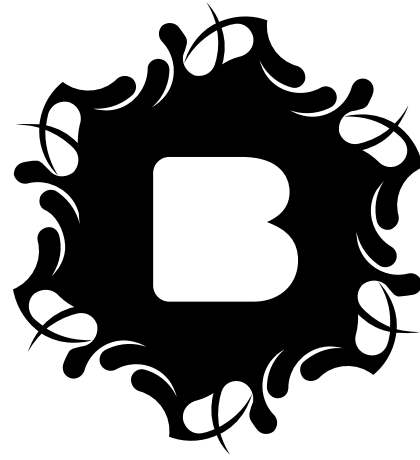


# Press Release



December 2015

## **Nancy Spector Appointed Deputy Director and Chief Curator of the Brooklyn Museum**

The Brooklyn Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of Nancy Spector as Deputy Director and Chief Curator. Spector joins the Museum after having served for more than 29 years at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. She comes to the Brooklyn Museum as the first senior staff member hired by Anne Pasternak following her recent appointment as the Museum's Shelby White and Leon Levy Director. She will succeed Kevin Stayton, who after 35 years will serve as Deputy Director and Director of Collections and History. Spector will assume her new role in April 2016.



**Nancy Spector.** Photo by Elena Olivo

"The Brooklyn Museum's past is rooted in vision, courage, and a good measure of chutzpah. With Nancy Spector as our Chief Curator, we can count on a trailblazing future that charts new territory for our Museum. We can expect Nancy to explore the important questions of the role of art and museums for the twenty-first century, shaking up old canons and proposing new ones, while sharing our love of art and artists with ever-expanding audiences," said Pasternak.

Elizabeth A. Sackler, Brooklyn Museum Board Chair and Founder of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, said, "I am thrilled to welcome Nancy Spector to the Brooklyn Museum. Nancy's expertise and vision will revive our world-class collections and inspire rich and lively temporary exhibitions to excite the communities we serve. Her exceptional intelligence will support our extensive educational and public programming."

## **Brooklyn Museum**

200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238-6052  
T (718) 638-5000 F (718) 501-6134  
[www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)

## About Nancy Spector

A preeminent authority on contemporary visual culture, Nancy Spector has served as Deputy Director and Jennifer and David Stockman Chief Curator of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, where she has demonstrated a profound commitment to the art of our time and promoted an ethos of radical innovation in the context of exhibitions and public programs. Her numerous award-winning exhibitions include *Felix Gonzalez-Torres*, Matthew Barney's *Cremaster* cycle, *Richard Prince: Spiritual America*, *Louise Bourgeois*, *Marina Abramović: Seven Easy Pieces*, *Tino Sehgal*, and *Maurizio Cattelan: All*. She also organized the group exhibitions *Moving Pictures; Singular Forms (Sometimes Repeated)*; and *theanyspacewhatever*. Her exhibition on the work of Peter Fischli and David Weiss (co-organized with Nat Trotman) will open at the Guggenheim on February 5, 2016.

During her tenure at the Guggenheim, Spector has been heralded for her outstanding accomplishments including developing an ambitious collections strategy for the museum and spearheading the creation of four acquisition committees. Spector has shaped the Guggenheim's exhibition calendars in New York as well as its affiliate museums including Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, and the former Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin.

Her distinguished career includes conceiving the biennial Hugo Boss Prize for excellence in contemporary art in 1996 and serving as Adjunct Curator of the 1997 Venice Biennale. She was a co-organizer of the first Berlin Biennial in 1998 (along with Klaus Biesenbach and Hans Ulrich Obrist) and in 2007 was the U.S. Commissioner for the Venice Biennale, where she presented the exhibition *Felix Gonzalez-Torres: America*. Under the auspices of the Deutsche Guggenheim, she initiated special commissions by Andreas Slominski, Hiroshi Sugimoto, and Lawrence Weiner as well as an exhibition devoted to the work of Joseph Beuys and Matthew Barney. Spector is a recipient of the Peter Norton Family Foundation Curators Award, five International Art Critics Awards for exhibitions, and a Disruptive Innovation Award from Tribeca Film Festival for *YouTube Play: A Biennial of Creative Video*. In 2014, she was included in the 40 Women to Watch Over 40 list.

