

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver Art Gallery names Rochelle Steiner as Associate Director & Chief Curator



Image: Rochelle Steiner, Photo: Steve Cohn

April 26, 2018, Vancouver, BC– The Vancouver Art Gallery is pleased to announce the appointment of Rochelle Steiner as the Gallery’s new Associate Director & Chief Curator. Steiner was selected after an extensive search and consultation process with local and international members of the visual art, museum and academic sectors. She will assume her position with the Gallery as of June 1, 2018.

A leader in the visual arts, Steiner’s career surpasses twenty years, over which time she has amassed significant expertise in the realms of modern and contemporary art, public art, architecture and urbanism as well as non-profit management and education. In her past roles, Steiner has served as a senior curator and director in major museums and arts organizations; project manager for complex exhibitions and public art projects; and professor and dean in a major research university. Her work focuses on the role art, artists and museums play in cities around the world.

“We are thrilled to welcome Rochelle to the Gallery’s leadership team as Associate Director & Chief Curator,” says Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. “With her extensive curatorial experience working with artists and institutions across the world, coupled with her knowledge and respect for Canadian art, she offers a perspective and network that will be vital to helping expand the Gallery’s impact on a global level. Further, Rochelle’s dynamic work spearheading major public art projects, as well as building collections and producing scholarship, will benefit the Gallery and its visitors as we work together in finding new, innovative ways to bring art to the forefront of our community.”

"The Vancouver Art Gallery plays a vital role in the artistic and cultural life of the city and beyond, and I look forward to contributing to future exhibitions, the growth of the collection and new partnerships," says Rochelle Steiner. "This is an exciting opportunity to work closely with Director Kathleen Bartels, as well as the staff, Board of Trustees and artistic community as the Gallery expands its impact locally, in Canada and internationally."

A recognized curator and writer, Steiner has organized over sixty major art exhibitions and large scale public art projects in the United States, Europe and Asia. Most recently, she co-curated *Access+Ability* at New York's Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum. Steiner has held senior positions in museums and public institutions internationally including Director of the Public Art Fund, New York; Chief Curator at the Serpentine Gallery, London; and Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Since 2010, Steiner has been Professor of Critical Studies at the Roski School of Art and Design at the University of Southern California where she has taught courses on curatorial practice, public art, and modern and contemporary art and design. She also served as Dean of the Roski School from 2010-12. In 2011, she co-founded and has since co-lead *Emergent Cities*, an interdisciplinary working and research group at USC focused on the future of cities from perspectives including urbanism, arts and culture, technology and placemaking.

Under Steiner's leadership, the Public Art Fund commissioned public art projects with established and emerging international artists, including Olafur Eliasson's *The New York City Waterfalls* in collaboration with the City of New York. She also curated Chris Burden, *What My Dad Gave Me* at Rockefeller Center; *Alexander Calder in New York* at City Hall Park; Dara Friedman, *Musical* throughout New York; and Sarah Sze, *Corner Plot* at Doris C. Freedman Plaza, Central Park. At the Public Art Fund, Steiner also initiated a series of artist performances, including *The Rodney Graham Band Live featuring the Amazing Rotary Psycho-Opticon* and Martin Creed, *Variety Show*, both at The Abrons Art Center at Henry Street Settlement.

As Chief Curator at the Serpentine Gallery, Steiner curated and organized solo and group exhibitions with internationally acclaimed artists including Michael Elmgreen & Ingar Dragset, Ilya & Emilia Kabakov, Ellsworth Kelly, Takashi Murakami, Gabriel Orozco, Cindy Sherman, Monika Sosnowska, Do Ho Suh, and Rirkrit Tiravanija.

At the Saint Louis Art Museum, Steiner curated the museum's *Currents* program, including solo exhibitions featuring Peter Doig, Catherine Opie and Gary Simmons and the group exhibition *Wonderland*, which invited artists to transform the museum's spaces into a series of engaging installations.

Steiner has contributed to two Asian biennales—she curated *6 Under 60* at the 2011 Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture, and organized the North American participation in *Beyond the Borders*, the 1995 Gwangju Biennale, South Korea.

Additionally, Steiner has consulted for a number of art schools, museums, and not-for-profit arts organizations embarking on new initiatives involving contemporary art, public art and architecture, including: the College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts at Florida International University, KØS—Museum for Art in Public Spaces in Denmark, the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, and the Miami Art Museum (now Pérez Art Museum Miami). In Miami, she developed a strategic plan for the museum as it embarked on its new 150,000 square-foot Herzog & de Meuron-designed facility, working closely with the board of trustees,

director, and senior staff to shape the vision to advance the museum's collection, exhibition and education programs in both the former and new facilities.

Steiner earned a PhD and MA degrees in Visual and Cultural Studies from the University of Rochester in New York. In 2009, she was one of ten fellows selected for the Centre for Curatorial Leadership program in association with Columbia University Business School's Executive Education program.

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About the Vancouver Art Gallery

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs, and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is paid to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to the arts of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded by the Gallery in 2014. The Gallery's programs also explore the impacts of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture. www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.