



Academy Art Museum Appoints Brian J. Lang as Director of Curatorial Affairs

Veteran Curator and Museum Professional to Lead Next Era of Curatorial Excellence and Expansion

Easton, MD – October 16, 2025 – The Academy Art Museum (AAM) is proud to announce the appointment of Brian J. Lang as Director of Curatorial Affairs, marking a transformative new chapter for the institution as it advances toward construction of the Freeman Annex & Hormel Research Center—a state-of-the-art facility for collections care, research, and scholarship.

Lang joins AAM following more than a decade of service as Chief Curator and Windgate Foundation Curator of Contemporary Craft at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts (AMFA), where he played a pivotal leadership role in the museum's \$100 million campus renovation and expansion. Collaborating directly with internationally acclaimed firms Studio Gang and SCAPE, Lang helped realize one of the most celebrated museum redevelopments in the nation—hailed by Forbes as “America’s most inviting art museum.” Prior to AMFA, Brian was Curator of Decorative Arts at the Columbia Museum of Art in South Carolina, and served as Museum Curator at Dumbarton House in Washington, D.C.

“Brian brings a powerful blend of curatorial depth, capital project experience, and leadership acumen,” said Charlotte Potter Kasic, Museum Director. “He understands how to build not just exhibitions but institutions. As we move into the next phase of AAM’s evolution, his arrival completes the three-person senior leadership team in curatorial affairs, education, and direction—united in advancing excellence, relevance, and access as the Museum enters a new era of scholarship and programming.”

Lang will head a newly expanded curatorial team, which includes Manager of Exhibitions, Skye Monahan and Collections Manager & Registrar, Bianca Scialabba. Together, this team will deepen the Museum’s scholarship and develop exhibitions that honor AAM’s origin as an academy—projects that are regionally specific, intellectually rigorous, and artistically excellent.

Throughout his distinguished 30-year career, Lang has demonstrated a rare combination of curatorial excellence, strategic vision, and organizational leadership. At AMFA, he curated or oversaw more than 80 exhibitions and collection installations, secured over \$1.5 million annually in curatorial funding, and cultivated gifts and grants exceeding \$170 million in support of art and infrastructure. He also stewarded major acquisitions, including a \$1 million endowment from the Windgate Foundation for the purchase of contemporary craft and living artists, and the transformational donation of 500 works from the Enamel Arts Foundation, which positioned AMFA as a premier repository for enamel art in the United States.

"I am honored to join the Academy Art Museum at such an exciting moment in its continued evolution," Lang said. "For nearly 70 years, the museum has developed a superb reputation for its quality exhibitions and programs, and provides important access for the community to the creative and visual arts. I look forward to collaborating with the talented and dedicated staff, museum board members, and community partners across the Eastern Shore to continue presenting dynamic exhibitions and programs that reflect the rich history, diversity, and vitality of the region and beyond."

Lang's arrival at AAM comes at a defining moment. He will lead the Freeman Annex & Hormel Research Center project, a cornerstone of the Museum's vision to protect and activate its growing collection. In tandem with this facility's expansion, he will set the exhibition schedule and oversee a comprehensive review of AAM's 1,700+ works of art—ensuring that each object is properly cataloged, conserved, and interpreted for generations to come.

Lang succeeds Dr. Lee Glazer, now Senior Director, Historic Preservation and Collections, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Dr. Glazer's tenure set a high bar with landmark exhibitions including *Bugatti: Reaching for Perfection* and this fall's *Rauschenberg 100: New Connections*.

"Lee positioned the Museum for success," said Christine Martin, Board Chair. "Brian brings the expertise and experience to build upon that foundation making our collection more visible, our exhibitions more ambitious and deepening our scholarship."

Lang holds an M.A. in Art History and Museum Studies from the University of Denver and a B.A. in Anthropology and Spanish from Beloit College. His curatorial collaborations have included projects with the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the National Gallery of Art. Lang is also the author of numerous books, exhibition catalogues, and articles on topics ranging from American furniture design to Chinese Chinese export porcelain for the American market.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: An image of Brian J. Lang is embedded in this release. A high-res version is available upon request.

About the Academy Art Museum

Founded in 1958, the Academy Art Museum is the Eastern Shore's leading cultural institution, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It combines the dynamism of an ambitious contemporary art museum with the intimacy of a community space. With five working studios, a 24,000 sq. ft. facility, and innovative programs including a robust artist-in-residence initiative and major commissions for its soaring atrium, the Museum is a destination for artists, scholars, collectors, and families alike.

Press Contact: Janelle Burchfield | communications@academyartmuseum.org | 757.439.0139

