

YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Henry J. Heinz II Director
Yale University Art Gallery
New Haven, CT

THE SEARCH

Housed within Yale University (Yale or University), the Yale University Art Gallery (YUAG or Gallery) seeks a visionary, collaborative, and dynamic leader to serve as the next Henry J. Heinz II Director.

Founded in 1832, the Yale University Art Gallery is one of the oldest and most significant art museums in America with a superb collection of 300,000 works of art. With free admission, it attracts an international, national, state, and local audience. America's oldest university art museum, it serves as a center for teaching, learning, and scholarship. The Gallery collects, preserves, studies, and presents art in all media, from all regions of the globe and across time. The museum's exceptional global collection and commitment to activating it is the core of its identity and positions it as a preeminent cultural and educational catalyst for academic study and firsthand experience with art for a wider public. Key curatorial areas include African Art, American Decorative Arts, American Painting and Sculpture, Ancient Art, Art of the Ancient Americas, Asian Art, European Art, Indo-Pacific Art, Modern and Contemporary Art, Numismatics, Photography, and Prints and Drawings. The YUAG encourages both scholarly and popular engagement with the collection and seeks to provide exceptional object-based teaching and learning experiences for all, supported by an active public programming and publication schedule and as a rigorous training ground for students and professionals who go on to pursue careers in museums and adjacent fields. To learn more about the YUAG, please visit <https://artgallery.yale.edu/>.

An inspirational advocate and seasoned manager, the Henry J. Heinz II Director is responsible for the vision and fiscal management of the institution and will support and develop the staff. The next Henry J. Heinz II Director will champion the YUAG as a partner within the university and connect with all constituents,

including faculty, staff, and students, across the Yale ecosystem. Located in New Haven, CT, the YUAG has a deep commitment to its surrounding community as a core audience and will continue to increase community engagement through a range of partnerships and outreach. The Henry J. Heinz II Director will understand the importance of engaging locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. They should have recognized distinction in the field of art history or a related humanities field, significant standing among and from peers, and the stature to represent the YUAG to appropriate stakeholders.

Yale University has retained Isaacson, Miller, an executive search firm, to assist with this recruitment. Inquiries, nominations, and applications, in the form of a CV and cover letter, should be sent in strict confidence to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT YALE UNIVERSITY

Since its founding in 1701, Yale has been dedicated to expanding and sharing knowledge, inspiring innovation, and preserving cultural and scientific information for future generations. First-hand encounters with Yale's collections are an integral part of teaching and learning across the university and forge creative connections that inspire tomorrow's leaders, including those who lead and curate culture across the world. Local and regional educators at all levels also take advantage of the collections to inspire students of all ages.

The University's 15 schools and college encompass the liberal arts and sciences as well as most professions. The Fall 2025 enrollment of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students was 15,657. Yale College enrolled 6,667 undergraduate students, most of which were housed in 14 residential colleges. There are over 8,990 graduate and professional students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and 14 professional schools. Yale University employs 5,842 faculty and more than 12,000 staff.

Yale University is the only American research university with four professional schools devoted to the arts: the School of Art, the School of Architecture, the David Geffen School of Drama, and the School of Music. In addition, the constellation of museums, institutes, and libraries at Yale, including the Yale University Art Gallery, Yale Peabody Museum, Yale Center for British Art, Yale University Library, and the Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage comprise an expansive and collaborative cultural heritage community. Yale's network of over 190,000 living alumni is deeply passionate about their alma mater, traveling to campus frequently for athletic, cultural, and academic events. Furthermore, alumni of the University serve in leadership positions at museums and cultural institutions worldwide.

ROLE OF THE HENRY J. HEINZ II DIRECTOR

The Henry J. Heinz II Director provides overall leadership, vision, and oversight of the YUAG and its staff in a unique role of serving critical stakeholders equally well across the campus, city, state, world, and field. They will champion education and scholarship of the highest caliber, position the YUAG as a leader in its field, ensure that it is an active contributor to and catalyst for the breadth of communities it serves, and

attend to the operational and financial requirements of the YUAG. The Henry J. Heinz II Director is the representative of the YUAG, an advocate to the campus community, a thought partner to the University's academic, art, and cultural heritage leadership, and an ambassador to supporters and the broader arts community and museum field worldwide.

The Henry J. Heinz II Director is appointed by Yale's president, reports to the provost, and works most directly with the vice provost for collections and scholarly communication. The Henry J. Heinz II Director is responsible for overseeing an annual operating budget of \$50 million and an endowment of \$1 billion as of June 2026. They lead a staff of 147 full-time and 19 part-time employees, both union and non-union, and 129 student employees and interns. The six direct reports reporting to the Henry J. Heinz II Director are the chief curator, director of finance and administration, chief conservator, director of advancement and external relations, deputy director for exhibitions, collections and facilities, and the executive assistant to the Henry J. Heinz II Director. The Gallery welcomes more than 240,000 visitors annually and 446 K-12 visits totaling over 11,000 students.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Building upon a strong foundation, the Henry J. Heinz II Director will address the following challenges and strive to use them as opportunities to propel the YUAG to greater prominence:

Set an inspiring strategic vision

The Gallery is nearing the conclusion of its [2021-2026 strategic plan](#). The next Henry J. Heinz II Director will work with YUAG staff, stakeholders, and Yale leadership to create the next 5-year strategic plan including ambitious goals that advance YUAG's legacy of excellence. The current strategic plan prioritizes commitment to the immediate community in New Haven and beyond. Continued establishment of greater partnerships and collaborations on campus and within the community will align with overall university goals. Future planning should include a digital strategy for innovative and appropriate use of technology in research, study, and engagement of collections. Coming out of the pandemic, some recent YUAG efforts have focused on long-term sustainability and improving internal structures. While that essential work will continue, the next leader will bring a visionary approach that excites staff and Gallery supporters through further raising the institution's profile and ensuring the YUAG is an innovator for the greater field.

