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Brooklyn Museum Announces Appointment of Charles Desmarais as Deputy Director for Art

Brooklyn, New York, December 17, 2004. Dr. Arnold L. Lehman, Director of the Brooklyn Museum, today announced the appointment of Charles Desmarais to the position of Deputy Director for Art, following a national search. Mr. Desmarais is currently Curator at Large for the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, responsible for long-term curatorial and publishing projects. He served as Director of the CAC from 1995 until January 2004, when he moved to New York to be engaged more directly with collectors, galleries, and artists.

"It is with great enthusiasm that I announce this major appointment. Charles Desmarais was responsible for the enormously successful public and programmatic transformation of the CAC, particularly through the completion of its extraordinary new home, designed by architect Zaha Hadid, which opened in June 2003. He is the perfect choice for this crucial leadership position at the Brooklyn Museum," stated Dr. Lehman. The CAC was founded in Cincinnati in 1939 and was one of the first institutions in the country dedicated to contemporary visual arts. Its critically acclaimed 82,265 square-foot Lois and Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art provides spaces for temporary exhibitions, site-specific installations, performances, an education facility, office, art preparation areas, and a museum store.

Charles Desmarais will join the Brooklyn Museum staff on January 3, 2005, becoming one of three Deputy Directors. Commenting on his new role, Desmarais said: "I have long admired the Brooklyn Museum and strongly believe in the direction that it has taken under Arnold Lehman's leadership. I look forward to working with Arnold and the rest of the Museum's exemplary staff to support and enhance Brooklyn's strong commitment to visitors through its nationally recognized collections, exhibitions, and education programs."

In his new position, Charles Desmarais will oversee all curatorial departments, conservation, collections, and exhibition management. He will also be responsible for supervising Brooklyn's pioneering Education Division. Prior to joining the CAC, Desmarais served as Director of the Laguna Art Museum in Laguna Beach, California. In the 1980s, he directed the California Museum of Photography at the University of California, Riverside.

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A native of the Bronx, Charles Desmarais earned a bachelor's and master's degree from the State University of New York, Buffalo, and was one of the first participants in the Museum Management Institute program of the J. Paul Getty Trust. He has written more than 100 articles and books and was awarded an Art Critics Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts in 1979. In addition to his experience as a museum administrator, Desmarais has curated more than 50 exhibitions of the work of various artists, photographers, and architects. Most recently he has been engaged in arts management consulting, specifically in the area of strategic planning and board development, in association with AEA Consulting and others.

Since 1985 Charles Desmarais has been married to Kitty Morgan, senior editor at the New York-based magazine *Departures*.

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