

Gary Vikan '67

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT



It's not every art historian who is also a skilled marketer, but Gary Vikan is an art scholar who also knows how to pack in the crowds.

As director of The Walters Art Museum of Baltimore since 1994, Vikan helped expand the museum's attendance by more than 100,000 visitors annually, raised more than \$100 million, and oversaw a \$24 million facility renovation (completed in 2001). In 2006, he initiated free general admission at the museum. His other achievements there include creating separate marketing and exhibition divisions, initiating an international touring exhibition program, and expanding curatorial and conservation research activities.

Walters Art Museum board president Bill Paternotte said of Vikan in 2004, "Gary has married scholarship and understanding of the public role of the museum in a very deep way."

Vikan's academic kudos stretch back to Carleton, where he was a magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa art history major with departmental distinction. He earned a PhD in art history at Princeton University in 1976 and completed the Executive Program for Growing Companies at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business in 1995.

In 1973, Vikan was a Kress Fellow at the National Gallery of Art; in 1974, he was an IREX Fellow to the Romanian Academy of Bucharest. By 1983, Vikan was a senior associate for Byzantine art studies at the Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies at Harvard University. He joined The Walters Art Museum initially in 1985, serving as assistant director for curatorial affairs and curator of medieval art through 1994. Since 1986, Vikan has also been an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University.

Vikan is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, and he serves on a variety of boards and committees. Notably, he received the *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* from the *Republique Francaise* in 1999. He has written three books and was editor and contributor for five others; he has many articles, reviews, and exhibits to his credit.

Vikan and his wife, Elana, have two daughters, including Nicole '98. The Vikans live in Baltimore.