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Dummer native named Director of Museum of the White Mountains

Feb 2, 2022

PLYMOUTH — A Dummer native has been named as the new director of The Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University.

Meghan Doherty was selected after a nationwide search. She arrives from Berea College in Kentucky where she served 10 years as the director of the Doris Ullman Galleries, curator of the College Art Collection and as an associate professor of art history.

“Having grown up in the North Country, I am excited about the opportunity to bring my expertise in art history into a setting that has deep personal meaning,” said Doherty.



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Doherty was selected following a nationwide search by an interdisciplinary committee of six PSU faculty and staff members.

“Meghan’s background in higher education, working with students, and her knowledge of and commitment to the White Mountains region are some of the many factors that made her stand out to the search committee,” said John Scheinman, search committee chair and director of development at PSU. “Meghan’s depth of knowledge and passion for art make her a natural to lead the MWM into its second decade.”



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Doherty was first exposed to art history during her time as an undergraduate student at the University of Chicago, and began her career in art as an intern at the Art Institute of Chicago. She remains fascinated by the material culture approach to history and studying historical facts through the objects that people made and used.

“What I love most about academic museums is that the galleries provide a space for students to integrate their critical thinking skills from the classroom into a real-world space. They have the opportunity to think about history differently and encounter objects that bring the past to life,” said Doherty.

Doherty is also currently working on a research book project exploring the developments of conceptions of accuracy in the context of the early Royal Society of London, which was founded in 1660 as a scholarly institution. Her research looks at how visual materials, particularly engravings, allow for people who are separated by place and time to come to an agreement about the identity of a phenomena. The book will be published by Amsterdam University Press in Spring 2022.

The MWM’s new exhibition, “Process Meets Practice: Balancing Creating and Teaching,” features five female artists who have taught and led at PSU and in its art department. The exhibition explores how Barbara Dearborn, Annette Mitchell, Mary Taylor, Susan Tucker and Cynthia Vascak created, instructed, and inspired hundreds of PSU art students over the years in a traditionally male-dominated field. The exhibit will run through February 28, 2022.

Doherty’s family still resides in Dummer.

