



Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art
Dallas Museum of Art
Dallas, Texas

THE SEARCH

The Dallas Museum of Art seeks a dynamic, visionary, and highly collaborative curator and leader to serve as the Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art. Working in partnership with Brian Ferriso, the Eugene McDermott Director, the Senior Curator will help create a signature program on a par with one of the country's most institutionally ambitious contemporary art communities. The position comes at a defining moment for the DMA as it advances a major campus transformation, fundraising campaign, and renewed commitment to contemporary art.

The Hoffman Family Senior Curator will build upon an extraordinary collection shaped by transformational commitments from the [Hoffman, Rachofsky, and Rose collections](#) while helping to define the future of contemporary art at the DMA. Through exhibitions, acquisitions, scholarship, and strategic partnerships, the Senior Curator will strengthen the Museum's national and international profile and expand its influence within the contemporary art field.

Equally important, the role serves as a bridge between curatorial leadership and institutional advancement. The Senior Curator will continue to cultivate deep relationships with artists, collectors, donors, trustees, and members of the [Contemporary Art Initiative \(CAI\)](#), engaging one of the country's most influential communities of arts patrons and supporters. Success will require intellectual leadership, strong communication skills, and an outward-facing approach that inspires confidence, trust, and long-term partnership.

The Dallas Museum of Art has retained the national executive search firm Isaacson, Miller, to assist in the recruitment of its next Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art. Please direct all applications, nominations, and inquiries to Isaacson, Miller as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART

Founded in 1903, the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) is among the largest encyclopedic art museums in the United States and one of the most significant cultural institutions in Texas. Located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District, the nation's largest urban arts district, the DMA serves as a cultural anchor for one of the country's fastest-growing metropolitan regions. Through its collections, exhibitions, public programs, and educational initiatives, the DMA advances its mission to make art and creativity accessible and meaningful to diverse audiences while fostering dialogue, discovery, and civic engagement. A cornerstone of the cultural life of North Texas, the DMA has offered free general admission since 2013, reflecting its longstanding commitment to accessibility, inclusivity, and public participation.

Over more than 120 years, the DMA has evolved alongside Dallas itself, growing from a local art association into an internationally recognized institution. Occupying its Edward Larrabee Barnes-designed building since 1984, the DMA has developed a collection of more than 25,000 works spanning 5,000 years of human creativity and representing cultures from around the world. The collection encompasses major strengths in contemporary art, European painting and sculpture, arts of the Americas, African art, Asian art, decorative arts and design, and ancient Mediterranean art. Complementing its collections are dynamic exhibitions, publications, scholarly research, educational initiatives, and community partnerships that extend the DMA's reach across North Texas and beyond.

The DMA's trajectory has been shaped by extraordinary philanthropy and visionary collecting. Transformational gifts from generations of supporters, including Margaret McDermott and the landmark commitments of Marguerite and Robert Hoffman, Cindy and Howard Rachofsky, and Deedie and Rusty Rose, have significantly expanded the collections and helped establish the DMA as a leading destination for contemporary art.

As Dallas has emerged as a major center for business, philanthropy, and cultural investment, the DMA has assumed an increasingly important role within the region's civic and creative ecosystem. Today, the institution is undertaking the most significant transformation of its campus in more than four decades through *Looking Forward: A New DMA*, a comprehensive reimagining designed to expand gallery capacity, improve accessibility and visitor experience, strengthen connections to the surrounding Arts District, and create new opportunities to showcase the DMA's growing collections. This initiative represents a transformative investment in the future of the DMA, positioning the institution to broaden engagement, deepen civic impact, and strengthen its role as one of the nation's leading cultural organizations.

Visit [DMA's website](#) to learn more.

Leadership

Brian Ferriso, The Eugene McDermott Director

Brian Ferriso became the Dallas Museum of Art's Eugene McDermott Director in December 2025 following nearly 20 years as Director of the Portland Art Museum. A nationally recognized museum leader, Ferriso brings nearly three decades of experience advancing institutional growth, expanding audience engagement, strengthening financial sustainability, and leading major capital projects. During his tenure in Portland, he increased the museum's endowment, expanded and endowed curatorial positions, broadened access initiatives, and oversaw a comprehensive campus transformation.

