



Modern Art Museum
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MODERN ART MUSEUM OF FORT WORTH ANNOUNCES CURATORIAL APPOINTMENTS

Director Marla Price announces María Elena Ortiz as new Curator at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; Clare Milliken as Assistant Curator; and the promotion of Alison Hearst to Curator. The curatorial team at the Modern is under the direction of Chief Curator Andrea Karnes.

Director Marla Price comments, "We are delighted to welcome María Elena Ortiz to Fort Worth! I am looking forward to important contributions from each of these women as we connect our community with the most significant and compelling art and ideas of our time."

Chief Curator Andrea Karnes notes, "We are so fortunate to expand and enrich the Modern's curatorial team with the additions of María Elena Ortiz and Clare Milliken, and the promotion of Alison Hearst. The benefits of new voices and multiple perspectives within our department will reverberate to the community, the art world, and beyond."

María Elena Ortiz began her role as Curator at the Modern on August 1. She comes to Fort Worth from the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), where she was curator and organized several exhibitions, including *Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*, *The Other Side of Now: Foresight in Caribbean Art*, *Teresita Fernández: Elemental*, *American Echo Chamber: José Carlos Martinat*, *william cordova: now's the time*, *Beatriz Santiago Muñoz: A Universe of Fragile Mirrors*, *Ulla von Brandenburg: It Has a Golden Sun and an Elderly Grey Moon*, *Firelei Báez: Bloodlines*, and *Carlos Motta: Histories for the Future*, among others. Her exhibitions have traveled to prestigious institutions such as the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; El Museo de Barrio, New York; and DePaul Art Museum, Chicago.

At PAMM, Ortiz founded and spearheaded the Caribbean Cultural Institute (CCI)—a curatorial platform dedicated to Caribbean art. During her tenure in Miami, she worked to diversify the museum's collection, securing works by Simone Leigh, Bisa Butler, Bony Ramirez, and others. She developed significant public programs, such as *At the Crossroads: Critical Film and Video from the Caribbean and Latinx Art Sessions*, along with other symposia related to exhibitions.

Formerly, Ortiz was curator of contemporary arts at the Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros in Mexico City. Along with her catalogue contributions, she has contributed to writing platforms such as the Davidoff Art Initiative, Fluent Collaborative, *Curating Now*, and *Terremoto Magazine*. In 2014, she was awarded the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros

(CPPC) and Independent Curators International (ICI) Travel Award for Central America and the Caribbean, and she received the Emerging Curator Award from the Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California, in 2012.

María Elena Ortiz comments, "I am thrilled to be joining the Modern—a museum with an impressive collection and robust exhibition history. This is a vibrant time to be in Fort Worth, a city with exciting cultural initiatives. I am looking forward to engaging, collaborating with, and contributing to this rich history."

For future projects at the Modern, Ortiz will use her expertise and experience to curate exhibitions that highlight artists from Latin America, the Caribbean, and African diasporic communities

Curator **Alison Hearst** is currently organizing *I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen*, a thematic group exhibition surveying more than 50 years of groundbreaking works relating to screen culture. Featuring 51 artists and approximately 60 works, the exhibition will be on view at the Modern beginning February 2023 and will be accompanied by a major publication.

From 2015 to 2022, Hearst was the curator of the Museum's FOCUS exhibition series and has presented solo exhibitions of artists including Jamal Cyrus, Thomas Demand, Martine Gutierrez, Jill Magid, Joyce Pensato, Analia Saban, Lorna Simpson, Fred Tomaselli, Mario García Torres, and Stanley Whitney, among others.

Hearst curated the twenty-year survey *Robyn O'Neil: WE, THE MASSES*, which opened in fall 2019. She also organized *Donald Sultan: The Disaster Paintings*, which traveled to the Lowe Art Museum, Miami; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh; and Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln. Hearst served as assistant curator of the major exhibitions *Urban Theater: New York Art in the 1980s* and *México Inside Out: Themes in Art Since 1990*.

