

The Education Art Collection (EAC) at the CMA is a 10,000-piece art collection, spanning 5,000 years of global human history, which offers the hands-on exploration of art objects with a focus on inspiring curiosity and multisensory experience. Unlike objects in the museum's main collection, the items in the EAC offer learners tactile experiences with original works of art. Programs at the CMA like Art to Go and Art Cart use the EAC to provide a more intimate study of art objects, where learners may touch or hold individual items.

The EAC was created two years prior to the founding of the CMA in 1916 and for over 100 years has provided tens of thousands of experiences by way of mini exhibitions, interactive workshops, and audience-centered programs. The EAC includes ceramics, armor, textiles, works on paper, and decorative arts from the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe. The primary function of the EAC is to engage school groups and learners of all ages—offering immersive and joyful hands-on experiences with art.

December 6, 2023

Dear Joseph:

I have not had the chance to express my condolences personally and want to do this with this letter. Our previous email exchange does not do justice to the loss of your wife Pauline who accompanied your life for so many years. Having attended the funeral mass, I can well imagine the great void she leaves in your life and amidst your family.

Pauline was a remarkable woman, gracious and impeccably elegant, yet at the same time always anxious to learn and ready to ask questions. When my husband James once returned from teaching a class at CWRU about the Silk Road, he told me the class was a success and that Pauline clearly had the most intelligent questions. I myself still have some emails from Pauline, in which she commented positively and with encouragement on my new Chinese gallery displays and the labels I had written.

The annual Pauline and Joseph Degenfelder lectures in Chinese Art is another testament to her commitment to the arts; and will remind me and all who attend the lecture each year again to the legacy that she and you both left to Cleveland and the museum.

May all the joyful memories of Pauline and the lights of Christmas bring you some consolation in these dark days of mourning.

Please give my sympathy also to the whole family,

Clarissa

Dept. of Asian Art