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Christa C. Mayer Thurman Biography

Christa C. Mayer Thurman retired in 2009 after 42 years as curator, department chair and advising conservator of the Department of Textiles at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2010, she was honored as Emerita, The Art Institute of Chicago. She curated two more exhibitions for the Art Institute recently: *A Selection of Contemporary Fiber Art*, the collection she built from 1969 to 2009; and *June Wayne's Narrative Tapestries: Tidal Waves, DNA and The Cosmos, 1971-1974*. Thurman has contributed extensively to scholarly publications. As one of the authors of *Design in America: The Cranbrook Vision, 1925-1940*, she received the Charles F. Montgomery Prize. The publication also received the George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award. In 2000, Thurman received the College Art Association/Heritage Preservation Joint Award for Distinction in Scholarship and Conservation, and she was elected honorary fellow of the American Craft Council. In 2004, she received a research fellowship from the J. Paul Getty Museum. During her career Thurman curated more than 80 exhibitions at the Art Institute, held leading positions for decades with CIETA (Centre Internationales d'Etude des Textiles Anciens) and was involved in national and international textile organizations. She continues as independent textile historian, consultant, author, lecturer and volunteer.