In addition to her FOCUS publications, Hearst is the editor and contributing author of *I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen* (forthcoming) and *Donald Sultan: The Disaster Paintings*, and she was a contributing author to *México Inside Out: Themes in Art Since 1990*, *Urban Theater: New York Art in the 1980s*, and *Katherine Bernhardt: Swatches*.

Clare Milliken joined the Modern as Assistant Curator in March 2022. She has contributed to texts for the upcoming exhibitions *Modern Masters: A Tribute to Anne Windfohr Marion* and *I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen*. In the future, she looks forward to curating FOCUS exhibitions.

Before coming to the Modern, Milliken was the curator at the Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas. She was instrumental in launching the foundation's exhibition space in October 2021. Having an in-depth knowledge of the collection, Milliken worked alongside guest curator Aindrea Emelife on the inaugural exhibition, *Black Bodies, White Spaces: Invisibility & Hypervisibility*. The exhibition—which featured paintings by Amoako Boafo, Jordan Casteel, Deborah Roberts, Amy Serald, and Henry Taylor—explored how Black artists use the pictorial language of figuration to discuss, critique, and engage with the complexities surrounding Black identity.

Before her departure to join the Modern, Milliken curated *Women of Now: Dialogues of Memory, Place & Identity*. This group exhibition explored how emerging women artists synthesize a sense of place, memory, and identity to shape a discourse on the contemporary female experience. The exhibition featured artists including Ana Benaroya, Rachel Jones, Hannah Levy, Jenny Morgan, and Anna Park.

Before returning to her native Texas in 2020, Milliken spent six years in New York. After graduate school, she worked at Phillips Auctioneers for three and half years in the Photographs Specialists department. Responsible for cataloguing the department's consigned artworks, Milliken researched and inspected more than 1,500 photographs, including works by Diane Arbus, Bernd & Hilla Becher, Sally Mann, Robert Mapplethorpe, Irving Penn, Man Ray, Cindy Sherman, and Hannah Wilke.

[High resolution files available at this link.](#)

Photographs by Evie Bishop, courtesy Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

LOCATION

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
3200 Darnell Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
Telephone 817.738.9215
Toll-Free 1.866.824.5566
www.themodern.org

Museum Gallery Hours

Tue-Sun 10 am-5 pm
Fri 10 am-8 pm

General Admission Prices (includes special exhibitions)

\$16: General (age 18 and above)

\$12: Seniors (age 60+), Active/Retired Military Personnel and First Responders with ID

\$10: Students with ID

Free: Under 18 years old

The Museum offers half-price tickets on Sundays and free admission on Fridays.

The Museum is closed Monday and holidays, including New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas.

ABOUT THE MODERN

The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth is a leader in collecting, showing, and interpreting art from the 1940s to the present. Situated in the heart of the Cultural District, the creative center of the city, the Modern has been housed since 2002 in an elegant concrete, glass, and steel building designed by the renowned Japanese architect Tadao Ando. In addition to 53,000 square feet of soaring, light-filled gallery space and landscaped grounds with outdoor sculptures, the museum features a reflecting pond, theater, education center, gift shop, and café, creating a thriving hub for our community and beyond.

Founded in 1892, the Modern is the oldest museum in Texas; however, our mission has changed over the years. Today, we strive to connect audiences of all ages and backgrounds with the most compelling art and ideas of our time. Showcasing the work of historically significant, mid-career, and emerging artists, the Modern is known for its evolving collection, which is international in scope. The Museum's holdings include influential artists from Pablo Picasso, Philip Guston, Anselm Kiefer, Martin Puryear, and Agnes Martin to Mark Bradford, Teresita Fernández, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, and Kehinde Wiley. We have a long history of close relationships with the living artists we show and collect, many of whom visit the museum regularly to give talks and lead workshops.

The Modern is a center of lifelong learning and exchange. Our programs include tours, lectures by leading figures in the art world, youth and adult classes, art camps, workshops, and a range of small-group studio and gallery programs led by the Museum's educators, docents, and community artists. We also present critically acclaimed first-run films and partner with other local arts organizations to offer music, dance, and theater.

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