

# GREY ART MUSEUM New York University

Director  
Grey Art Museum  
New York, NY



## THE SEARCH

New York University (NYU) is seeking an imaginative and collaborative leader to serve as the next Director of the Grey Art Museum (the Grey or the Museum). This is an opportunity to shape the future of art engagement and scholarship in a vibrant academic community in the heart of New York City.

The Museum is both half a century old, with its founding as the Grey Art Gallery, and just turning one, as the newly christened Grey Art Museum. It houses a renowned permanent collection, first established in 1958 as the NYU Art Collection and further enhanced with a gift of works from Abby Weed Grey in 1974, and offers a space for a remarkable array of shows over the last half century. In 2024, the Grey moved to a much larger and more visible space at 18 Cooper Square in lower Manhattan. With this move, the Grey Art Gallery was renamed the Grey Art Museum.

The Grey's new home occupies the entire ground floor of a venerable brick and iron building in the historic NoHo district, its storefront façade facing out onto a busy pedestrian thoroughfare. Today the collection

totals over 6000 works, including The Abby Weed Grey Collection of Modern Asian and Middle Eastern Art.

Under the Provost's leadership, the Director will provide strategic and administrative leadership for the Grey, overseeing a full-time team of 8 and an approximately \$2 million operating budget, with additional fundraising to support exhibitions and new initiatives. The next Director will have the opportunity to engage with the NYU community, working with NYU's Institute for Fine Arts as well as departments, centers, and institutes across the University, and to further integrate the Grey into the life of the campus life and surrounding community.

The Grey seeks a skilled communicator and savvy administrator with strategic vision, curatorial experience, and an understanding of systematic planning, interdisciplinary and institutional collaboration, and the cultivation of numerous constituencies. The Director will lead an active exhibition and public programming schedule, expand the collection's areas of strength, and continue to generate robust philanthropic support.

NYU has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in the recruitment of the next Director. Please direct all applications, nominations, and inquiries to Isaacson, Miller as indicated at the end of this document.

## The Grey Art Museum

The Grey Art Museum is a museum and laboratory, supporting both public exhibitions and interdisciplinary scholarship. The Grey shares NYU's commitment as a global research university to advance knowledge of different cultures, contexts, and histories across time; NYU prides itself on engagement, as exemplified in the phrases "In and of the City" and "A private university in the public service." The Grey also fosters experiential learning through its collections and participates in the cultural, intellectual, and environmental spheres of NYU's global network, of New York City, and of the broader world. Unlike many of the University's resources, the Museum and its holdings are accessible to the general public, not only to members of the NYU community.

Originally A. E. Gallatin's Museum of Living Art, the Museum's original space was renovated in 1975 with a generous gift from Mrs. Abby Weed Grey, and the doors reopened as the Grey Art Gallery and Study Center. The full title of the original – and quite extraordinary – gift is the Abby Weed Grey Collection of Modern Asian and Middle Eastern Art. Mrs. Grey traveled from the eastern Mediterranean to the Sea of Japan collecting the work of living artists. Her gift of some 700 works from Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Kashmir, India, Nepal, Thailand, and Japan made the Grey global from its inception. Though the Museum is relatively small, the breadth of its holdings and the legacy of its impact capture the energy and imaginativeness that have characterized the Grey from the beginning.

Over the last five decades, the Grey has exhibited painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, and photography, but also architecture and decorative arts, video, film, and performance. In addition to originating its own exhibitions, the Museum hosts traveling shows that might otherwise not be seen in New York. The Grey has produced award-winning scholarly publications to accompany many of its shows. To learn more about current and past exhibitions, please explore [here](#).

## Role of the Director

Under the Provost's leadership, the Director provides strategic vision for the Museum and is responsible for all matters relating to the administration of the Grey, including personnel, budgets, fundraising, collection development and management, stakeholder communication, space improvements, and internal and external partnerships.

The Director's primary responsibilities are:

1. Determining and shepherding the installation of 2-3 exhibitions annually in the space
2. Leading fundraising efforts
3. Overseeing the staff for planning, budgeting, exhibition and publication coordination, and operations
4. Understanding and promoting the collection

The Director will also lead the planning and implementing of improvements and enhancements of the space. The Director will continue to build a museum that produces innovative shows and serves a wide variety of constituencies, from experts in art history, art preservation, and museum studies, to making the museum's work more accessible both in person and online to NYU students, faculty, staff, and the general public.

## Expectations for Leadership

**Leadership and vision:** Experience as a leader within a museum or other multidisciplinary cultural organization, with a responsibility for overseeing collections care and management.

**Operational and administrative acumen:** Demonstrated administrative experience and intellectual leadership in a complex museum environment. Experience overseeing personnel issues, budgets and facilities, collections management, and other infrastructure.

**Commitment to global inclusion:** A track record of inclusive leadership and a demonstrated commitment to inclusive scholarship and exhibitions, including supporting collection accessibility and digital collections.

