

Brooklyn Museum

Press Release

August 2017

The Brooklyn Museum Announces Two Curatorial Appointments to its Dynamic Staff and the Establishment of Two Newly Funded Curatorial Positions

The Brooklyn Museum announces two recent curatorial appointments. Ayşin Yoltar-Yıldırım joined the Museum on July 17 as the Hagop Kevorkian Associate Curator of Islamic Art and will contribute to the reinstallation of the Arts of the Middle East galleries and other projects relating to the Arts of the Islamic World collection. Ashley James began work on June 26 as the Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art and will be the Museum's curatorial lead on the upcoming exhibition *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, 1963–83*, organized by the Tate Modern, London, where it is currently on view.

Anne Pasternak, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director of the Museum, states, "The Museum is thrilled to welcome both Ayşin and Ashley to our team. These appointments reflect our commitment as an encyclopedic institution to presenting the historical past with the present. I look forward to working with both of them on advancing this mission and initiating courageous conversations with our visitors. We are particularly grateful to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for providing additional support for Ayşin's position."

The Museum is also pleased to announce the establishment of two newly funded curatorial positions: the Phillip Leonian and Edith Rosenbaum Leonian Curator of Photography and the Sills Family Consulting Curator, African Art. "We are extremely thankful to the Phillip Leonian and Edith Rosenbaum Leonian Charitable Trust,



Ayşin Yoltar-Yıldırım. Photo by Jonathan Dorado



Ashley James. Photo by Jonathan Dorado

and to the Sills Family,” says Pasternak. “The growth of our curatorial staff would not be possible without their generosity.” The search for these two positions will begin in the coming months.

About Ayşin Yoltar-Yıldırım, Hagop Kevorkian Associate Curator of Islamic Art

Ayşin Yoltar-Yıldırım comes to the Brooklyn Museum from the Harvard Art Museums, where she was the Assistant Curator of Islamic and Later Indian Art since 2013. At Harvard she worked toward the reinstallation of the new Islamic and Later Indian Art galleries, which opened in 2014, and curated the recent exhibition *A New Light on Bernard Berenson: Persian Paintings from Villa I Tatti*. She is also the editor of an upcoming book on the same subject, which will be published by Villa I Tatti. Yoltar-Yıldırım received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Earlier in her career she was a Fellow and Research Assistant at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and conducted extensive research on a variety of subjects through several fellowships and grants. Yoltar-Yıldırım has taught courses on the history of Islamic art in both the United States and her native Turkey. She is the author of a handbook on Ottoman decorative arts as well as several articles on the arts of the book and the history of Islamic collections.

About Ashley James, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art

Ashley James comes to the Brooklyn Museum from the Department of Drawings and Prints at the Museum of Modern Art, where she was a Mellon Research Consortium fellow assisting on the forthcoming Charles White and Adrian Piper retrospectives. James is a Ph.D. candidate in the Departments of African American Studies; English Literature; and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Yale University. She holds an M.A. and an M.Phil. in English Literature and an M.A. and an M.Phil. in African American Studies from Yale. At Yale she co-curated the 2014 University Art Gallery exhibition *Odd Volumes: Book Art from the Allan Chasanoff Collection*. She writes broadly on modern and contemporary literary and visual arts practices, and her dissertation reconsiders the relationship between politics, art, and blackness in the late 1960s.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution: \$16; students with valid I.D. and seniors \$10. Ages 19 and under FREE. Also FREE first Saturday of the month (except September), 5–11 pm. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling 718.501.6234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/ Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday and Friday, 11 am to 6 pm; Thursday, 11 am to 10 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm; first Saturday of each month (except September), 11 am to 11 pm. Closed Monday, Tuesday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.