

For immediate release  
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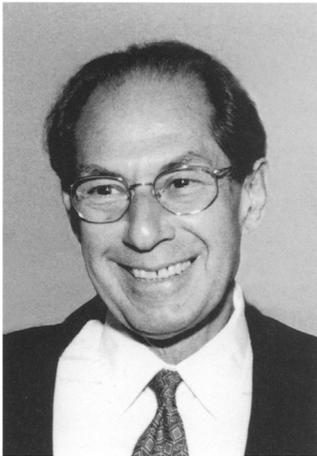


## MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO ALLEN ROSENBAUM (1937 - 2025)

Godwin-Ternbach Museum (GTM) honors the memory of Queens College alum and longtime museum board member, Allen Rosenbaum, in a lobby gallery exhibition from September 25 – December 18, 2025, Queens College Campus, CUNY.

### MEDIA CONTACT:

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Allen Rosenbaum, director of The Art museum, 1980-98. (photo: Bruce M White)



Allen Rosenbaum, 2024 (photo: Arnold Kanarvogel)

The Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College is honored to present a memorial tribute to **Allen Rosenbaum**, distinguished art historian, longtime director of the Princeton University Art Museum (Emeritus), and devoted GTM board member for over 25 years. Allen passed away on August 3 at Calvary Hospital in New York City at the age of 88.

Born in New York City in 1937, Allen was a proud alumnus of Queens College, Class of 1958, where he studied under Frances Gray Godwin—beloved art history professor and one of the museum’s founders. He went on to earn his M.A. from New York University in 1962, embarking on a remarkable career that culminated in his directorship of the Princeton Art Museum, a role he held until his retirement in 1999.

Allen’s curatorial legacy was marked by deep scholarship, a keen eye for quality, and an abiding commitment to education. “Allen’s curious eye never stopped roving,” noted James Steward, current director of the Princeton Art Museum. “In his later years, he became especially passionate about Japanese art, moving far beyond his training in the art of the Italian Renaissance—without ever losing his discernment of quality and condition.”

During the isolated years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Allen developed a focused interest in two new areas: Daruma objects and Meerschaum character pipes. What began as a curiosity quickly evolved into an obsession—his home filled with boxes from auction houses around the world, each one containing a new discovery.



Figure of Standing Daruma  
Japan, Edo Period, circa 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries  
Collection Godwin-Ternbach Museum,  
gift of Frederick Schultz in honor of  
Allen Rosenbaum, 2023.8.1

Of these pursuits, the Daruma collection emerged as a particularly meaningful project. Comprising approximately 200 objects, the collection explores the many dimensions of Daruma, the embodiment of Bodhidharma, the 5<sup>th</sup>- or 6<sup>th</sup> century monk credited with bringing Zen Buddhism from India to Japan. A timeless cultural icon, Daruma appears in countless forms across Asian visual culture—from toys and textiles to cake molds and even a Louis Vuitton wallet. He remains an enduring symbol of perseverance and good fortune.

Allen envisioned the Daruma collection as a legacy gift to the Godwin-Ternbach Museum—a deeply personal gesture reflecting his belief in the power of art to inspire, endure, and evolve. “He saw in Daruma’s spiritual tenacity a mirror of his own relentless curiosity,” said James Steward, current Princeton Art Museum director.

A selection of these objects is now on view in the Lobby Gallery case, arranged thematically based on Allen’s original vision. The full Daruma Study Collection will serve as the foundation for a future exhibition, pending the acquisition of funding and scholarly resources to support continued research and interpretation.

Through this tribute, the museum honors not only Allen Rosenbaum’s remarkable contributions to the field of art history, but also his generosity of spirit, his lifelong love of learning, and his enduring connection to Queens College. His legacy lives on—in the collection he so passionately assembled, in the institutions he shaped, and in the many lives he touched.

For further information on the legacy of Allen Rosenbaum, please visit <https://www.princeton.edu/news/2025/08/15/allen-rosenbaum-former-director-princeton-university-art-museum-keen-curatorial-eye>

This exhibition has been organized by Louise Weinberg, GTM’s Co-Director, Director of Exhibitions/Collections, and Curator.

Exhibition support is provided by the Kupferberg Center for the Arts. Education programs and initiatives are supported by the Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, and public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with New York City Council.





### **About the Godwin-Ternbach Museum**

The Godwin-Ternbach Museum, a part of Queens College's Kupferberg Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, presents contemporary and historical exhibitions and programs that provide exciting educational opportunities and aesthetic experiences to the college community and residents of Queens, Manhattan, and Long Island. As the only museum in the CUNY system, and the only encyclopedic collection of art and artifacts in the borough housing over 7,000 global objects that date from ancient to modern times, the museum introduces visitors to works they might not otherwise encounter. Virtual and in-person programs complement and interpret the art on view to serve the needs and interests of local and international communities. All exhibitions and programs are free.

### **About Queens College**

Queens College enjoys a national reputation for its liberal arts and sciences and pre-professional programs. With its graduate and undergraduate degrees, honors programs, and research and internship opportunities, the college helps its students realize their potential in countless ways, assisted by an accessible, award-winning faculty. Located on a beautiful, 80-acre campus in Flushing, the college has been cited by Princeton Review as one of America's Best Value Colleges for five consecutive years, as well as being ranked a U.S. News and World Report Best College and Forbes Magazine Best Value College thanks to its outstanding academics, generous financial aid packages, and relatively low costs. Visit our homepage ([www.qc.cuny.edu](http://www.qc.cuny.edu)) to learn more.

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CUNY Fashion & Design Program: **@queenscollegefashionprogram**

Queens College School of Arts: **@queenscollegesoa**

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