



Montclair Art Museum

3 South Mountain Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07042-1747
(973) 746-5555 / montclairartmuseum.org

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT Curator of Contemporary Art

REPORTS TO: Executive Director

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES: With the Director, and in concert with curators and educators, create exciting contemporary exhibitions, programs and acquisitions.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- With Director and peers in Curatorial, Education and other departments, create, develop, and oversee implementation of a lively and diverse contemporary art program, including exhibitions, coordinated public programs, and permanent-collection installations at the Montclair Art Museum
- Contribute to the enhancement of the permanent collection, including acquisitions and conservation
 - Participate in the use of a growing acquisition fund by researching and recommending purchases in the area of contemporary art; cultivate and propose gifts. Maintain contact with dealers, cultivate donors and potential donors; follow art market; and serve with other curators as liaison to the Board of Trustees's Art Committee
 - With other curators and registrars, oversee care of the permanent collection; assist with documentation, cataloguing, loans, and conservation priorities
- Support the various fundraising and public relations initiatives of the Museum
 - Help identify, cultivate, and educate supporters and potential donors through advice and special activities around contemporary art
 - Assist in preparation of grants, budgets, and work plans for projects in collaboration with the Director and Development staff
 - Generate and lead contemporary art activities for the Museum in the tri-state area for a vibrant community of artists, collectors, and supporters
- Participate in the activities of the Curatorial department, including Registrar's Office and Installation. Develop project budgets and schedules, and provide oversight.
- Participate in issues of daily operation of the Museum, as well as Strategic Planning and implementation. Contribute to discussions on policy and overall management decisions. Attend appropriate meetings of the Board of Trustees and its Committees
- Continue professional development to ensure museum and curatorial best practices

SELECTION CRITERIA

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Education: Masters Degree or equivalent education and experience

Experience: Minimum of 3-5 years of curatorial and related experience; demonstrated research and writing skills; expertise in one or more areas of American art with significant recent activity in contemporary art; record of publications and flair for exhibitions that engage both the public and the intellect; familiarity with collection care; gallery presentation experience; excellent speaking skills.

Skills and Abilities: Must be engaged in the field of contemporary art; able to inspire staff and public around a variety of curatorial activities; strong organizational skills. Looking for energetic, hard worker with strong interpersonal and communication skills to foster effective working relationships at all levels. Must be collaborative and flexible; enjoy teamwork.

REWARDS AND CHALLENGES OF THE POSITION AND THE MUSEUM

The Curator of Contemporary Art at the Montclair Art Museum will be initiating an area of focus, long desired for the organization by staff, community, and donors alike. Surrounded by a vibrant and art-savvy community, the Museum now has an opportunity to make a statement about this important directional shift.

The Montclair Art Museum is an established and beloved regional art museum with nationally recognized programs and collections. Frequent loans to prominent exhibitions make possible reciprocal borrowing for MAM-organized projects. The Curator of Contemporary Art will be joining a small curatorial team excited about the opportunity to enhance the collections with works and programs of the highest standards. This small staff has excellent professional experience and has developed a good working rapport using a realistic, community-oriented approach with limited resources.

Montclair, New Jersey is 12 miles west of Manhattan, easily accessible by public transportation. Although practically a borough of New York City, the area has a strong identity of its own. Well known for its diverse, sophisticated community, the area enjoys the cultural view and amenities of city life, as well as the space and pace of exurban living.

Through its engaging exhibition program, collection focus, and active programming in a wide variety of areas, the Montclair Art Museum seeks to expand its base of membership and support in order to continue to thrive and grow. Programming that features both historic and contemporary art, that revives the permanent collection in new ways and honors the work of contemporary artists and craftspeople, has the potential to attract new audiences, broadening

our demographic base. Applying an innovative approach to exciting exhibitions and programs on a lean budget will require creativity and a hands-on, can-do mentality. The Curator must be energized by balancing high-attendance shows with serious studies.

Visit: www.montclairartmuseum.org. Nominations welcome. EOE.

Apply in confidence: Email letter, resume, list of 3 references to the Director,
Lora S. Urbanelli, lurbanelli@montclairartmuseum.org