Visit [DMA's Museum Leadership](#) page to learn more.

CONTEMPORARY ART AT THE DMA

The Dallas Museum of Art is home to one of the most significant contemporary art collections within an American encyclopedic museum. Spanning the period from 1945 to the present, the collection includes major works in painting, sculpture, photography, installation, video, and new media, reflecting the Museum's longstanding commitment to collecting and presenting the art of its time.

The collection is anchored by Jackson Pollock's *Cathedral*, acquired in 1950, just three years after its completion, and has been shaped by decades of strategic acquisitions and gifts. Particular strengths include postwar American art, Minimalism, Conceptual art, contemporary photography, and significant holdings of German and Italian contemporary artists, including Gerhard Richter, Anselm Kiefer, Sigmar Polke, Michelangelo Pistoletto, and Piero Manzoni. The DMA has also consistently invested in works by emerging artists and Texas-based artists, reinforcing its commitment to supporting artistic innovation at both local and global levels.

A defining feature of the Museum's contemporary art program is its extraordinary culture of philanthropy and collecting. The landmark 2005 pledges of the Hoffman, Rachofsky, and Rose collections established a model for collaborative collection-building that continues to shape the Museum's future. Together with subsequent gifts, bequests, acquisition funds, and the support of the Contemporary Art Initiative (CAI), these partnerships have significantly expanded the depth and scope of the DMA's holdings while strengthening its ability to acquire and present the most compelling art of our time. Today, the contemporary collection serves as a cornerstone of the Museum's exhibition program and reflects the DMA's broader mission to connect diverse audiences with art and ideas shaping the contemporary world.

ROLE OF THE HOFFMAN FAMILY SENIOR CURATOR OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Reporting to Brian Ferriso, the Eugene McDermott Director, the Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art provides strategic and intellectual leadership for the Dallas Museum of Art's contemporary art program, advancing its exhibitions, collections, acquisitions, scholarship, and public

engagement initiatives. The Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art oversees the Lupe Murchison Curator of Contemporary Art, the Nancy and Tim Hanley Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art, and the Curatorial Assistant for Contemporary Art, Asian Art, and Islamic Art, fostering a collaborative, high-performing department while mentoring the next generation of curatorial talent.

Working closely with the Director and fellow curatorial leaders, the Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art will play a central role in shaping the Museum's artistic vision and strengthening the DMA's position as a leading center for contemporary art. The role requires deep collaboration across the institution, partnering with colleagues in Collections, Exhibitions, Conservation, Interpretation, Learning and Engagement, Development, Communications, Libraries and Archives, and Visitor Experience to develop exhibitions, publications, research initiatives, acquisitions, and public programs that advance the Museum's mission and strategic priorities.

The Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art will also serve as a key ambassador for the Museum, cultivating meaningful and enduring relationships with artists, collectors, donors, trustees, and peer institutions while helping to expand the reach, visibility, and impact of the DMA's contemporary art program. In partnership with Museum leadership and the Advancement team, the Senior Curator will build deep, sustainable relationships with the Contemporary Art Initiative (CAI) membership, the Board of Trustees, and the broader collector community. The role will actively steward existing patrons, donors, and collectors while identifying and engaging future supporters, fostering long-term philanthropic investment in the Museum's contemporary art program, collections, exhibitions, and strategic priorities throughout Dallas and the broader region.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide strategic leadership for the DMA's contemporary art program, advancing its vision, priorities, and impact through exhibitions, including significant contemporary monographic shows, acquisitions, scholarship, and engagement opportunities.
- Lead, mentor, and develop the Contemporary Art team, fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability, and professional growth while providing experienced guidance in exhibition development, partnerships, and curatorial practice.
- Lead an innovative and ambitious exhibition program that elevates the DMA's profile, advances contemporary art scholarship, traveling shows, and fosters partnerships with leading museums, artists, and cultural organizations.
- Play a leadership role in shaping the future presentation of contemporary art within the DMA's campus transformation, including gallery planning, reinstallation efforts, and opportunities for site-specific commissions and installations.
- Support fundraising and campaign initiatives, guiding the growth and stewardship of the contemporary art collection, identifying acquisition opportunities and working closely with

donors, collectors, and acquisition groups to strengthen one of the Museum's defining areas of distinction.

