

Biography

Director Emeritus, The Metropolitan of Art and Fiske Kimball Professor, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU

In 2008, Philippe de Montebello retired after 31 years as the longest-serving director in the Metropolitan Museum's 140-year-long history.

In 2008 the curators of the Metropolitan paid homage to Mr. de Montebello by mounting a tribute exhibition of some 300 works that entered the collections during his tenure, *The Philippe de Montebello Years: Curators Celebrate Three Decades of Acquisitions*.

Following his retirement, Mr. de Montebello became the first scholar in residence at the Prado Museum in Madrid, and he launched a new academic career as Professor in the History and Culture of Museums at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University;

Mr. de Montebello is the television co-host of the Emmy Award winning WNET/PBS weekly series NYC Arts.

In 2008 Mr. de Montebello was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Musée d'Orsay in Paris for a 4 year term and in 2012 he was elected Honorary Trustee of the Prado Museum in Madrid.

In 2012 he was elected to the French Académie des Beaux Arts.

Mr. de Montebello was born in Paris and after the baccalauréat he attended Harvard College and the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU. With the exception of four years as director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, he has spent his entire career at the Metropolitan, first as curator in the Department of European Paintings and later as the Museum's Chief Curator and then, from 1977 until 2008 as its Director.

In 2003 President G.W. Bush awarded Mr. de Montebello the National Medal of the Arts and in 2009, President Barack Obama awarded him the National Medal of the Humanities. Mr. de Montebello is only the fourth person to have received both these awards.

Mr. de Montebello is an Officier de la Légion d'Honneur and among others, he has an honorary degree from Harvard University.