Collaborate effectively within the Yale ecosystem

The YUAG is an integral part of many interdisciplinary academic programs, and Yale faculty, staff, and students frequently engage with the YUAG. The Henry J. Heinz II Director will prioritize connection and synergy between Yale and the YUAG. Nested in a premier university, the Henry J. Heinz II Director acknowledges and commits to the primacy of partnership, scholarship, rigor, and access that the YUAG upholds.

In addition, the YUAG joins the Yale Center for British Art, Yale Peabody Museum, Yale Library, and the Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in an extraordinary cultural heritage collaboration. Under the leadership of the vice provost for collections and scholarly communication, this collaboration develops and executes cooperative initiatives that advance practice and shared governance in the areas of technology, conservation and preservation, provenance and ethical stewardship, teaching with collections, and collections storage. Recent successful projects include the cross-collection discovery system, [LUX](#), and the design and construction of shared collections storage at Yale's West Campus.

Promote local, national, and international engagement

The Henry J. Heinz II Director will champion the Gallery's role in serving its immediate community of both Yale and New Haven. As an active arts leader and partner, they will represent YUAG locally and regionally, strengthening relationships with community organizations, schools, and cultural partners while expanding the Gallery's audience and impact. As one of the most significant museums in the US, the Gallery will also engage with national and international audiences and peer institutions. Henry J. Heinz II Director will steward the Gallery's prominent profile and be an innovative leader in the broader national and global field.

Ensure long-term sustainability through exceptional management and fundraising

The Henry J. Heinz II Director serves as the chief advocate, ambassador, and fundraiser for the YUAG. They will communicate the impact of the institution and inspire supporters to invest in the future of the YUAG. The Gallery is in a strong financial position and requires keen management to maintain and build upon its enviably solid foundation. While YUAG is supported by generous endowments, many of the funds are restricted to specific operational uses or acquisitions. New initiatives will require sustainable planning and continued fundraising. The Henry J. Heinz II Director will work in close collaboration with Yale's office of development on these efforts. They will also develop a close relationship with the Gallery's Governing Board. The Board is an esteemed group of supporters that serves a crucial advisory role and advances the Gallery's continued success and impact.

Recruit, lead, and support Gallery staff

The Gallery is supported by a team of dedicated professionals that are vital to its operation and success. The Henry J. Heinz II Director will motivate, nurture, build, and mentor the staff composed of both union and non-union employees. They will communicate across all levels and promote a collegial, supportive, transparent, and respectful climate where the entire team can flourish in a manner equally inclusive of those based in West Campus and downtown. The Henry J. Heinz II Director will be a seasoned leader and manager who will promote best practices in the field and set staff expectations.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will possess many, if not all, of the following qualifications, skills, and experiences:

- A deep commitment to the mission and values of the YUAG, and the ability to elevate, champion, and inspire a passion and respect for the visual arts of diverse areas and times.
- Proven ability to work with faculty, staff, and students and sophistication in promoting teaching, research, and scholarship;
- Demonstrated ability to develop innovative ideas and effectively implement them;
- Exceptional communication skills, including the ability to actively listen to, connect with, and inspire the public, staff, faculty, students, community partners, artists, patrons, and arts leaders;
- Extensive experience with financial management and administration and understanding of financial operations; an ability to facilitate both short- and long-term strategic decisions with financial ramifications;
- Familiarity with a unionized workforce;
- Demonstrated success in leading and motivating a team, fostering cross-departmental collaboration, communication, and collective and individual accountability;
- A desire and ability to embrace the New Haven and global community, build partnerships, identify opportunities, and expand the Gallery's reach within the region and beyond;
- An advanced degree in an art-related field is required; a PhD is preferred.

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: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/yale-university-art-gallery/henry-j-heinz-ii-director>.

Sarah James, Ben Tobin, Ryan Leichenauer, and Alaine Small
Isaacson, Miller

The University is committed to basing judgments concerning the admission, education, and employment of individuals upon their qualifications and abilities and affirmatively seeks to attract to its faculty, staff, and student body qualified persons of diverse backgrounds. In accordance with this policy and as delineated by federal and Connecticut law, Yale does not discriminate in admissions, educational programs, or employment against any individual on account of that individual's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, age, disability, status as a special disabled veteran, veteran of the Vietnam era or other covered veteran.

University policy is committed to affirmative action under law in employment of women, minority group members, individuals with disabilities, special disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam era, and other covered veterans.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Yale University Art Gallery. 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 Yale University Art Gallery would supersede any conflicting information in this document.