Arts from October 22 through January 4, 2018 before traveling to the Reynolda House and the Wadsworth Atheneum, extending visitor enjoyment of newly conserved *The Arch of Titus* throughout the country.

The Arch of Titus entered the Museum's collection in 1926 as a bequest from Jonathan Ackerman Coles, whose outstanding collection became the cornerstone of the Museum's distinguished holdings of 19th century American art.

After the Civil War, American artists became increasingly cosmopolitan, traveling to Europe for extended periods and taking the opportunity to study the great art of the past. This monumentally

scaled work depicts two of the most iconic and important ancient structures in Rome, the Arch of Titus and the Colosseum, with the three artists who collaborated on the work shown in the foreground. Healy, who specialized in portraiture painting painted the portraits. He depicted himself in the center of the group next to Church, who is seated, and McEntee, who holds a large book. Standing under the arch to the left of the artists is author Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and his daughter Emily. Although collaborations of this kind were common in European art, they were unprecedented in American painting when this work was created.

“The arts are a powerful tool that not only connect individuals and cultures, but also educate and enrich societies, said Bob Doherty, Bank of America New Jersey Market President. “Our support of the Newark Museum reflects our belief that the arts matter, and nowhere is that more apparent than in New Jersey where residents take advantage of access to a vibrant arts scene.”

Since the program’s launch in 2010, Bank of America has provided grants to museums in 29 countries supporting more than 100 conservation projects. Projects awarded in this grant period 2016 also include *Blue Boy*, a painting by Thomas Gainsborough at The Huntington Library in Los Angeles; a painting by Claude Monet at the Kimbell Art Museum in Ft. Worth, Texas; an Andy Warhol piece at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago; and three paintings at the Dalí Museum in Tampa/St. Petersburg, Fla.

Stay informed on the conservation process by following the Museum on Facebook at facebook.com/newark.museum or Twitter at twitter.com/newarkmuseum; or by visiting www.newarkmuseum.org.

#