

# BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Blanton Museum Announces New Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art**



Austin, TX — January 10, 2023 — The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin announces the appointment of Hannah Klemm as curator of modern and contemporary art. Currently associate curator of modern and contemporary art at the Saint Louis Art Museum, Klemm will join the Blanton in April 2023, ahead of the opening of the Blanton’s redesigned grounds. She succeeds Veronica Roberts, who last year was named the John and Jill Freidenrich Director of the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University.

“We are delighted for Hannah Klemm to join the Blanton at this transformational moment, as we begin to welcome visitors to experience the museum in a new, expanded way,” said director Simone Wicha. “She brings a passion for contemporary art bolstered by rigorous knowledge in art history and strong professional expertise—plus a commitment to engaging audiences through unexpected and unique experiences with art. The modern and contemporary program,

historically one of the Blanton's strengths, will no doubt continue to grow in innovative and impactful ways with her leadership."

"Hannah's keen interest in collaboration and her artist-centered approach to curating will be a wonderful asset to this program," said Carter E. Foster, deputy director for curatorial affairs at the Blanton. "We've learned from growing audiences across the city and university campus that there continues to be a real desire to see artists who reflect our times and our community. The Blanton has been committed to this by evolving our collection, spotlighting underrepresented artists in major exhibitions, and establishing the Contemporary Project gallery, opened in 2017 to feature new works by international contemporary artists. We're confident that Hannah will continue to advance our ambitious contemporary and modern art program, and we look forward to seeing how she shapes its future."

In addition to organizing solo exhibitions by contemporary artists in the Contemporary Project gallery and newly re-opened Film & Video gallery, as well as major shows in the Sarah & Ernest Butler Gallery, Klemm will oversee the presentation and development of the Blanton's collection of U.S. and international modern and contemporary art. Klemm will also manage and develop sound art commissions for the museum's forthcoming Butler Sound Gallery, an outdoor space in the Blanton's new grounds dedicated to sound art, the first of its kind at a major museum.

"I'm thrilled to be joining the exceptional team at the Blanton at such an exciting time for the museum," said Klemm. "It's clear that everyone at the Blanton is dedicated to creating culturally responsive programming that is collaborative, diverse, and inclusive and that showcases contemporary art, from established to cutting edge, within the broader context of art history. I'm excited to help continue to shape their wonderful program of modern and contemporary art. My approach has always been community- and artist-focused, and I look forward to joining Austin's thriving art scene and contributing to building meaningful relationships between Austin's communities and the Blanton."

In her current position at the Saint Louis Art Museum, Klemm curates the museum's longstanding *Currents* series of new works by contemporary artists, which have most recently included Oscar Murillo and Meleko Mokgosi, in addition to the *New Media Series*, a showcase of single-channel video works in the museum's media gallery. She has co-organized such major exhibitions as *Storm of Progress: German Art after 1800 from the Saint Louis Art Museum*, *Oliver Lee Jackson*, *Kehinde Wiley: Saint Louis*, *Sun Xun: Time Spy*, and the forthcoming *The Culture: Hip-Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century*. Prior to her role at the Saint Louis Art Museum, Klemm held curatorial fellowships at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art,

The Art Institute of Chicago, and the Smart Museum of Art. She holds a doctorate in Art History from the University of Chicago and a master's in Art History from the Courtauld Institute of Art.

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**About the Blanton Museum of Art**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 21,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary U.S. and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.