



1606 PASEO DE PERALTA SANTA FE NM 87501 505 989 1199 FAX 989 1188 WWW.SITESANTAFE.ORG

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Contact: Anne Wrinkle
Tel: 505.989.1199 x 22 / Fax: 505.989.1188
Email: wrinkle@sitesantafe.org

**SITE SANTA FE NAMES
LAURA STEWARD HEON
AS NEW DIRECTOR**

Santa Fe, NM—SITE Santa Fe announces the appointment of Laura Steward Heon as its new director and curator. Currently, Ms. Heon is curator at MASS MoCA (the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams). Ms. Heon has worked there since 1998, one year before its opening in 1999. Her appointment by SITE Santa Fe's Board of Directors is effective April 15, 2005. Ms. Heon will move to Santa Fe in early June with her husband John, a novelist and poet who is currently completing a PhD in English at the University of Pennsylvania, and their young daughter, Stella. The appointment was announced today by Marlene Nathan Meyerson, President of SITE Santa Fe's Board of Directors.

Ms. Meyerson stated, "SITE Santa Fe is extremely pleased to have found such extraordinary talent in Laura Heon. She has extensive curatorial, teaching, and publishing experience, all of which will be valuable to the institution as we celebrate our tenth anniversary this year and plan for the future. I am confident that Laura will maintain SITE Santa Fe's legacy of presenting ground-breaking exhibitions and provocative programs, while lending her own thoughtful touch and careful eye. We look forward to welcoming her and her family to Santa Fe this summer."

On her appointment, Ms. Heon remarked, "I am delighted and honored to join the great staff and board of SITE Santa Fe and build on the tradition of innovative shows for which the museum is known. SITE Santa Fe and MASS MoCA have much in common – locations in thriving cultural centers, dynamic exhibition programs, and an emphasis on collaboration – but of course there are also critical and interesting differences. SITE Santa Fe's influential Biennial exhibition and outstanding educational programs in particular are unique, and I am thrilled to be a part of it all."

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With 105,000 SF of exhibition space, 50,000 SF of performing arts venues and 30,000 SF of fabrication and rehearsal facilities, MASS MoCA is one of the world's largest centers for contemporary visual and performing arts. Ms. Heon has organized many of the exhibitions presented by MASS MoCA since its inception, and written most of its catalogues. She has curated exhibitions including *Billboard: Art on the Road* (a retrospective of 25 artists' billboards from the last 30 years (1999); *Unnatural Science* (2000) with thirteen artists including Janine Antoni, Lim Young-Sun, Kiki Smith, and Matthew Ritchie; *Uncommon Denominator: New Art from Vienna* (2002); *Game Show* (2001);. She has co-organized *Mona Hatoum: Domestic Disturbance* (2001) with SITE Santa Fe, and *Proposition Player* (2004) with Houston CAM; and *Yankee Remix: Artists Take on New England* (2003) with Historic New England, featuring nine artists including Martin Kersels, Zoe Leonard, Manfred Pernice, Huang Yong Ping, and Lorna Simpson. She has coordinated many commissions, including *Cai Guo-Qiang: Inopportune* (2004); and *Ann Hamilton: corpus* (2003).

In addition to her curatorial work, she oversaw an internship program at MASS MoCA that has trained dozens of young curators, who work at great museums across the country. Ms. Heon fills her schedule with lectures, teaching, and writing, all of which she considers major facets of her curatorial practice. This semester she is teaching a Minimalism seminar at Bennington College.

A graduate of Harvard College and the Williams/Clark Graduate Program in the History of Art, before coming to MASS MoCA Heon worked in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Her exhibitions have received several important awards, including an International Association of Art Critics Award (AICA) prize for installation for *Ann Hamilton: corpus*.

Originally from Sherwood, Arkansas, Ms. Heon and her family will settle in Santa Fe in early June.

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SITE Santa Fe

As the premier contemporary arts venue in the Southwest, SITE Santa Fe is an important resource for both local and global arts audiences. Its international biennial exhibitions are attended by enthusiastic crowds from all over the world, while the year-round exhibitions, public programming, events, and education and outreach activities make outstanding contributions to Santa Fe's thriving arts scene. The Fifth International Biennial, held in the summer of 2004, was curated by prominent American curator Robert Storr, formerly of the Museum of Modern Art. Storr's biennial exhibition garnered great praise both from the critics as well as the public, and continues to reinforce SITE Santa Fe's status as a top-flight, world-class contemporary art institution.

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