



San Antonio
Museum
of Art

San Antonio Museum of Art Appoints Jessica Powers as Chief Curator, And Announces Additional Curatorial Promotions

San Antonio, TX – October 10, 2023 –The San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) announced today that it has promoted **Jessica Powers** to Chief Curator. Powers has been with the institution since 2006, holding the position of Gilbert M. Denman, Jr. Curator of Art of the Ancient Mediterranean World since 2007 and serving as Interim Chief Curator from April 2021 to August 2023. She recently organized the critically acclaimed exhibition *Roman Landscapes: Visions of Nature and Myth from Rome and Pompeii*, the first exhibition in the United States to explore landscape scenes as a genre of ancient Roman art. It featured a range of first-time loans to the US and was accompanied by an extensive scholarly catalog. Powers will continue to oversee the collection of Art of the Ancient Mediterranean World, while also working with the leadership and curatorial teams to shape the future of SAMA’s growing collection and exhibition program.

SAMA announced two additional promotions: **Lynley J. McAlpine** has been appointed to the newly created role of Associate Curator of Provenance Research. The position reflects SAMA’s ongoing commitment to expanding research on its collection of nearly 30,000 works and to ethical acquisition practices. McAlpine first joined SAMA in 2017 and most recently served as the Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow. Her work as a fellow included provenance research on objects across the Museum’s Ancient Mediterranean and European art holdings.

Regina Palm has been promoted to Marie and Hugh Halff Curator of American and European Art. Palm has served as Curatorial Fellow for American Art since 2022. SAMA’s American and European collection of nearly 3,000 objects spans from the colonial period through the mid-20th century. Among its American holdings are seminal artworks by such artists as Martin Johnson Heade, Lilla Cabot Perry, John Singer Sargent, Edward Mitchell Bannister, Thomas Sully, and Richmond Barthé. It also includes a wide range of art from Texas, which allows the institution to amplify the work of regional artists through time. Highlights of the Museum’s European collection include works by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Pierre Puvis de Chavannes, Berthe Morisot, and Henri Fantin-Latour as well as the Ferguson Collection of Wedgwood and the outstanding collection of Irish silver donated to the Museum by John V. Rowan, Jr.

“I am delighted to announce the new appointments of Jessica Powers, Regina Palm, and Lynley J. McAlpine. Jessica has been an invaluable leader at SAMA, with a keen understanding of our collection and the vision to guide the Museum forward in our work to engage our community and contribute new scholarship to the field. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with her to develop SAMA’s next chapter,” said Emily Ballew Neff, PhD, The Kelso Director at SAMA. “Regina and Lynley have also made important contributions to SAMA in their roles as fellows, and I am excited to see how their considerable expertise and unique perspectives will be brought to bear on interpreting our expansive collection and building on our exhibitions program.”

About Jessica Powers

Powers holds a PhD in Classical Art and Archaeology (2006) from the University of Michigan (U-M). Prior to joining SAMA, she held several research positions at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology on U-M's campus. In her role as SAMA's Gilbert M. Denman, Jr. Curator of Art of the Ancient Mediterranean World, she has overseen the Museum's wide-ranging collection of ancient Egyptian, Near Eastern, Greek, Etruscan, and Roman art, which numbers more than 3,000 objects. In addition to *Roman Landscapes*, her recent exhibitions include *40 Years, 40 Stories: Treasures and New Discoveries from SAMA's collection* (2021); *Around the Wine-Dark Sea: Selections from the Ancient Mediterranean Collection* (2018); and *Antinous, the Emperor's Beloved: Investigating a Roman Portrait* (2017).

About Regina Palm

Palm holds a PhD from the University of London, Birkbeck (2009), with a specialization in female artists and the gender politics of artistic production in the 19th to mid-20th centuries. Since joining SAMA in June 2022 as Curatorial Fellow in American Art, she has co-curated *Still Brewing Art*, which explored SAMA's history and its relationship to the Golden Age of American brewing. She will serve as the presenting curator for *American Made: Paintings and Sculpture from the DeMell Jacobsen Collection*, an exhibition that explores 250 years of American art, opening at SAMA on October 14. Previously, Palm served as Curator of American Paintings at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art and as the Associate Curator of American Art at the San Diego Museum of Art, where her exhibitions included *Questions of Identity* and *Abstract Revolution: Women Who Empowered a Movement*. She has also held positions at the Kimbell Art Museum, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, and the Cincinnati Art Museum.

About Lynley J. McAlpine

McAlpine holds a PhD in Classical Art and Archaeology (2014) from the University of Michigan (U-M). She joined SAMA in 2017 as Association of Art Museum Directors/Kress Foundation Fellow for Provenance Research and continued until 2019 with a curatorial fellowship funded by the Gilbert M. Denman, Jr. Trust. In her role as Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow (2019–23), she curated *A Roman Portrait from Germany in Texas*, which explored the story of an ancient Roman portrait that was discovered in a Goodwill Store in Austin in 2018; assisted with the development of *Roman Landscapes* in collaboration with Jessica Powers; and published *Let Us Now Not Boast of Our Worldly Possessions: Provenance Stories from the San Antonio Museum of Art*, which evolved from her multi-year research work in SAMA's collection. She has previously held fellowships from the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, Loeb Classical Library Foundation, and the University of Texas.

About the San Antonio Museum of Art

The San Antonio Museum of Art serves as a forum to explore and connect with art that spans the world's geographies, artistic periods, genres, and cultures. Its collection contains nearly 30,000 works representing 5,000 years of history and is particularly strong in Greek and Roman antiquities, Asian art, and art of the Americas. The Nelson A. Rockefeller Latin American Art wing spans the ages from the ancient Americas to the present and includes an outstanding collection of pre-Columbian and folk art. In recent years, the Museum has placed particular emphasis on diversifying its contemporary collections to reflect the true diversity of voices shaping the trajectory of art. This has included an emphasis on works by women artists, artists of color, and artists from San Antonio and across the state of Texas.

San Antonio is the nation's seventh-largest city and is consistently listed as one of its fastest-growing. The Museum is housed in the historic Lone Star Brewery on the Museum Reach of San Antonio's River Walk and is committed to promoting the rich cultural heritage and life of the city. It hosts hundreds of events and public programs each year, including concerts, performances, tours, lectures, symposia, and interactive experiences. As an active civic leader, the Museum is dedicated to enriching the cultural life of the city and the region, and to supporting its creative community.

###

For more information, please contact:

Alina Sumajin

PAVE Communications & Consulting

alina@paveconsult.com / 646-369-2050