Spector is the author of numerous scholarly books, catalogue essays, and editorials. She received a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College, an M.A. in art history from the Clark Art Institute at Williams College, and an M.Phil. in art history from City University of New York. She is a long-time Brooklyn resident.

Spector commented, "I am excited about joining the Brooklyn Museum at this significant juncture in its history and working with Anne Pasternak and the curatorial team to redefine the role of an encyclopedic collection in the twenty-first century. I am impressed by the institution's deep roots in the local community, and I hope to add to the Museum's vitality and relevance by expanding its scope to include more international audiences both on-site and online. I look forward to engaging with the Brooklyn Museum as a place of both scholarship and experimentation."

The Museum's leadership will further expand with the appointment of Kevin Stayton as Deputy Director and the Museum's first Director of Collections and History. Since Stayton joined the Brooklyn Museum in 1980, he has held a number of positions, including Chair of the Department of Decorative Arts, and has steadily risen in various positions of curatorial leadership, becoming Chief Curator in 2001. Considered one of the leading scholars in the field of Decorative Arts, Stayton is a graduate of Ohio State University and was awarded an M.A. in art history and an M. Phil. from Yale University, where he was a research and exhibitions assistant at the Yale University Art Gallery.

Stayton's accomplished career includes the reinstallation of the Nicholas Schenck and Abraham Harrison period rooms in 1983 and co-curation of the exhibitions *Converging Cultures: Art and Identity in Spanish America* (1996) and *Vital Forms: American Art and Design in the Atomic Age, 1940–1960* (2001). He has contributed catalogue essays and authored scholarly articles, and is the author of *Dutch by Design: Tradition and Change in Two Historic Brooklyn Houses*. Most recently, he edited *Collecting for the Future: A Decade of Acquisition Highlights* (2012) and *Brooklyn Museum Highlights* (2014).

Stayton shared, "I am looking forward to digging out the stories buried in the Museum's storerooms and archives and sharing the fascinating history of this institution." Pasternak added, "With artworks spanning more than five thousand years of history, it is imperative that we find ways to connect our collection to global audiences. Working with Nancy Spector and all of our curators, Kevin Stayton will assume a new position of leadership, one that strengthens our collections and allows the Museum to share works with wider publics in various new media forums."

## About the Brooklyn Museum

The Brooklyn Museum has long been at the forefront of engagement with underserved and younger audiences, from its widely popular *Target First Saturdays* program and creative reinstallations of its permanent collection, to its pioneering online presence and inventive use of technology in reimagining the visitor experience. A driving force behind the massive growth and energy of the Borough of Brooklyn and of its diverse cultural community, the Brooklyn Museum welcomes half a million visitors annually who represent one of New York's most diverse museum-going audiences.

With roots dating back to 1823, the Brooklyn Museum is one of the oldest and largest in the U.S., with a collection representing nearly every culture, ranging from some of the most important ancient Egyptian works in the nation, to the arts of the Pacific Islands, Asia, Africa, and the Islamic world, to American and European art, and international contemporary works. The Brooklyn Museum is home to the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, the only facility of its kind in the country.

The Museum has developed a broadly based schedule of special exhibitions. The fall 2015 season includes *Impressionism and the Caribbean: Francisco Oller and His Transatlantic World*; *Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland, 1861–2008*; *Stephen Powers: Coney Island Is Still Dreamland (To a Seagull)*; and *Agitprop!* The Museum reaches audiences across the country and internationally with a robust schedule of traveling exhibitions, including current tours of *Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic*; *Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe*; and *French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850–1950*, which features works from the Museum's renowned European collection.

### Press Contact:

Fatima Kafele, Public Information Officer, (718) 638-6331, [fatima.kafele@brooklynmuseum.org](mailto:fatima.kafele@brooklynmuseum.org)