

Honorary Life Member: Jenni Rodda

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Seldom does one have the opportunity to induct a longtime colleague and good friend into the rarified category of VRA Honorary Life Membership. At present there are only four other living Honorary Life Members.

When Jenni Rodda told me last spring that she was going to retire on June 1, after almost 37 years heading the Visual Resources Collections, Digital Media Services, Image Archive, and Computer Services at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, I thought, well, this is a no brainer. So, I wrote a letter to the Board in May nominating her for Honorary Life Membership

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Jenni's leadership roles and activities within the Visual Resources Association have been many. She has served on the VRA Executive Board twice, first as the Vice President for Conferences, when we only had one Vice President; and second, as President, when it was a 4-year commitment on the Board, not three.

She has served as chair of two committees—the Nancy DeLaurier Writing Award Committee, and the Slide and Transitional Media Task Force—and co-chair of three others: CIHA Liaison Committee, Awards Committee, and Digital Humanities SIG. Additionally, she has been a member of three other committees: Education, SEI Implementation, and Publications Advisory. She was a founding member and then chair of the Greater New York chapter not once, not twice, but three times.

In addition to the aforementioned leadership and committee roles, Jenni has been a conference participant, speaker, and session organizer or moderator for the Visual Resources

Association, the Art Libraries Society of North America, and the Southeast College Art Conference annual meetings almost every year going back to 1992. She also was the VRA liaison to the Art Libraries Society as well as moderator of its Visual Resources Division. From 1992-1997 she served as co-chair of the VRA subcommittee of the International Committee of the History of Art, commonly known as CIHA. In 1996 the VRA proceedings from CIHA were published in the *VRA Bulletin*, which also just happened to be my first year as *VRA Bulletin* editor. Working with Jenni, I was always very proud of how that issue turned out.

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Jenni's contributions to our discipline and organizations have extended beyond VRA service activities to the written word. In 1996 she co-authored VRA Special Bulletin No. 11: *Guide to Copy Photography for Visual Resources Professionals*, a practical laminated manual meant to be placed next to everyone's ubiquitous copystand. It even included a photographer's gray card on the back cover.

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In Fall 2001, Jenni guest edited a special theme issue of the *VRA Bulletin* on "Professional Issues in Visual Resources." In Summer 2007, she again guest edited another theme issue of the *VRA Bulletin*, this time on "The Digital Transition: Perspectives from Art Historians." Fortuitous for me these issues occurred during my editorship of the *VRA Bulletin* and once again, and I had the opportunity to work closely with Jenni.

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In 2004 Jenni's many accomplishments to the visual resources discipline were recognized when she received the Association's Distinguished Service Award, given to an individual who

has made an outstanding career contribution to the field of visual resources and image management, and has achieved a level of distinction in the field either through leadership, research, or service to the profession.

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Not many know this, but Jenni and her husband Adam are avid sailors, owning a 40-ft sailboat called *Soulmates*. Their immediate retirement plans are to sail up and down the eastern seaboard over the next few years, with I'm sure the occasional regatta thrown in as well as a few stops on Block Island. It all sounds idyllic to me, if not somewhat wet, but they look happy, don't they?

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Whether on a sailboat, at the ballet, in a museum, or in a botanical garden, Jenni will now enjoy all the privileges and distinction due to being named our latest Honorary Life Member. Please join me in congratulating her.