**Commitment to academic engagement:** Previous experience in an academic museum is not required, but the Director should have a record of commitment to engaging multiple constituencies with various levels of engagement and involvement with the collection and the institution.

## Institutional Priorities

**The Director will create a vision for the future of the Museum,** providing focus and direction for the development of future collection strategy, exhibitions, and programs, supporting interdisciplinary scholarship with faculty, staff, and students.

**The Director will collaborate with staff and members of the NYU community.** The Director will foster instruction, consultation, and engagement that centers community needs with workshops, exhibitions, fellowships, and programmatic opportunities. The Director will be a university citizen who understands what it means to be a museum housed in an urban research university.

**The Director will fundraise and build awareness for the Museum.** In collaboration with the University Development and Alumni Relations team, the Director will secure both funds and donations that support the Museum's mission.

**The Director will be a visible leader throughout the campus community and New York City.** The Director will leverage the Museum's new location to engage with the public, collaborate with other cultural institutions, and partner with community resources.

**The Director will create a welcoming environment that cultivates and values inclusion in all its forms.** Inclusion, belonging, equity, and accessibility are integral values for the NYU community that go beyond stated expressions of support. The Director will bring a record of vigorous engagement in advancing inclusion, belonging, equity, and accessibility through tangible actions and will continue to ensure the museum spaces are inclusive, and that services and programs meet the needs of all museum users and visitors.

**The Director will lead the Grey's team in effectively carrying out its organizational goals and priorities.** The Director will build and mentor the Grey Art Museum's staff, and promote a collegial, supportive, and respectful climate.

## NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

NYU is a diverse, global research university. Founded in 1831 with a mission to be a center of higher learning that would be open to all, regardless of national origin, religious beliefs, or social background, New York University is today one of the largest private universities in the United States and a leader in global education. Students come from every state and from 133 foreign countries. NYU's alumni community is nearly 700,000 strong and spans 183 countries in addition to the United States. Students

and practitioners from around the globe are drawn to NYU for its central position within New York's dynamic arts landscape, and NYU's Global Network allows students and faculty to pursue training, research, and collaboration in many of the most dynamic cities in the world. With its history, reputation, and global reach, NYU is well positioned to shape the future of arts practice and scholarship.

NYU's story is one of vibrant growth and dramatic improvements in academic reputation, the eminence of its faculty, the size and influence of its research portfolio, the quality of its students, and the strength of its undergraduate, graduate, and professional education programs. NYU has 20 schools, colleges, and institutes in New York City, full degree-granting campuses in New York, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai, and 13 additional global academic centers across six continents.

NYU is adventurous and ambitious. It rewards entrepreneurship, inspires philanthropy, and is determined to continue its remarkable upward trajectory. At the heart of the University are its dedicated staff and its more than 5,000 full-time faculty (roughly half tenured/tenure-track and half contract), whose research and teaching have placed them at the forefront of their disciplines.

Linda G. Mills became the 17<sup>th</sup> president of New York University on July 1, 2023. [President Mills](#) assumed the role after serving as NYU's Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life for 11 years. A scholar and filmmaker, she has foregrounded the centrality of the arts to NYU's academic and social mission. In the summer of 2024, [Georgina Dopico](#), a scholar of Spanish history and literature, was named NYU's provost.

As NYU approaches its bicentennial in 2031, NYU's leadership team has established a set of [strategic pathways](#) to serve as aspirational guideposts for the University:

- Lead the world in interdisciplinary collaboration for innovation and impact
- Develop and capitalize on a distinctive profile in science and technology that lifts and differentiates NYU globally
- Lead the world in global education and research
- Build and sustain a welcoming and supportive community in which students, faculty, and staff can flourish, and timely graduation is a top priority

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, 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 should be sent via the [Isaacson, Miller website](#). Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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*In compliance with NYC's Pay Transparency Act, the annual base salary range for this position is USD \$200,000 – 250,000. New York University considers factors such as (but not limited to) scope and responsibilities of the position, candidate's work experience, education/training, key skills, internal peer equity, as well as market and organizational considerations when extending an offer. This pay range represents base pay only and excludes any additional items such as incentives, bonuses, clinical compensation, or other items.*

*NYU aims to be among the greenest urban campuses in the country and carbon neutral by 2040. Learn more at [nyu.edu/nyugreen](https://nyu.edu/nyugreen).*

*NYU is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to a policy of equal treatment and opportunity in every aspect of its recruitment and hiring process without regard to age, alienage, caregiver status, childbirth, citizenship status, color, creed, disability, domestic violence victim status, ethnicity, familial status, gender and/or gender identity or expression, marital status, military status, national origin, parental status, partnerships status, predisposing genetic characteristics, pregnancy, race, religion, reproductive health decision making, sex, sexual orientation, unemployment status, veteran status, or any other legally protected basis. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply for vacant positions at all levels.*