

Phoenix Art Museum

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Phoenix Art Museum Names Gilbert Vicario As Chief Curator

National Search Completed; A New Decade Begins October 2015



PHOENIX (August 19, 2015) — Phoenix Art Museum is proud to announce Gilbert Vicario as The Selig Family Chief Curator, the first position of its type in over a decade. Vicario is currently the division head for curatorial affairs at the Des Moines Art Center and will begin at Phoenix Art Museum on October 12, 2015.

Vicario has extensive international experience working with artists and organizing exhibitions that present artwork from around the globe. A recent example is *Made in Mexico*, an exhibition that traveled to the UCLA Hammer Museum and included artists from Mexico, Japan, Germany and Palestine. Among his extensive exhibition list, *Field, Road, Cloud: Art and Africa*, paired contemporary art with the Des Moines Art Center's collection of African artifacts. Vicario's interest in exploring ideas that show links between historical works and contemporary art is particularly appropriate for a general museum like the Phoenix Art Museum with its varied collections.

"With his experience working in major encyclopedic museums, his vigorous international exhibition history, and his interest in Latin American and Latino Art, Gilbert is the perfect person to lead the Museum's curatorial staff as it expands its exhibition program. We are thrilled to have him as part of the team."

During his tenure at Des Moines Art Center, Vicario was instrumental in expanding the Center's largely European and American collection with the additions of artworks by British artist Phyllida Barlow, Icelandic performance artist Ragnar Kjartansson, Mexican photographer, videographer and performance artist Teresa Margolles, and contemporary Asian artist Ai Weiwei.

Upon completing his masters in curatorial studies at Bard College, Vicario got his start at the Philadelphia Museum of Art where he established his passion for organizing exhibitions. He subsequently worked at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where he co-organized *Constructing a Poetic Universe: Contemporary Latin American Art from the Diane and Bruce Halle Collection*, one of the first exhibitions highlighting the Halle's art collection.

"I'm honored to begin leading the curatorial team at Phoenix Art Museum," said Gilbert Vicario. "My goal is to bring art from all corners of the world to the people in Phoenix because this is what I believe an institution should offer its community—a place to see what the rest of world is doing."

Vicario is from San Diego and is bilingual in Spanish and English. He has served as a juror and advisor for numerous organizations such as Creative Capital Summer Artist's Retreat at Williams College, The Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation in Miami and The Pew Foundation's Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative, Philadelphia. In 2006, he was appointed the U.S. Commissioner for the 2006 International Biennale of Cairo, for which he organized the exhibition *Daniel Joseph Martinez: The fully enlightened earth radiates disaster triumphant*.

About Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for more than 50 years and is the largest art museum in the Southwestern United States. Top national and international exhibitions are shown alongside the museum's collection of more than 18,000 objects of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, photography and fashion design. The museum hosts photography exhibitions through its landmark partnership with The University of Arizona's Center for Creative Photography in Tucson. Visitors can also enjoy the PhxArtKids gallery, the Dorrance Sculpture Garden, the Thorne Miniature Rooms of historic interiors, and a collection of works by renowned Arizona artist Philip C. Curtis. For additional information about Phoenix Art Museum please visit phxart.org or call 602-257-1880.

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