

Santiago, August 2019

Dear Frank,

We are delighted to inform you that Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende has been awarded a grant from the Getty Foundation and its Conserving Canvas initiative to study and restore your work, *Isfahan III* (1968), with a group of international professionals.

Since the arrival of the painting to the museum in 1972—thanks to your generous donation—it has become one of the highlights in our collection and the principal feature of Dore Ashton’s selection, becoming a great contribution to the social, political and historical significance of the museum.

As a central piece in our collection, *Isfahan III* has gone through many events in the past 45 years. Although it is in general good condition, due to past interventions, loans and shipping, its original strainer was lost after de 1973 coup d’état, replaced and changed over time, slightly affecting the overall structure and the stability of the painting. With this grant, we will assess the piece and replace the non-original failing strainer to give the work structural stability.

The project entitled “Stretcher workshop and Conservation training on structural canvas painting issues. Case study: Frank Stella’s *Isfahan III* (1968) at the MSSA Collection” will be carried out in three phases during 2019 and 2020 in our venue in Santiago. It includes a five-day workshop for a group of ten professionals from South America. The workshop conducted by the stretcher specialist Antonio Iaccarino will result in the design of the new strainer/stretcher that will consider the complex structure of *Isfahan III* and its needs. Following, we will organize a five-day specialist meeting and treatment-based training sessions in September, with four international advisors who have experience in treating your artworks (amongst them Christine Fröhner, associate conservator from Contemporary Conservation Ltd.) and a three-day joint assessment meeting in June 2020, for adjustments and final evaluation of the conservation condition of *Isfahan III* by Iaccarino and the Chilean team members. Additionally, two conferences this year and a one-day symposium in 2020 will disseminate the importance of your work in our Collection and the process of the conservation and restoration treatment carried out during the project.

As part of this endeavor, we included the possibility of visiting you in New York and recalling together the historical context of your donation to the Museum of Solidarity in the early 1970’s. It is vital for us to record your testimony on this unique cultural endeavor and the solidarity spirit that was behind it, to talk about Dore Ashton’s figure, and about what it meant for a US artist to support Allende’s government at that moment. We would like to discuss with you your selection of *Isfahan III* for the donation, its importance and place within the series and characteristics that should be taken into account during the treatment. Finally, we would like to know more about your

impressions on seeing this painting again in 2000, when you came to Santiago and participated in the MSSA's previous venue opening, with Carmen Waugh as the museum's director.

If you agree on collaborating with us on this project we could arrange to visit you in NY in October or any other time during 2019 that would suit you best.

Your testimony and opinion is fundamental for us to be able to conduct the research for this project as complete as possible. I look forward to hearing your opinion and hope that you will consider our proposal.

Kind regards,



Claudia Zaldívar Hurtado  
MSSA Director