

MoMA

Search for The Marlene Hess Curator of Painting and Sculpture
The Museum of Modern Art
New York, NY

THE MUSEUM

Founded in 1929 as an educational institution, The Museum of Modern Art is dedicated to being the foremost museum of modern and contemporary art in the world. Through the leadership of its trustees and staff, the museum manifests this commitment by establishing, preserving, and documenting a collection of the highest order that reflects the vitality, complexity, and unfolding patterns of modern and contemporary art; by presenting exhibitions and educational programs of unparalleled significance; by sustaining a library, archives, and conservation laboratory that are recognized as international centers of research; and by supporting scholarship and publications of preeminent intellectual merit.

Central to the Museum's mission is the encouragement of an ever-deepening understanding and enjoyment of modern and contemporary art by the diverse local, national, and international audiences that it serves.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Museum seeks a new Curator of contemporary art in the Department of Painting and Sculpture. The Museum of Modern Art is the repository of the world's largest and most inclusive collection of modern painting and sculpture, comprising some 4,000 works dating from the late nineteenth century to the present day. Under the leadership of the Chief Curator, the Department produces a rigorous and innovative program of acquisitions, exhibitions, and scholarship.

The Curator's role will include: expanding and deepening the collection through acquisitions; organizing loan exhibitions and collection galleries; authoring exhibition catalogs and other publications; producing significant scholarship in the field of contemporary art; working closely with MoMA Trustees to support the acquisition program; managing and mentoring junior staff; collaborating with colleagues across curatorial departments to think strategically about departmental and institutional goals.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop a deep knowledge of the Painting and Sculpture collection, particularly in relation to the art of the past fifty years; conduct ongoing analysis regarding artists and areas to introduce or strengthen further.

- Consider, research, and recommend potential gifts and purchases of contemporary art for presentation at acquisition meetings of the Committee on Painting and Sculpture.
- Initiate and produce outstanding loan and collection-based exhibitions and galleries.
- Produce outstanding exhibition catalogues and other publications for the Museum in collaboration with the Publications Department, as well as other exhibition and collection-related texts, both printed and online.
- Engage, and develop close relationships, with a wide range of supporters, including Trustees, Painting and Sculpture Committee members, Museum members, and donors (gallery and exhibition tours, collection and studio visits, and ongoing conversations).
- Collaborate with the Departments of Communications, Marketing, Graphics, Development, and other Museum colleagues to promote and support exhibitions, collection displays, and acquisitions.
- Partner with the Learning and Engagement, Research, and Editorial and Content Strategy departments on programs relevant to loan exhibitions, collection presentations, and other projects.
- Manage and mentor junior staff including Department Assistants, Curatorial Assistants, Fellows, Research Assistants, Departmental Assistants, and Interns.
- Travel domestically and internationally for exhibition, collection, and acquisition research.

QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates will be highly-accomplished and experienced professionals who bring a depth of knowledge and curiosity, hard work and high energy, to a world-renowned program. Deeply passionate about art, they are held in high regard by members of the field and have a commitment to excellence and strong curatorial expertise. They will engage, motivate, and collaborate with colleagues and Museum leadership, a diverse set of external partners, and the general public. The Curator will thrive in a highly competitive environment, at an institution that demands excellence and operates at an extremely fast pace. Ideal professional experience and personal attributes will include:

- Ph.D. in Art History with an in-depth knowledge of art history with a focus on contemporary art from the 1960s forward required.
- Seven or more years of curatorial experience in an institutional museum context with demonstrated track record of planning, programming, and producing major exhibitions that are accessible to a diverse public.
- Outstanding communication skills, both in prepared speaking and ordinary conversation: a clear, eloquent, friendly and inspiring voice.
- Outstanding writing skills, with the ability to direct oneself to both general and professional audiences.
- A sound academic foundation and research capabilities, with a sophisticated understanding of the history of modern art and an innate intellectual curiosity.

- A team player committed to collaboration and mutual kindness, generosity, and respect among colleagues.
- A high level of discretion, given the high frequency of confidential matters.
- Diplomatic and friendly demeanor, with a talent for engaging and connecting with a variety of stakeholders, including trustees, artists, art dealers, and curatorial colleagues around the world.
- A desire to apply contemporary critical discourses to a historical collection, and to activate it for new and diverse audiences. Ability to advance current scholarship on modern art in innovative ways that make object-based research, collection rotations, and exhibitions newly relevant.
- Strong organizational skills, to manage an extremely busy schedule.
- Fluency in one or more languages besides English.

COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

This is a full-time, on-site position in New York City. The targeted salary is \$150,000-\$200,000, commensurate with experience.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters and a brief statement on five-seven meaningful recent acquisitions should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/museum-modern-art/marlene-hess-curator-painting-and-sculpture>. Electronic submission of materials is required.

Sarah James, Claire Hennessey, and Siobhan Hanley
Isaacson, Miller

The Museum of Modern Art is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages candidates of all backgrounds to apply for this position.