

# WHITNEY

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## Press Release

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### WHITNEY MUSEUM ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW EDUCATION DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, September 25, 2008 -- Adam D. Weinberg, Alice Pratt Brown Director of the Whitney Museum of American Art, has announced the appointment of Kathryn A. Potts as Associate Director, Helena Rubinstein Chair of Education, effective December 1.

Ms. Potts has been a member of the Whitney's staff since 1997. Central to her role at the Museum has been the direction of the Whitney's exhibition interpretation program. This has included managing and creating content for exhibition wall texts, and for *Whitney Audio*, the Museum's award-winning audio program. This past year she helped develop *Whitney Focus*, the Museum's recently launched video program, which features interviews conducted by Ms. Potts with contemporary artists and commentary by museum curators. As Director of Education Initiatives, a position she has held since September 2007, she has also overseen strategic planning and research for the Education Department.

As Head of Exhibition Interpretation at the Whitney from 2000 to 2007, Ms. Potts produced *American Voices*, the Museum's free audio guide for the permanent collection and special exhibitions, interviewing artists, curators, and scholars, writing narration, and developing interpretative approaches. Her responsibilities also included hiring and training the Museum's Teaching Fellows and Docents, and collaborating with curatorial staff on the development and implementation of interpretive materials. As Head of Adult Programs from 1997 to 1999, she developed and produced public programs, including lectures, symposia, courses, gallery tours, and performances.

Before coming to the Whitney, Ms. Potts held curatorial positions at The Jewish Museum, New York, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She has an MA in the History of Art from Williams College.

## **ABOUT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM**

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense critical and public debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today. First housed on West 8th Street, the Whitney relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and in 1966 inaugurated its present home at 945 Madison Avenue, designed by Marcel Breuer. The Whitney is currently moving ahead with plans to build a second facility, designed by Renzo Piano, located in downtown New York at the entrance to the High Line in the Meatpacking District.

### ***Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art:***

Paul McCarthy: Three Installations, Two Films	Through October 12, 2008
"Progress"	Through November 30, 2008
Signs of the Time	Opens September 19, 2008
Between the Still and Moving Image	October 1–November 30, 2008
Corin Hewitt: Seed Stage	October 3, 2008–January 4, 2009
Alexander Calder: The Paris Years	October 16, 2008–February 15, 2009
William Eggleston	November 7, 2008–January 25, 2009
Jenny Holzer	March 12–May 31, 2009

*The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission is \$15 for adults; free for members, children (ages 11 and under), and New York City public high school students. Senior citizens (62 and over) and students with valid ID: \$10. There is a \$6 admission fee for a pass to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 pm. For information, please call 1-212-570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org)*