Melissa Kepke Grobmyer founded MKG Art Management in 1998, the only art advisory and appraisal firm in Houston at that time. Melissa has assembled collections for Fortune 100 companies as well as for private collectors. These collections focus on various topics in American and European art, spanning the 19th through 21st centuries, and include painting, photography, sculpture and new media. She has also researched, assembled and administered collections of Texas Regionalism, American Modernism, Abstract Expressionism, 19th century Realism, Impressionism, and Beaux Arts painting.

Melissa has taught classes on various aspects of the history of art and architecture. Most recently, the Church of St. John the Divine invited Mrs. Grobmyer to lecture on Christian art and iconography, some of which are available via podcast at: www.SJD.org.

Melissa is a trustee of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and she serves on the Modern and Contemporary Acquisitions subcommittee and the Antiquities subcommittee of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She is a past board member of Lawndale Art Center, which is dedicated to exhibiting work by emerging artists in Texas. She is a member of ArtTable, and an approved educator for the ASID, IIDA and AIA.

www.mkgart.com
which trickles down to business spending across the spectrum. The first budget that is cut from a project is the art budget, so we have found ways to diversify our services, including working with many more private collectors and providing appraisal services. Today about half our company income derives from our appraisals business. We appraise fine art, furniture, silver, and china, and we serve institutional and private clients nationwide.

What’s your favorite city for art, and what do you recommend we see when visiting?
I really enjoy looking at art outside the market setting. While the market is exciting and vital, it squelches contemplation and thoughtful response. The Menil Collection in Houston, on the other hand, invites a more thoughtful and nuanced response to art and its historical reference points. Of course, I will always love looking at art in NYC with the city’s superb collections and museums, and some of my most profound art experiences have been in Rome and Istanbul. But for a wide-open experience of Modern and Contemporary art, Marfa, Texas, is astounding. The Chinati Foundation and its collections give art breathing room to be fully realized in terms of scale and object-hood. The relationship of art and the minimal landscape is a breath of fresh air.

**Why Do You Value Your Membership in APAA?**

**TODD LEVIN**
The core reason that APAA exists is not to service its members. The core reason APAA exists is for its members to service one another. APAA exists because we mutually believe as a group that certain standards of ethics and professionalism need to be maintained in a field where there are no (or low) barriers to entry. We achieve that by banding together and mutually agreeing to behave by those standards. We do this because it forces people to view advisors as professionals, to treat advisors as professionals, and to pay advisors as professionals.

APAA members are there for one another to draw on the experience of its membership when a sole member has a professional query requiring specific expertise and discretion. APAA also supports the next generation(s) of younger advisors so that they in turn understand and accept APAA standards, building upon the community concept of ‘paying it forward’.

While it is nice that APAA provides programming for its members, it is more crucial that APAA provides “the voice of the advisor” to the press and public to explain and clarify what advisors do, how they operate, and to identify problematic practices. To paraphrase the old enthymeme, “...Ask not what APAA can do for you, but what you can do for APAA...”

**LISA AUSTIN**
I belong to AAA (Appraisers Association of America) for the credentials and the guidance on best practices. Every single program and event at AAA is a la carte expense, and the membership cost is $600. For that you get... membership.

**MEGAN FOX KELLY**
Being a member of APAA, just like my AAA membership, is a credential. That credential has helped build my business. In addition, I just received a new client project by someone who found me on the APAA website. It is a large project and part of what the client wants is outside of my area of expertise, so I’ve asked another APAA member with that expertise to help me. I feel confident turning to a member whose credentials I trust.