- Build strong working relationships across the Museum, partnering with curatorial colleagues and teams in collections, exhibitions, interpretation, learning and engagement, development, communications, and visitor experience to advance shared institutional goals.
- Represent the DMA locally, nationally, and internationally through scholarship, public programs, professional activities, and strategic partnerships, serving as a visible advocate for the Museum and its contemporary art program.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will be an accomplished curator, scholar, and leader with a distinguished record of advancing contemporary art through exhibitions, collections, scholarship, and public engagement. They will bring deep expertise in contemporary art, a sophisticated understanding of its relationship to broader art historical narratives, and a demonstrated ability to identify and champion artists and ideas of significance. Equally important, they will possess the leadership, vision, and collaborative spirit necessary to guide one of the nation's leading contemporary art programs within a dynamic encyclopedic museum.

Ideal qualifications and personal attributes include:

- Advanced degree in art history, curatorial studies, or a related field; Ph.D. preferred.
- Significant curatorial experience within a museum or comparable cultural institution, including a record of organizing major exhibitions, building collections, and contributing to scholarship in contemporary art.
- Broad knowledge of postwar and contemporary art across media, with a strong understanding of current artistic practices, critical discourse, and emerging trends.
- Demonstrated success building relationships with artists, collectors, donors, trustees, galleries, and peer institutions.
- Outstanding communication skills, including excellence in writing, public speaking, and engaging diverse audiences.
- Strong leadership and management experience, with demonstrated ability to mentor staff, build collaborative teams, and foster a culture of accountability, trust, and professional growth.
- An intellectually curious and strategic mindset, with the ability to translate ideas into compelling exhibitions, programs, partnerships, and collection initiatives.

- Proven ability to work effectively across departments and build consensus among a wide range of internal and external stakeholders.
- Strong organizational and project management skills, with the ability to lead ambitious initiatives and manage multiple priorities in a dynamic environment.
- An entrepreneurial and outward-facing approach, with the capacity to identify opportunities, develop partnerships, advance fundraising efforts, and contribute to institutional growth.
- Personal qualities including integrity, sound judgment, diplomacy, emotional intelligence, humility, and a genuine commitment to collaboration.
- A passion for the mission of the Dallas Museum of Art and enthusiasm for contributing to a transformative period in the Museum's history.

The ideal candidate will be a respected voice in the field, capable of representing the Dallas Museum of Art nationally and internationally while inspiring colleagues, cultivating meaningful partnerships, and advancing the Museum's commitment to excellence, innovation, and public service.

COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

This is a full-time, on-site position in Dallas, Texas. The posted salary for this position is \$180,000 - \$200,000 and is commensurate with experience.

Dallas, Texas, is the fourth largest and fifth-most diverse metropolitan area in the United States, with 6.8 million residents and excellent education, business, sports, food, and cultural offerings, including the nation's largest urban arts district. The 118+ acre [Dallas Arts District](#) comprises world-class museums and a luminous cluster of performing arts spaces, including the [Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center](#), the [AT&T Performing Arts Center](#), [The Perot Museum of Nature and Science](#), the [Nasher Sculpture Center](#), and the [Crow Collection of Asian Art](#). These advantages are compounded by the collective wealth of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, encompassing over 200 incorporated cities and towns, as well as limitless possibilities for partnership, collaboration, and community engagement.

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: [Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Posting](#)

Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Courtney Wilk-Mandel, Sarah James, Kristin Benoit, and Cara Meyers - Isaacson, Miller

The Dallas Museum of Art is committed to building a culturally diverse staff and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The DMA provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Dallas Museum of Art. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by Dallas Museum of Art would supersede any conflicting information in this document.