Public Art
University of
Houston System

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ANNOUNCES RACHEL MOHL AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF CURATOR OF PUBLIC ART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM

Mohl will begin as Public Art UHS's second Executive Director and Chief Curator in October 2023

Houston, Texas – October 3, 2023 – The University of Houston is pleased to announce the appointment of Rachel Mohl as the new Executive Director and Chief Curator of Public Art for the University of Houston Systems (Public Art UHS). Starting in October 2023, Mohl will spearhead the development, curation and enhancement of Public Art UHS' collection and programming across the four UH System universities, as one of the most significant university-based public art collections in the United States.

In her new role, Mohl will focus on growing and enhancing the Temporary Public Art program, aiming to provide the community with thought-provoking artworks by a diverse roster of regional, national and international artists. She will also lead efforts behind signature, site-specific commissions and strategically re-site existing artworks in alignment with UH's centennial master plan. Additionally, Mohl will work to strengthen and expand educational and outreach programming, promoting art appreciation and cultural enrichment across the UH System universities.

"I am delighted to join Public Art UHS as the incoming Executive Director and Chief Curator," said Mohl. "I am deeply impressed with the institution's growth and development and share its commitment to engaging diverse audiences throughout the campuses and surrounding communities. I look forward to working with the amazing team and leading Public Art UHS into its next chapter."

Mohl brings a wealth of experience in art and art history to her new role with the UH System. In her most recent position as the Assistant Curator of Latin American and Latino Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Mohl curated a number of large-scale art exhibitions, site-specific installations and art-related experiences, including *Contested Landscapes*; *Leandro Erlich: Seeing is Not Believing*; *Carmen Herrera: Structuring Surfaces*; and *Contingent Beauty: Contemporary Art from Latin America*. She played a pivotal role in conceiving and executing the installation and programming of the MFAH's significant Latin American collection in the newly opened Nancy and Rich Kinder Building. Mohl actively publishes on modern and contemporary

art and has contributed texts on artists such as Johanna Calle, Grupo Mondongo, Eduardo Ramírez Villamizar, and Xul Solar, among others.

Mohl is a Ph.D. candidate in Art History on the Museum Professionals track at Rice University. Her research explores the profound influence of Jewish immigration on the development of the avant-garde in Latin America during the 1940s and 1950s. She holds an M.A. in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis.

"We are thrilled to have Rachel Mohl join the University of Houston System as Executive Director and Chief Curator of Public Art UHS," said Emily Messa, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor/Associate Vice President for Administration for the University of Houston System and University of Houston System-wide Public Art Committee Chair. "Her extensive experience, exceptional curatorial insights and academic dedication will undoubtedly elevate our public art initiatives and contribute significantly to the UH System campus enrichment and to our community's cultural landscape."

Find more information in the press kit here.

ABOUT PUBLIC ART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
Established in 1969, Public Art of the University of Houston System (Public Art UHS) is the oldest, most significant and only collecting arts organization within the University of Houston System, the fourth-largest university system in Texas. Through robust programing, publications, research and collection, it serves diverse communities throughout greater Houston and Southeast Texas as well as stakeholders including more than 74,000 students and nearly 10,000 faculty and staff from four distinct universities: University of Houston, University of Houston-Downtown, University of Houston-Clear Lake, and University of Houston-Victoria. Public Art UHS oversees the permanent collection of the four UH System universities, which is one of the most significant university-based public art collections in the United States. Its programs and collection also span additional locations in Sugar Land (UH), Pearland (UHCL) and Katy (UH/UHV), making art available to millions of Texans.

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