

WHITNEY

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PRESS RELEASE



THE WHITNEY ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF KIM CONATY AS CURATOR

NEW YORK, NY, June 1, 2017 – The Whitney Museum of American Art is pleased to announce that Kim Conaty will be joining the curatorial department as Steven and Ann Ames Curator of Drawings and Prints. Currently serving as Curator at the Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Conaty will begin working at the Whitney in mid-July.

Scott Rothkopf, the Whitney's Deputy Director for Programs and Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator, noted: "Since our opening downtown, the Whitney's deep and distinguished holdings of drawings and prints have played an unusually central role in our collection displays, both enlivening and challenging traditional narratives of American art history. In so many ways, Kim is a natural fit for the Whitney and the perfect curator to take this work forward. Her commitment to living artists is matched by a wealth of scholarship; her expertise in works on paper is informed by inventive multidisciplinary thinking; and her passion for collection stewardship is complemented by a deep regard for museum audiences. Kim will occupy a key position on the curatorial team, focusing on the growth, care, and display of our holdings of drawings and prints, while contributing to our program more broadly."

As Curator at the Rose Art Museum, Conaty has overseen the museum's renowned permanent collection of modern and contemporary art and leads the curatorial program of special exhibitions, collection installations, and related programming. There she has curated several exhibitions on contemporary artists including *Sharon Lockhart / Noa Eshkol* (2016), *David Shrigley: Life Model II* (2016), *Tommy Hartung: King Solomon's Mines* (2017), and, in October, she will co-present (with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo) the first U.S. solo museum exhibition of Joe Bradley. While at the Rose, Conaty also collaborated with Art + Practice, Los Angeles, in the presentation of *Fred Eversley: Black, White, Gray* (2016–17), a focused examination of the artist's critically important monochromatic sculptures of the 1970s, which opened at A+P and traveled to the Rose. Several of Conaty's projects at the Rose have been inspired by the field of prints and drawings, from Shrigley's participatory *Life Model II*, which transformed the galleries into a life drawing studio, to *Rose Video 10: Ana Mendieta* (2017), pairing a haunting set of the artist's "body tracks" drawings from the Rose collection with a contemporaneous performance film. Collection stewardship has been of paramount importance

to Conaty's work at the Rose, highlighted in her current exhibition *Collection at Work* (2017), which turns one of the museum's galleries into a publicly accessible active work space for cataloguing, digitization, and conservation initiatives.

"I'm excited to return to the Whitney, an institution for which I have the deepest respect and admiration," said Conaty. "Following a tremendous period of growth, the museum has broken new ground in its exhibition program while also making a decisive commitment to the care, research, and presentation of its collection. I look forward to collaborating with the museum's exceptional team, and to developing future projects and research initiatives that will highlight the richness and diversity of its extraordinary collection of drawings and prints."

Between 2008 and 2015, Conaty served as the Sue and Eugene Mercy, Jr., Assistant Curator in the Department of Drawings and Prints at The Museum of Modern Art, New York. There she curated the exhibition *Abstract Generation: Now in Print* (2013) and co-organized *Print/Out* (2012), both of which proposed a new range of approaches to contemporary print practice. At MoMA, she also collaborated on several exhibitions of postwar and contemporary art, such as *Marcel Broodthaers: Retrospective* (2016), *Contemporary Art from the Collection* (2010), *Fluxus Preview* (2009), and *In & Out of Amsterdam: Travels in Conceptual Art, 1960-1976* (2009), among others. In addition to growing the collection with acquisitions of works by artists including Sarah Crouner, Janice Kerbel, Daniel Joseph Martinez, Justin Matherly, and William Pope.L, Conaty led a project team dedicated to MoMA's Gilbert and Lila Silverman Fluxus Collection, comprising some 8,000 works across multiple mediums. She was also an active member of the cross-departmental research initiative C-MAP (Contemporary and Modern Art Perspectives in a Global Context) as part of a group that studies experimental practices in the former Eastern Europe, and serves as an adviser for the group's forthcoming anthology on art and theory post-1989 in Central and Eastern Europe.

Prior to MoMA, Conaty served as Biennial Coordinator for the 2008 Whitney Biennial, following previous posts as a curatorial intern and researcher at the Whitney on the exhibitions *Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe* and *Picasso and American Art*. She has also held positions at the Clark Art Institute; the Grey Art Gallery, N.Y.U.; the Guggenheim Museum; and the Harvard University Art Museums, where she organized an exhibition on Marcel Breuer's bent-plywood furniture from the 1930s. A frequent instructor on modern and contemporary art for MoMA Courses and contributor to several publications at MoMA, Conaty has authored texts for, among others, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, and the Whitney, and has published and lectured on a variety of topics, including Wallace Berman, Wade Guyton, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, George Maciunas, artists' posters, and *Avalanche* magazine, the subject of her Ph.D. dissertation. The recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship to Germany in 2003 and a Clark Art Institute Summer Fellowship in 2014, Conaty earned her B.A. from Middlebury College, M.A. from Williams College, and Ph.D. from N.Y.U.'s Institute of Fine Arts.

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

<i>Where We Are: Selections from the Whitney's Collection</i>	Ongoing
<i>Whitney Biennial 2017</i>	Through June 11, 2017
<i>Calder: Hypermobility</i>	June 9–October 23, 2017
<i>Bunny Rogers: Brig Und Ladder</i>	Opens July 7, 2017
<i>Willa Nasatir</i>	July 14–October 1, 2017
<i>Hélio Oiticica: To Organize Delirium</i>	July 14–October 1, 2017
<i>Jimmie Durham: At the Center of the World</i>	November 3, 2017–January 28, 2018
<i>Laura Owens</i>	November 2017–February 2018
<i>David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night</i>	Summer 2018

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Museum hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm; Friday and Saturday from 10:30 am to 10 pm. Closed Tuesday. Adults: \$22 in advance via whitney.org; \$25 day of visit. Full-time students and visitors 65 & over: \$17 in advance via whitney.org; \$18 day of visit. Visitors 18 years & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.