
Curatorial Biographies

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." 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 19th-century paintings. Brenneman received his Ph.D. in art history from Brown University and his B.A. in art history from the Pennsylvania State University.

Julian Cox

Curator of Photography

Julian Cox joined the High as the new Curator of Photography in June 2005. Cox came from the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles where he served as associate curator in the department of photographs. He is a co-author of the critically acclaimed publication "Julia Margaret Cameron: The Complete Photographs" (2003), the first catalogue raisonné of her work. He has also worked at the National Museum of Photography, Film & Television in Bradford, England, and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. He received a Master of Philosophy degree in the history of photography from the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, in 1990, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history from the University of Manchester, England, in 1987.

Susan Mitchell Crawley

Curator of Folk Art

Susan Mitchell Crawley joined the High in 2003. She is currently organizing a traveling retrospective exhibition of the sculpture of the Georgia wood carver Ulysses Davis. Her previous exhibitions include "Louis Monza: From Politics to Paradise" (2007), and "Southern Vernacular: Nineteenth Century Folk Art," an ongoing installation of vernacular furniture, pottery, and textiles from the High's permanent collection. She curated a 2005 exhibition of the early work of the self-taught artist Jimmy Lee Sudduth for the Montgomery Museum of Fine Art, which published Crawley's associated monograph, "The Life and Art of Jimmy Lee Sudduth." Her essay examining contextual criticism of the Alabama artist Bill Traylor, "Words and Music: Seeing Bill Traylor in Context," appears in "Sacred and Profane: Voice and Vision in Southern Self-Taught Art" (2007). She contributed the catalogue and artists' biographies to "Let it Shine: Self-Taught Art from the T. Marshall Hahn Collection" (2000) published by the High Museum of Art. Crawley received the M.A. in Art History from Georgia State University in January 2005. She attended Agnes Scott College and received the B.A., with Distinction, in Art with Emphasis in Museum Studies from Rhodes College.

Linda Dubler

Curator of Media Arts

Linda Dubler joined the High in 1985 as the Museum's first Curator of Media Arts (previously called Curator of Film and Video). Prior to joining the Museum, Dubler was the program director and festival director at IMAGE Film and Video Center, a membership based media arts center in Atlanta. Dubler received her M.F.A. from the Cinema Studies program of New York University and was the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Critics' Fellowship in 1980-81. Under her leadership, the High's film program has become a destination for lovers of foreign, independent, and classic cinema. In addition to her work developing the High's Latin American Film Festival, 100 Years of World Cinema (in coordination with the Cultural Olympiad) and other film series, Dubler has

curated two video installations as part of the High's Art at the Edge series: "Eingang" by Daniel Reeves (1989) and "Buried in Light" by Jem Cohen (1995).

Michael Harris

Consulting Curator of African American Art

Michael Harris joined the High as the first Consulting Curator of African American Art in January 2005. As a consulting curator, Harris continues his duties at Emory University as Associate Professor of Art History in the Department of African American Studies. Previously, Harris was an Associate Professor of African and African American Art History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill since 1996. In spring 2004, Harris served as a Visiting Professor of Art at Dillard University in New Orleans, and has taught at Duke University, Georgia State University, Morehouse College and Wellesley College. Harris, who has published extensively, curated the exhibition "Transatlantic Dialogue" that traveled to the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art and to the Tampa Museum of Art, and co-curated "Astonishment and Power" at the National Museum of African Art in 1993. In 1996, Harris completed a doctorate at Yale University, where he had previously received a Master of Philosophy degree in art history (1991), a Master of Arts degree in art history (1990), and a Master of Arts degree, with distinction, in African and African-American studies, and art history (1989). Additionally, he holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from Howard University (1979) and a Bachelor of Science in education from Bowling Green State University (1971).

Jeffrey Grove

The Wieland Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art

Jeffrey Grove joined the museum as the Wieland Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art in January 2005. Previously, he was Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at the Cleveland Museum of Art in Ohio. Grove has organized numerous exhibitions including the upcoming "After 1968: Contemporary Artists and the Civil Rights Legacy," and "Tim Gardner: From Life," as well as "Morris Louis Now: An American Master Revisited" (2006-2007); "Michaël Borremans: Hallucination and Reality" (2005); "Trenton Doyle Hancock" (2004); and "MetaScape: Torben Giehler Benjamin Edwards, Julie Mehretu & Yutaka Sone" (2003). Among his publications are "Michaël Borremans: Zeichnungen/Tekeningen/Drawings;" "Drawing Modern: Works on Paper from the Collection of Agnes Gund;" and "Lee Krasner: A Catalogue Raisonné." Grove received a Ph.D. in art history from Case Western Reserve University in 1999; a M.A. in art history and archaeology from the University of Missouri in 1992; and a B.F.A in industrial design from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1985.

Ronald T. Labaco

Curator of Decorative Arts

Ronald T. Labaco joined the High as Curator of Decorative Arts in February 2007. Before coming to the Museum, Labaco organized the exhibition "Eva Zeisel: My Century" (2006), presented at the International Art + Design Fair, New York, in collaboration with the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture (BGC). In his previous role as Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Labaco curated the exhibitions "Ettore Sottsass" and "Peter Shire: The Los Angeles Connection to Memphis" (both 2006); he also co-authored the exhibition catalogue "Ettore Sottsass: Architect and Designer" (2006). As former Curatorial Assistant at the BGC Exhibitions Department, he contributed to numerous exhibitions, including "Women Designers in the USA, 1900-2000: Diversity and Difference" (2000); "Le Corbusier Before Le Corbusier: Applied Arts Architecture, Painting, and Photography, 1907-1922" (2002); "Quiet Beauty: Fifty Centuries of Japanese Folk Ceramics from the Montgomery Collection" (2003) and "Marimekko: Fabric, Fashion, Architecture" (2003). Labaco received a Master of Arts degree in the history of the decorative arts, design, and culture from the BGC, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in studio art from the University of California, Berkeley.

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.