

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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PRESS RELEASE



The Whitney Appoints Christopher Y. Lew as Associate Curator

NEW YORK, July 9, 2014 – The Whitney Museum of American Art has announced the appointment of Christopher Y. Lew as associate curator. Mr. Lew will begin working at the Museum this summer.

Mr. Lew comes to the Whitney from MoMA PS 1, where he has held the position of assistant curator since January 2011; he began there as a curatorial assistant in January 2006 and was manager of curatorial affairs from October 2007 to January 2011. At MoMA PS 1, he introduced many emerging artists to museum audiences, especially through group shows such as *New Pictures of Common Objects* (2012) and *Taster's Choice* (2014). Among the many notable solo shows he curated there are *Clifford*

Owens: *Anthology*, *GCC: Achievements in Retrospective* (currently on view), and *Jack Smith: Normal Love* (recipient of a 2013 AICA award).

Donna De Salvo, the Whitney's Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Programs, remarked: "We are delighted to welcome Chris Lew as we prepare to move to our new home downtown in the spring of 2015. His close relationship to artists locally and across the US, paired with his strong international perspective, will be a great asset to the Museum and its audiences at this important transformative moment for the Whitney."

Other exhibitions curated by Mr. Lew at MoMA PS 1 include *James Ferraro: 100%* (2014), *Gavin Kenyon: Reliquary Void* (2014), *CONFETTISYSTEM: 100 Arrangements* (2013), *Zackary Drucker: At Least You Know You Exist* (2012), *Darren Bader: Images* (co-organized by Peter Eleey) (2012), *Chim↑Pom* (2011), *Surasi Kusolwong* (2011), and *Nancy Grossman: Heads* (co-organized by Klaus Biesenbach) (2011).

Scott Rothkopf, the Whitney's Nancy and Steve Crown Family Curator and Associate Director of Programs, commented: "Since its founding, the Whitney has played a crucial role in galvanizing the conversation around new artists and challenging ideas. Chris's adventurous and discerning eye has established him as a leading advocate of emerging artists, and we look forward to his contributions to the Whitney's contemporary program."

Mr. Lew served as visiting curator at the Maryland Institute College of Art, Rinehart School of Sculpture, 2013. He has appeared on panels such as *Curating Performance: The New Wave*, NY Live Arts, 2013, and *Greater New York 2010 Artists Present*, MoMA, 2010 (moderator). Prior to joining MoMA PS 1, he held positions at *Art AsiaPacific* magazine and Aperture Foundation. He has a B.A. from New York University (2003).

Mr. Lew commented: "The Whitney is enjoying an exciting time of growth and I am thrilled and honored to join the museum as it prepares to return downtown. I look forward to being part of such a renowned institution, to working with the Whitney's esteemed staff, and to continuing to engage with artists who have helped to shape and define art in the United States and beyond."

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Focusing particularly on works by living artists, the Whitney is celebrated for presenting important exhibitions and for its renowned collection, which comprises over 20,000 works by more than 3,000 artists. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and, in 1966, inaugurated its present home, designed by Marcel Breuer, at 945 Madison Avenue on the Upper

East Side. While its vibrant program of exhibitions and events continues uptown, the Whitney is constructing a new building, designed by Renzo Piano, in downtown Manhattan. Located at the corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, at the southern entrance to the High Line, the new building, which has generated immense momentum and support, will enable the Whitney to vastly increase the size and scope of its exhibition and programming space. Ground was broken on the new building in May 2011, and it is projected to open to the public in spring 2015.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

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| <i>Jeff Koons: A Retrospective</i> | Through-October 19, 2014 |
| <i>Shaping a Collection: Five Decades of Gifts</i> | July 17-October 19, 2014 |
| <i>Edward Hopper and Photography</i> | July 17-October 19, 2014 |
| <i>Collecting Calder</i> | July 17-October 19, 2014 |

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission: \$20. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$16. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.