

Growing up in Manhattan, Randolph Murphy began his life-long love and appreciation of art. Frequenting the great museums of New York City and reading exhaustively on the subjects of art and art history, he built his comprehensive basis of the knowledge of art while still a teenager. Besides participating in studio art courses in high school, he studied at the Silvermine Guild in New Canaan, Connecticut during the summers. He arrived in California where he received a BFA in Environmental Design and Art History from the California College of Arts (and Crafts). He completed every art history class that was offered there at the time, all of which were taught by professors from UC Berkeley. While in high school and college he took extensive courses in drawing, painting, printmaking, photography and glass blowing.

Randolph Murphy returned to higher education at San Francisco State University where he received a BA and an MA in Archaeology and Art History and a second MA in Museum Studies. During his time on the campus, he worked on both student and faculty exhibits at the Fine Arts Gallery, as well as exhibits at the Sutro Egyptian Collection and the Treganza Anthropology Museum. He next spent several years at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, as an Assistant Curator (cataloguing collections) and exhibit designer (for the reinstallation of the Legion of Honor permanent galleries after the seismic retrofit). He next worked at the Napa Valley Museum for fourteen years as Interim Director, Director and Curator. While there he curated and mounted over seventy exhibits encompassing many subjects which included historic, modern and contemporary art. As a great supporter of local artists he instituted many invitational group and solo shows and other juried art exhibits. He collaborated with the di Rosa Preserve to present four exhibits at the museum before the di Rosa had their own galleries. He curated and mounted the exhibit "Andrew Jackson Grayson: the Audubon of the West" which was chosen by the California Council for the Humanities to tour many museums throughout the state. His "Collectors of the Napa Valley" series of exhibits culminated in a major show of works by many of the most important American artists of the 20th century. He founded the "Northern California Plein Air" juried exhibit. He also curated "Five Hundred Years of Wine in Art" which traveled to other museums throughout the USA. Outside his own institution he was invited to be a juror for over ten art exhibits. For many years he was a Director on the Board of the California Association of Museums.

After retiring, Randolph Murphy indulged his passion for international travel as he continued to study culture, art, museums and architecture. He has spent a total of eighteen months traveling in the UK, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, France (which included two months in Paris), and India. While living in Denver he volunteered at the Denver Art Museum in the Photography Department. Returning to California and settling in Santa Rosa, he volunteered at the Museums of Sonoma County assisting with the curation of exhibits. Recently he has returned to the Napa Valley Museum where he is currently Advisor to the Board of Trustees.