

# Dr. Richard Brettell Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences



April 29, 2020

Richard R. Brettell, PhD, Founding Director of the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History and the Margaret McDermott Distinguished Chair at UT Dallas has been elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences class of 2020.

*Founding Director, The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History and the Margaret McDermott Distinguished Chair, UT Dallas*

Founded in 1780, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences honors excellence and convenes leaders from every field of human endeavor to examine new ideas, address issues

of importance to the nation and the world, and work together, as expressed in their charter, "to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people." Their studies have helped set the direction of research and analysis in science and technology policy, global security and international affairs, social policy, education, and the humanities.

Brettell joins the company of notable members – from founders John Adams, James Bowdoin, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington to Ralph Waldo Emerson, Maria Mitchell, and Alexander Graham Bell. Other distinguished members include Margaret Mead, Jonas Salk, Barbara McClintock, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., Aaron Copland, Martha Graham, John Hope Franklin, Georgia O'Keeffe, I.M. Pei, and Toni Morrison. International Members include Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill, Laurence Olivier, Mary Leakey, John Maynard Keynes, Akira Kurosawa, and Nelson Mandela.

Current members represent today's innovative thinkers in every field and profession, including more than two hundred and fifty Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners.

A list of current Academy members in the Visual Arts in Humanities is available here ([Visual Arts](#)), and a complete list of the newly elected members is available on the Academy's website ([www.amacad.org](http://www.amacad.org)).

Congratulations to Dr. Brettell on this most notable achievement!