HIGH

HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA

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Curatorial Biographies

Brett Abbott
Curator of Photography

Brett Abbott joined the High as the new Curator of Photography in April 2011. Brett came from the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles where he served as associate curator in the department of photographs. He recently received the 2010 Lucie Award for Curator/Exhibition of the Year for his organization of the exhibition and its related publication "Engaged Observers: Documentary Photography since the Sixties," the Getty's highest-attended photography exhibition to date. Abbott also received the 2007 Lucie Award for Curator/Exhibition of the Year for "Edward Weston: Enduring Vision" and edited its companion publication, "Edward Weston's Book of Nudes." Abbott received his Master of Arts in art history from Williams College in 2002 and his Bachelor of Arts in the same field from Stanford University in 2000. Prior to his current position, Abbott served as a curatorial intern in the department of photographs at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (2001), where he conducted research for the bibliography and introductory essay of Sarah Greenough's "Alfred Stieglitz: The Key Set: The Alfred Stieglitz Collection of Photographs." Abbott has also held roles at the Williams College Museum of Art (2000–2001) and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art (1999).

David Brenneman
Director of Collections and Exhibitions; Frances B. Bunzl Family Curator of European Art

David Brenneman was appointed Director of Collections and Exhibitions in September 2006, in addition to his role as the Frances B. Bunzl Family Curator of European Art, which he assumed in 1995. He is also the Managing Curator of "Louvre Atlanta," for which he was awarded the *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*, one of France's highest cultural honors, in 2008. During his tenure at the High, Brenneman has organized numerous exhibitions, including "Van Gogh to Mondrian: Modern Art from the Kröller-Müller Museum" (2004); "Paris in the Age of Impressionism: Masterworks from the Musée d'Orsay" (2002); "Monet: A View from the River" (2001); "Michelangelo: Drawings and Other Treasures from the Casa Buonarroti, Florence" (2001); "Degas and America: The Early Collectors" (2001); "Van Gogh's Starry Night: Three Masterpieces from The Museum of Modern Art" (2000); "Monet and Bazille: A Collaboration" (1999); and "Toulouse-Lautrec: Posters and Prints from the Collection of Irene and Howard Stein" (1998). Before coming to the High, Brenneman was Assistant Curator of Paintings at the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Connecticut, where he specialized in 18th- and 19thcentury paintings. Brenneman received his Ph.D. in art history from Brown University and his B.A. in art history from the Pennsylvania State University.

Stephanie Heydt
Margaret and Terry Stent Curator of American Art

Stephanie Heydt joined the High Museum of Art as the Margaret and Terry Stent Curator of American Art in January 2009. Prior to the High Museum, Heydt was the curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the Gulf Coast Museum of Art in Largo, Florida and the Jakob Rosenberg Fellow in American Art at the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University Art Museums. She has received numerous fellowships including the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Library Company of Philadelphia, a Patricia and Philip Frost predoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and an Adelson Fellowship in American Art at Boston University. Heydt also served as an assistant curator at the Terra Museum of American Art (now the Terra Foundation for American Art) in Chicago and has lectured and published on 19th- and 20th-century American art and culture. Her recent exhibitions have included *Rising Up: Hale Woodruff's Murals at Talladega College* (2012), *Go West!: Art of the American Frontier* (2013), the *American Encounters* series (2012 - 2015, co curated between the High, Musée du Louvre, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Terra Foundation for American Art), and *Embracing Elegance, 1880 - 1920: American Art from the Huber Family Collection* (2011). She holds degrees in the History of Art from Cornell University (B.A.), the University of Chicago (M.A.) , and Boston University (Ph.D.).

Michael Rooks
Wieland Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art
Michael Rooks joined the High as the Wieland Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art in January 2010. Prior to the High, Rooks served as the Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Artist Relations at Haunch of Venison, a contemporary art gallery in New York. Rooks has also held curator positions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, The Contemporary Museum Honolulu, and at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. He received both a Master of Arts degree in modern art history, theory and criticism (1995) and Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (1988) from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. At MCA, Rooks organized "Roy Lichtenstein: Interiors," a posthumous survey focusing on Lichtenstein's late work; "War: What is it Good For," the first museum response to the Iraq war; and "H. C. Westermann," a traveling retrsopective of this highly influential but underappreciated artist. He has lectured on postwar and contemporary art at museums and university campuses in the United States, most recently at the University of Chicago's Smart Museum. In addition, Rooks has conducted public interviews with contemporary artists including Gilbert & George, Yoshitomo Nara and Art Spiegelman for audiences in Chicago and Honolulu. Besides authoring and contributing to four monographs on H. C. Westermann, most recently in a catalog published by David Zwirner Gallery, Rooks has written about the work of Roy Lichtenstein and is co-author of the exhibition catalogue "Situation Comedy: Humor in Recent Art," a group show that Rooks co-curated for Independent Curators International (iCI).

Sarah Schleuning
Curator of Decorative Arts and Design
Sarah Schleuning joined the High as Curator of Decorative Arts and Design in May 2011. Before coming to the High, Schleuning served as curator at the Wolfsonian Museum at Florida International University. In her role as curator, Schleuning has organized numerous exhibitions including "+5: Recent Acquisitions from The Wolfsonian Collection" (2010) and "Fashioning the Modern French Interior: Pochoir Portfolio from the 1920s" (2007). During her tenure at the Wolfsonian, Schleuning also held the position of fellowship coordinator, in which she managed the Wolfsonian's fellowship program and research center activities. Her published work includes the 2008 RIBA International Book Award finalist "Moderne: Fashioning the French Interior" (Princeton Architectural Press, 2008) and "Weapons of Mass Dissemination: The Propaganda of War" (2003). Schleuning received a Master of Arts degree in the history of the decorative arts from the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in conjunction with Parsons School of Design, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University. As assistant curator and curatorial fellow at Cranbrook Art Museum in Michigan, Schleuning organized several exhibitions, including "Harry Bertoia: Visualizing Sound" and "Zine Scene," and contributed to the publications "Cranbrook Art Museum: 100 Treasures" and "Three Decades of Contemporary Art: The Dr. John and Rose M. Shuey Collection."

Carol Thompson
Fred and Rita Richman Curator of African Art
Carol Thompson was appointed the High's first Fred and Rita Richman Curator of African Art in September 2001. Since her arrival at the High, she has curated " Embodying the Sacred in Yoruba Art" (2007), "African Gold from the Glassell Collection, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston" (2004), and "For this World and Beyond: African Art from the Fred and Rita Richman Collection" (2002). From 1987 to 1996, Thompson was an integral member of The Museum of African Art in New York, working in various roles from Associate Curator to Curator for Education and curating exhibitions, such as "Animals in African Art: From the Familiar to the Marvelous" (1994) and "Outside Museum Walls: African Art from New York Private Collections" (1995). Thompson has taught at New York University, Vassar College, City College in Harlem, Fashion Institute of Technology and other institutions. Thompson's in-progress dissertation at New York University studies African art as performing objects across diverse contexts both within Africa and beyond. She received her M.A. in art history with a specialization in African Art from the University of Iowa (1988) and her B.A. in art history from Hamline University in Minnesota (1980). She is the author of "African Art Portfolio: Masterpieces from the 11th to the 20th Century" (1993) and "For this World and Beyond: African Art from the Fred and Rita Richman Collection" (2002). Thompson is a Research Fellow at the Center for Public Scholarship, Emory College.