Exhibition Biographies

Christoph Heinrich
Frederick and Jan Mayer Director, Denver Art Museum

Christoph Heinrich was named the Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the Denver Art Museum (DAM) in 2010, after serving the museum for two years as curator of modern and contemporary art. Since assuming the leadership role at DAM, Heinrich has encouraged live interactions with artists and enhanced opportunities for visitor creativity throughout the museum, including presiding over notable exhibitions including Yves Saint Laurent: The Retrospective, Becoming Van Gogh, Marvelous Mud, Spun and Brilliant: Cartier in the 20th Century.

Heinrich curated the 2009 exhibition Embrace!, which challenged contemporary artists from around the world to create installations inspired by the unique architecture of the museum’s Frederic C. Hamilton Building.

Before joining the DAM, Heinrich was at the Hamburg Kunsthalle where, during his 12-year tenure, he organized more than 50 exhibitions. Born in Frankfurt/Main, Heinrich attended the Universität Wien in Vienna, where he studied Art History, German Literature and Dramatics. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. at the Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität in Munich. A knowledgeable art historian, his publications range from contemporary public sculpture to 19th and 20th century painters such as Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, Francis Bacon, Andy Warhol and Daniel Richter.

Angelica Daneo
Associate Curator of Painting and Sculpture, Denver Art Museum

A native Italian, Angelica Daneo brings her expertise and love of art to the Denver Art Museum (DAM) as the associate curator in painting and sculpture. Among other projects, Daneo curated Court to Café: Three Centuries of French Masterworks from the Wadsworth Atheneum and Drawing Room: An Intimate Look at French Drawings from the Esmond Bradley Martin Collection (2013); Cities of Splendor: a Journey Through Renaissance Italy (2011) and Landscapes from the Age of Impressionism (2008). She is the local curator for In Bloom: Painting Flowers in the Age of Impressionism (2015). Daneo is the author of The Kress Collection at the Denver Art Museum (2011), and the Companion to European Painting before 1800 (2013).

Prior to working at the DAM, Daneo conducted research in the early European art department of the Saint Louis Art Museum. In this position...
she assisted the curator in organizing the international exhibition Orazio and Artemisia Gentileschi: Father and Daughter Painters in Baroque Italy, as well as the symposium Artemisia Gentileschi: Taking Stock. Before her time in St. Louis, Daneo worked at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., organizing the photographic art archives of the National Air and Space Museum, and installing exhibitions at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Daneo speaks fluent Italian, English and French, and has taught courses at the University of Denver and at the Saint Louis University. She graduated summa cum laude in the Humanities with a specialization in History of Art Criticism at the University of Turin in Italy.

**Melora McDermott-Lewis**  
Chief Learning and Engagement Officer, Denver Art Museum

Since joining the Denver Art Museum in 1986, Melora McDermott-Lewis has worn a variety of hats, heading up major interpretive grants, overseeing family programs, serving as the Master Teacher for Painting and Sculpture, and most recently, taking on the role of chief learning and engagement officer. In these roles, McDermott-Lewis has been instrumental in establishing the museum's reputation for being one of the most family-friendly art museums in the country and leading the field in developing innovative installations for all ages.

McDermott-Lewis has been featured as a speaker nationally and internationally, presenting on "Learning in Art Museums" at the Louvre, keynoting at the National Art Education Association’s Museum Education Symposium as well as speaking at numerous other national conferences. She was the project director for such publications as “Family Programs at the Denver Art Museum” and “New Angles in Interpretation.” Her research on art novices is frequently cited in museum education publications.

Prior to working at the Denver Art Museum, McDermott-Lewis taught and developed educational materials at the Oakland Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. McDermott-Lewis was a student of art history at Harvard and Boston Universities, and she received her B.A. in European History from Princeton University. She obtained her M.A. from the John F. Kennedy University Center for Museum Studies in museum studies/education.

**Molly Medakovich**  
Experience and Interpretation Specialist, Denver Art Museum

Molly Medakovich is the experience and interpretation specialist in the learning and engagement department for the western American and European and American art collections at the Denver Art Museum. Her role at the museum centers on fostering engaging visitor experiences through the development of gallery activities and family games, docent training and gallery teaching. She served as an educator for the traveling exhibition Georgia O’Keeffe in New Mexico: Architecture, Katsinam, and the Land, Passport to Paris and In Bloom: Painting Flowers in the Age of Impressionism, among others.

Molly earned her Ph.D. in 18th- and 19th-century French art history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has taught college art history courses for the past decade at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Denver and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.
Dawn Spencer Hurwitz
Perfumer and Olfactory Artist, Parfums des Beaux Art, LLC

Dawn Spencer Hurwitz (DSH) is a true underground force in niche perfumery and olfactory artform. DSH has been working with aromatics for the past 24 years and is a pioneer of the American indie perfumery movement. She has developed many innovative concept perfumes and worked with top designers to consult and create exclusive perfumes.

Beginning her career as a painter, DSH transitioned to perfumery in 1991. DSH developed her talent for creating perfumes based on fine art principles, and since the early ‘90s, began developing her innovative lines of ready-to-wear artisan perfumes under her own label, DSH Perfumes. Her innovations in perfumery also have included the launch of DAWN Perfumes at Isetan and Barneys in New York and Tokyo in collaboration with Japanese design partners, Undulate Labs.

As an olfactory artist, DSH has had multiple one-person and group shows of her multi-sensory art (paintings and aromas) in Boulder, CO and was a finalist for the 2015 Art and Olfaction Awards Sadakichi award for her experimental collection “CHROMA”, a synesthetic / fragrance of colors project. The Giverny In Bloom scent experience and the subsequent perfume collection of the same name is her eighth collaboration with Denver Art Museum. All of her creations are available online at dshperfumes.com as well as at select retail outlets and Dawn’s own Essense Studio in Boulder, Colorado, where she is based.

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