

WHITNEY

PRESS RELEASE

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Marcela Guerrero. Photograph by Javier Romero



Rujeko Hockley. Photograph by Scott Rudd

WHITNEY ANNOUNCES TWO CURATORIAL PROMOTIONS

Marcela Guerrero and Rujeko Hockley appointed to newly endowed positions

NEW YORK, May 20, 2021 – The Whitney Museum of American Art announced today that assistant curators Marcela Guerrero and Rujeko Hockley have been promoted to newly endowed positions. Guerrero has been appointed the Jennifer Rubio Associate Curator and Rujeko Hockley will assume the role of Arnhold Associate Curator, both effective July 1.

“Since joining the Whitney in 2017, both Marcela and Ru have continued to distinguish themselves as leaders in the field, particularly through their passionate and scholarly advocacy on behalf of living artists,” said Scott Rothkopf, Senior Deputy Director and Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator. “Marcela has entirely reshaped the Whitney’s engagement with Latinx art and artists, in both our program and collection, while Ru has curated some of our most groundbreaking and memorable recent exhibitions. The Whitney is proud to continue our support of their curatorial visions and the artists they champion in these distinguished new positions.”

Rothkopf continued, “We’re also immensely grateful to two of our newest Trustees Paul Arnhold and Jennifer Rubio for their generous support of the Whitney’s staff and their belief in the next generation of the Museum’s curatorial talent. It’s an honor to have their names associated with these positions, and we’re especially thrilled that Marcela and Ru will inaugurate them.”

"I am humbled and honored to receive this promotion," said Guerrero. "With this new title, I feel empowered to continue working hard to bring awareness of Latinx art nationally and globally. It's also not lost on me that this promotion wouldn't be possible had it not been for the trailblazing work of women on whose shoulders I stand. Likewise, I am proud to carry the name of Jennifer Rubio in my title, a woman of color changing the face of philanthropy."

Hockley said, "I am thrilled to continue the work I have been doing throughout my career and at the Whitney since my arrival here. None of it is possible without the investment and encouragement of the institution and our trustees, and so I am especially grateful for this recognition and support. I look forward to continued collaboration with artists, audiences, and my colleagues and am immensely proud of all we have created together thus far.

The Whitney also announced that Rubio and her husband, Stewart Butterfield, have endowed the new position of Rubio Butterfield Family Fellow. This fellowship in the Whitney's Curatorial Department will support promising curators and art historians at a pivotal early moment in their careers.

About the Curators

Marcela Guerrero came to the Whitney from the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles where she worked as a Curatorial Fellow from 2014 to 2017. At the Hammer, she was involved in the much-lauded exhibition *Radical Women: Latin American Art, 1960-1985*, organized as part of the Getty Foundation's Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative, and guest-curated by Cecilia Fajardo-Hill and Andrea Giunta. Prior to joining the Hammer, she worked in the Latin American and Latino art department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where she served as Research Coordinator for the International Center for the Arts of the Americas. In her current role as assistant curator at the Whitney, Guerrero has organized important exhibitions and worked to foreground the contributions of Latinx artists in the U.S. and increase the presence of their works in the Whitney's collection. She was part of the curatorial team that organized *Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, 1925-1945*. She also curated the exhibition *Pacha, Llaqta, Wasichay: Indigenous Space, Modern Architecture*, a show featuring the work of seven emerging Latinx artists. Guerrero is co-chair of the Whitney's Emerging Artist Working Group and is currently organizing *Martine Gutierrez*, a public art installation that will be displayed on the facade of 95 Horatio Street. She has been instrumental in the Whitney's recent Spanish language initiatives both digitally and on-site. Guerrero's writing has appeared in exhibition catalogues and in art journals such as *caa.reviews*, *ArtNexus*, *Caribbean Intransit: The Arts Journal*, *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Arts*, *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, and *Diálogo*. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Guerrero holds a Ph.D. in art history from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Rujeko Hockley was previously assistant curator of contemporary art at the Brooklyn Museum, where she co-curated *Crossing Brooklyn: Art from Bushwick, Bed-Stuy, and Beyond* (2014) and was involved in exhibitions highlighting the permanent collection as well as artists LaToya Ruby Frazier, The Bruce High Quality Foundation, Kara Walker, Kehinde Wiley, and others. She is the co-curator of *We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965-85* (2017), which originated at the Brooklyn Museum and traveled to three additional U.S. venues in 2017-18. Since joining the Whitney four years ago, Hockley has worked on a range of exhibitions, including *Julie Mehretu*, the artist's acclaimed mid-career survey currently on view at the Museum. She also co-curated the 2019 Whitney Biennial with Jane Panetta, director of the Whitney's collection; and *Toyin Ojih Odutola: To Wander Determined* (2017) with Melinda Lang, curatorial assistant. In 2017, she was also part of the team that organized *An Incomplete History of Protest: Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1940-2017*. Hockley is currently co-organizing the Whitney's presentation of *Jennifer Packer: The Eye Is Not Satisfied with Seeing* with Jane Panetta. Her writing has appeared in exhibition catalogues and in publications such as *Aperture*, *BOMB*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and *New York Magazine*. She has given

numerous lectures and served on many juries, including, most recently, Duke University's Franklin Humanities Institute Social Practice Lab, the Harvard Radcliffe Institute Fellowship, the Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship, and the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. Hockley serves on the board of Art Matters, as well as the advisory board of Recess. She holds a BA in art history from Columbia University and is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California San Diego.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

The Whitney's Collection: Selections from 1900 to 1965	Through May 2022
Making Knowing: Craft in Art 1950–2019	Through February 2022
Andrea Carlson: Red Exit	Through Fall 2021
Julie Mehretu	Through August 8, 2021
Madeline Hollander: Flatwing	Through August 8, 2021
Dawoud Bey: An American Project	Through October 3, 2021
Public Art Project: David Hammons: Day's End	May 2021
Dave McKenzie: The Story I Tell Myself	Opens May 1, 2021
Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror	September 29, 2021–February 13, 2022
Martine Gutierrez	On view September 2021
Jennifer Packer	Opens Fall 2021
My Barbarian	Opens October 22, 2021
2022 Whitney Biennial	Opens Spring 2022

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Adults: \$25. Full-time students, visitors 65 & over, and visitors with disabilities: \$18. Visitors 18 years & under and Whitney members: FREE. Current public hours 10:30 am – 6 pm Thursday through Monday; with members-only hours on Monday from 5 – 6 pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30 – 11:30 am. Pay-what-you-wish admission will be offered on Thursdays from 1:30 – 6 pm. Reserve timed-entry tickets in advance at whitney.org. For more information please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

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