

## **CURATORIAL STATEMENTS**

**Edmund Barry Gaither**

**Director and curator, Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, and special consultant, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

This exhibition invited artists to explore the term emergence in their own way, and to express their interpretation through painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture or other artistic means. As a juror, my task was to assess how successfully artworks submitted captured a concept of emergence and articulated it through visual language. I looked for excellence in unifying content (the interpretation of emergence) and form to create fresh images infused with vitality. Searching beyond the comfortably familiar, I sought works that were handsomely crafted, effectively rendered, and emotive and engaging in their impact. With the statement of the artist as a guide, I sought to engage each submission from the perspective of its creator paying attention to how concepts and materials had been put to the service of an idea. I valued a sense of probing and revelation, as these qualities seemed to me importance dimensions of the idea of emerging, for emerging necessarily suggest a process transpiring in time—a progression that yields something not previously known or understood so fully.

**Max D. Stern**

**Artist and Board of Governors member, Copley Society of Art**

The artists we targeted for this exhibition have a unique connection to the visual arts, having long witnessed, taken care of, and appreciated the work of some of the greatest artists in the world, while at the same time producing stunning works themselves – and yet not enjoying the full artistic recognition their own work deserves. Our purpose has been to promote that recognition, extend new opportunities to this community, and expose the Society’s existing membership and customary audience to new and different visions not often scene on our walls. We implemented this purpose by applying all of the basic principles of aesthetics, including craft, composition, balance, use of color and tone and to look particularly, for creativity, new ideas, and narrative communicated in inventive ways. We were not disappointed. I personally found this to be a most difficult exercise for the very reason that we were called upon to select from such a true surfeit of magnificent pieces.