Dean Sobel was appointed director of the Clyfford Still Museum in February of 2005. A specialist in 20th century art, Sobel spearheaded the effort to create a permanent home for the Clyfford Still and Patricia Still estates, which encompass approximately 2,400 works of art by Still that were donated to the City of Denver in 2004 and 2005. Under Sobel’s leadership, the Clyfford Still Museum has raised approximately $32 million to date in support of its new building, operations and endowment.

Sobel was director of the Aspen Art Museum (AAM), where he also acted as chief management officer and artistic director during his 5-year tenure. While there, he led the institution through its accreditation process and developed museum goals and programs for its 25th anniversary. Additionally, he organized Thomas Demand’s first traveling exhibition as well as one-person exhibitions of Robert Mangold, Ilya Kabakov, John Currin, Elizabeth Peyton and Olafur Eliasson, and the group exhibition Warhol/Koons/Hirst: Cult and Culture.

Prior to the AAM, from 1995 through 2000, Sobel was chief curator and curator of contemporary art at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Some of his highlighted curation projects at Milwaukee include retrospectives on the work of Vito Acconci and Jackie Winsor; single-artist projects with Louise Bourgeois, Ed Ruscha, Terry Winters, Cindy Sherman, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Damien Hirst and Stan Douglas; and the group shows From Figure to Floor: Sculpture in the 20th Century, Abstract Expressionism: Works on Paper from the Milwaukee Art Museum and 25 Americans: Painting in the 90s. Sobel also played an integral role in the architectural program for the museum’s $120-million capital expansion, designed by Santiago Calatrava, which opened in 2001. Over the course of his career, Sobel has organized over 60 exhibitions of international contemporary art, including dozens of one-artist retrospectives and projects. He is also the author of One Hour Ahead: The Avant-Garde in Aspen, 1945-2004, which was published in 2004.
Christoph Heinrich was named the Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the Denver Art Museum 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 and Spun.

His exhibition Embrace! 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 MA and PhD 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.

In December of 2012, Stefania Van Dyke joined the Denver Art Museum as master teacher for textile art and special projects. Stefania is serving as lead educator on the Modern Masters exhibition team, working closely with the curator on the interpretive elements of the show and with education staff on related public programming.

Prior to the DAM, Stefania worked most recently as museum studies and practice editor at Left Coast Press, Inc. and as deputy director for Learning at Vizcaya Museum & Gardens in Miami. She has also worked in the education departments of the Brooklyn Museum, the Morgan Library and Museum and the Jewish Museum in New York, as well as the David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. She has an MA in Art History and an MS.Ed. in Museum Education.

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