

NEWS RELEASE



Montclair Art Museum

For Immediate Release

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Lora Urbanelli Named New Director of the Montclair Art Museum

MONTCLAIR, NJ, October 30, 2008—The Board of Trustees of the Montclair Art Museum (MAM) announced today that Lora Urbanelli has been appointed the Museum's next Director beginning January 12, 2009. Urbanelli is currently Executive Director of the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, Maine. She becomes the ninth Director in the 95-year history of MAM, succeeding Patterson Sims, who is departing his post at the end of December.

"I am very proud and enthusiastic about the appointment of Lora Urbanelli," said Reg Hollinger, President of the Board of Trustees. "She brings extensive experience in arts administration and a genuine passion for art. She is extremely well-suited to help the Board realize its long-term strategic objectives. We are truly fortunate to have found an individual of Lora's caliber, particularly in the current turbulent financial climate. I cannot say enough to thank the Co-Chairs of the search committee, Trustees Karen Mandelbaum and Carol Wall, who worked so diligently on behalf of the Museum to find the best possible candidate."

Hollinger continued: "We are deeply grateful to Patterson Sims, who has helped ensure a smooth transition process after leading the Museum for seven years through a period of expansion, record-setting exhibitions, and innovative programming. We thank him as well for the strong community partnerships he has established. He will always remain an esteemed member of the Museum family."

Board Chairman Adrian Shelby said: "As the Museum stands poised to begin its 95th year, we are delighted to have an administrator with Lora's skills and experience to lead us forward. Her strategic mind and proven leadership abilities make me not just optimistic but enthused about MAM's future course."

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“I am extremely excited about the long-term prospects and promising potential of the Museum,” said Urbanelli. “I am honored to have been selected and look forward to working with the Board and with the remarkable staff of the Montclair Art Museum. I am also eager to connect with members of the sophisticated and diverse Montclair community, who play such an important role in the life of MAM. What a thrill it is to be returning to New Jersey, where I grew up and went to school, and to become a part of one of its great institutions.”

At the Farnsworth Art Museum, Urbanelli expanded fundraising efforts, increased the staff, strengthened community relations, and led a successful strategic planning process. Before her arrival at the Farnsworth, Urbanelli was the Interim Director of the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, where she had previously been its Assistant Director and Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs. She has an MFA in Museum Studies from Syracuse University and a BA, *magna cum laude*, in Studio Art from Rutgers University.

About the Museum

The Montclair Art Museum, a notable, community-based institution with an international reputation, boasts a renowned collection of American and Native American art that uniquely highlights art making in the United States over the last three hundred years. The collection includes more than 12,000 objects: paintings, prints, original works on paper, photographs, and sculpture by American artists from the 18th century to the present, as well as traditional and contemporary Native American art and artifacts representing the cultural developments of peoples from all of the major American Indian regions. MAM’s Yard School of Art is the leading regional art school, offering a multitude of comprehensive courses for children, youth, adults, seniors, and professional artists.

The Montclair Art Museum is located at 3 South Mountain Avenue in Montclair, N.J. Information and directions are available on the Museum website, montclairartmuseum.org, or by calling (973) 746-5555. MAM is open Wednesdays through Sundays, Noon – 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and major holidays. Museum admission is free for members and children under 12, \$12 for nonmember adults, and \$10 for senior citizens and students with I.D. Admission is free for everyone the first Friday of every month.

All Museum programs are made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and Museum members.

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