

News Release
Public Information
Department

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Brooklyn Museum of Art Announces Two Senior Appointments

June 2001

Marc Mayer Named Deputy Director for Art
Kevin Stayton to Become Chief Curator and Vice Director for
Curatorial Affairs

Brooklyn, New York...June 25, 2001. Dr. Arnold Lehman, Director of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, after a national search, announced the appointment of Marc Mayer as Deputy Director for Art. Mr. Mayer is presently Director of The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto, a position that he has held since 1998.

Announcing the Deputy Director appointment, Dr. Lehman said, "Marc Mayer is highly regarded for his articulate organization of many important contemporary exhibitions. His intellectual vigor, his wide-ranging interest and curatorial experience in contemporary art, and his significant management abilities made him an ideal choice for this critical leadership position at the BMA."

Prior to joining The Power Plant, Mr. Mayer was Curator of Contemporary Art at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo. Previously, he headed Visual Arts for the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris and was Assistant Director of the 49th Parallel Centre for Contemporary Canadian Art in New York. Among the many exhibitions he has organized are *Candida Höfer*; *Christine Davis: Pluck*; *Jessica Stockholder: The Hand*; *Chrysanthe Stathaco: The Wish Machines*; *Sophie Ristelhueber: The Eye's Pop: Op Art from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery*; *Bill Viola: The Messenger*; *Michel Verjux: Light Connection*; *Being & Time: The Emergence of Video Projection*; and *The Mimbres Bowl: Painted Funerary Ware of the Ancient Southwest*.

Appointments

page 2

Mayer is the author of the forthcoming monograph *Sophie Ristelhueber*, and is a frequent contributor to numerous exhibition catalogues, as well as to art journals. Mr. Meyer is a graduate of McGill University in Montreal and has lectured widely on contemporary art.

Mr. Mayer will join the BMA staff on September 1, 2001, becoming one of three Deputy Directors who, together with Dr. Lehman, form the Museum's senior management team. Commenting on his new role, Mr. Mayer says, "I am looking forward to helping Arnold Lehman realize his vision of a comprehensive art museum for the future. I will work closely with the Director and his staff to assure that visitors to the Museum return regularly and that each visit is filled with relevance and inspiration."

Dr. Lehman also named longtime BMA Decorative Arts senior curator Kevin Stayton as Chief Curator and Vice Director of Curatorial Affairs, a position reporting to the Deputy Director for Art. "Kevin Stayton, one of America's leading decorative arts scholars, has made immeasurable contributions to the field and to the BMA. The experience and talent of Kevin and Marc complement one another perfectly."

Stayton joined the Brooklyn Museum of Art in 1980 and has most recently been Chair of the Department of Decorative Arts as well as Acting Chief Curator.

A graduate of Ohio State University Kevin Stayton was awarded an M.A. in Art History and an M. Phil. from Yale University, where he was a Research and Exhibitions Assistant at the Yale University Art Gallery prior to joining the BMA curatorial staff. Among the exhibitions he has organized or coordinated are the upcoming *Vital Forms: American Art and Design in the Atomic Age, 1940–1960* (co-curated); *Hip-Hop Nation* (2000); *Converging Cultures: Art and Identity in Spanish America* (1996, co-curated); and *The Treasure of San Gennaro: Baroque Silver from Naples* (1987). He is currently collaborating on the reinstallation of the BMA's American Painting and Sculpture galleries which will integrate, for the first time, painting, sculpture, decorative arts, Native American art, and works on paper.

Mr. Stayton is also Adjunct Professor at the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, and has taught at Columbia University and the Cooper-Hewitt/Parsons Masters Program. He has written numerous catalogue essays and scholarly articles, and is the author of *Dutch by Design: Tradition and Change in Two Historic Brooklyn Houses*.

“I am very much looking forward to working with Marc Mayer and to dealing with the exciting challenges of this new position,” commented Mr. Stayton.

“Marc Mayer and Kevin Stayton form the ideal team to take on the wide-ranging curatorial and interpretive challenges in the continuing revitalization of the BMA. We all look forward to working with them in serving our expanding, diverse audiences.” said Dr. Lehman.

End

Contact: James Gordon, Media Relations Manager, ext. 334

GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$6; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$3. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits can be arranged through the Education Division, ext. 234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop. Bus: B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Museum Café open until 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. Museum Libraries and Archives are open by appointment. Museum shops are open 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; till 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.