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CHRISTOPH HEINRICH, FREDERICK AND JAN MAYER DIRECTOR, DENVER ART MUSEUM



Since his tenure as the Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the Denver Art Museum (DAM) began in 2010, Christoph Heinrich has continually pushed the boundaries of traditional art museum experiences and made the DAM one of the most sought-after tourist destinations in the Rocky Mountain West. Through immersive, world-exclusive exhibitions such as *Becoming Van Gogh* (2009), *Brilliant: Cartier in the 20th Century* (2014) and world premiere of *Dior: From Paris to the World* (2018), Heinrich has elevated the DAM's reputation for creating original content to a new high. His vision for engaging audiences with the collections in new and meaningful ways has resulted in four campus-wide exhibitions tied to a single theme. These presentations—including *Dance!* (2016), *In Bloom: Painting Flowers in the Age of Impressionism* (2015), *Spun* (2011) and *Marvelous Mud* (2009)—saw unprecedented collaborations across departments to showcase the breadth and depth of the museum's collections.

In addition to highlighting the collections through exhibitions, Heinrich has championed landmark acquisitions, including a bequest of more than 20 Impressionist landscape paintings in 2014, which came as a result of the acclaimed exhibition *Nature as Muse*, curated by Heinrich. Along with Angelica Daneo, Chief Curator and curator of European art before 1900 at the DAM, Heinrich is curating the upcoming monumental exhibition *Claude Monet: The Truth of Nature*, opening in October 2019.

Prior to his director role, Heinrich served as the DAM's deputy director and curator of modern and contemporary art. He curated the 2009 exhibition *Embrace!*, which

offered 17 contemporary artists from around the world the opportunity to create installations inspired by the unique architecture of the museum's Frederic C. Hamilton Building. In addition to curating renowned exhibitions at the DAM, Heinrich has juried several exhibitions, written articles including book reviews for the weekly magazine *Die Zeit* and compiled numerous catalogs for various exhibitions.

Heinrich originally hails from Germany. Before joining the DAM, Heinrich was at the Hamburg Kunsthalle where, during his 12-year tenure, he organized more than 50 exhibitions. Some of his most prominent exhibitions there included *Andy Warhol: Photography*, which also toured at the International Center for Photography in New York, *Francis Bacon: The Portraits*, *Mahjong: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection* and *Daniel Richter: A Major Survey*.

Heinrich attended the Universität Wien in Vienna, which is the oldest university in the German-speaking world. There he studied art history, German literature and dramatics. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. at the Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität in Munich, Germany.

DARRIN ALFRED, CURATOR OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN, DENVER ART MUSEUM



Darrin Alfred is the curator of architecture and design at the Denver Art Museum (DAM). In this role, Alfred sets the vision for the department of architecture and design and oversees its collections, exhibitions, archives and publications. He previously served the museum as assistant curator from 2007 to 2009 and as associate curator from 2009 to 2015.

Alfred is the co-curator of *Serious Play: Design in Midcentury America*, along with Monica Obniski, Demmer Curator of 20th and 21st Century Design at the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM). Alfred's curatorial projects at the DAM include *The Psychedelic Experience: Rock Posters from the San Francisco Bay Area, 1965–71* (2009), which showcased more than 250 wildly experimental and visually stunning works from DAM's outstanding collection of posters promoting dance concerts and other "happenings" from the 1960s and early 1970s.

Other exhibitions that Alfred has organized at the DAM include *Rebranded: Polish Film Posters for the American Western* (2014); *Pattern Play: The Contemporary Designs of Jacqueline Groag* (2013); *Potters of Precision: The Coors Porcelain Company* (2011), *Performance on Paper: The Posters of Phil Risbeck and John Sorbie* (2016), and *Unseated: Contemporary Chairs Reimagined* (2016).

From 2000 to 2007 Alfred worked at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, where he organized *Fantasy and Function: The Furniture of John Dickinson* (2003), among other exhibitions. He has published essays on the practices of designers Fernando and Humberto Campana, AG Fronzoni, Ali Tayar, and Bjorn Wiinblad, among other subjects. He received a bachelor's degree in Architectural Studies from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's in Landscape Architecture from the University of Colorado Denver.

MONICA OBNISKI, DEMMER CURATOR OF 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY DESIGN, MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM



Monica Obniski joined the Milwaukee Art Museum in 2015 from the Art Institute of Chicago, where she was the

inaugural Ann S. and Samuel M. Mencoff Assistant Curator of American Decorative Arts. During her tenure, she co-organized and co-authored *Apostles of Beauty: Arts and Crafts from Britain to Chicago*, co-authored *For Kith and Kin: The Folk Art Collection at the Art Institute of Chicago* and oversaw several installations. Before her

work at the Art Institute, she was a research assistant in the American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Obniski received an M.A. in design history from the Bard Graduate Center and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) with the dissertation *Accumulating Things: Folk Art and Modern Design in the Postwar American Projects of Alexander H. Girard (1907–1993)*. She taught art history at UIC and Columbia College; has received fellowships from the Wolfsonian–Florida International University and the Center for Craft, Creativity, and Design; and has published scholarly articles and contributed to publications, most recently to *Alexander Girard: A Designer's Universe* (2016).

In Milwaukee, Obniski organized the exhibition *How Posters Work* (2017) and oversaw the reinstallation of the modern and contemporary design galleries (2015). She is currently working on several special exhibitions, including *Scandinavian Design and America* (2020), co-organized with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and also co-curated *Serious Play: Design in Midcentury America* (2018) with Darrin Alfred of the Denver Art Museum.

Obniski's position of Demmer Curator of 20th- and 21st-Century Design is underwritten by the Demmer Charitable Trust.

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