



## **TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORIC BLOCK**

### **ASSISTANT OR ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART**

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

#### **EOE**

**POSITION:** Assistant or Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art

**STATUS:** Regular Full-time Salaried, Exempt (Hours may vary to include special events and activities in the evenings and on weekends.)

**SALARY:** \$50,000 - \$60,000 (annual salary) plus benefits

**REPORTS TO:** Senior Curator, Glasser Curator of Art of the American West

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION AND DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

The Tucson Museum of Art's Assistant or Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art will be an experienced, visionary, collaborative professional who will lead the museum's program in modern and contemporary art.

The position offers a motivated individual the opportunity to create a dynamic program for the museum's collections and activities in modern art (late-19<sup>th</sup> to late-20<sup>th</sup> century) as well as contemporary art (art from 1970 to the present).

Comfort and familiarity with a breadth of modern art as well as early contemporary art is critical for this position. This position reports to Senior Curator, Glasser Curator of Art of the American West, works closely Associate Curator, Schmidt Curator of Latin American Art, the Registrar/Collections Manager, with various departments, and has frequent contact with the Director / Chief Executive Officer.

As the museum looks forward to its second century of service, the Assistant or Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art will curate applicable collections galleries; originate exhibitions; and care for, research, and interpret the collections. This position will support the museum's dynamic community engagement activities, educational programming, and public tours and lectures, and will contribute to the accessibility of the museum and its collections and exhibitions.

The ideal candidate will communicate effectively with broad and scholarly audiences; be attuned to dynamic changes in the museum field; and maintain and expand their connections with artists, curators, and museum leaders nationally and internationally.

## **MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Curate wide-ranging rotations and installations of modern and contemporary art from the museum's collection, with particular emphasis on considering modern art through the lens of contemporary times.
- Conduct original research, select objects, and make recommendations for collections acquisitions and deaccessions to the museum's Collection Committee.
- Originate, develop, and present temporary exhibitions and initiate and facilitate loans related to modern and contemporary art from other institutions and private individuals.
- Collaborate with education, engagement, and marketing staff to create and support programming to enhance community engagement with the modern and contemporary art collections and exhibitions in the museum's galleries and out in the community, with particular attention to expanding and diversifying the museum's audiences.
- In close partnership with the museum's CEO and Director of Advancement and Strategic Initiatives, engage in advancement efforts to support curatorial priorities, such as actively seeking and cultivating collectors and donors for both funding and gifts of art.
- Support the execution of the museum's Strategic Plan, IDEA Plan and its commitment to community-based curatorial and interpretive strategies, and the Collecting Plan that informs collections responsibilities and goals.

## **DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Participate in monthly curatorial, program, and staff meetings as well as quarterly Collections Committee meetings.
- Collaborate with team consisting of curatorial colleagues, engagement staff, educators, registrar/collection manager, and preparator in supporting display, presentation, and installation.
- Represent the museum and contribute to the field through, public lectures, publications, institutional and scholarly partnerships, and participation in conferences.
- When appropriate, serve as a key voice for modern and contemporary art for the museum in the press and media.
- Support and collaborate on museum wide interpretative strategies such as leading tours on exhibitions and the permanent collection, docent continuing education, and authoring gallery texts.
- Serve as the liaison to the museum's Contemporary Art Society.
- Produce and contribute to publications supporting the collection and exhibitions, including gallery texts and scholarly essays.
- Identify and assist with creating grant proposal content to support the museum's exhibitions, permanent gallery installations, and collections stewardship initiatives.
- Visit private collections and create development reports as well as lead trips with collectors and patrons to art fairs, galleries, museums, and private collections regionally, nationally, and occasionally internationally.



## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:**

The successful candidate will have/be:

- Assistant Curator: 1-3 years of curatorial experience working in a museum or equivalent, specifically in the area of Modern and Contemporary Art.
- Associate Curator: 3-5 years of curatorial experience working in a museum with a demonstrated record of achievement specifically in the area of Modern and Contemporary Art.
- An advanced degree in art history or a related field and at least five years of experience in an art museum, visual arts organization, or arts center in a curatorial role. (Master's Degree preferred).
- Strong interpersonal skills with a proven ability to interact respectfully, collegially, and professionally with colleagues, other employees, donors, and lenders.
- The capacity to creatively envision, plan, and actualize exhibitions, collections acquisitions, and themes that are in alignment with the mission and vision of the museum.
- The dexterity to develop realistic timelines and budgets, maintain schedules, multitask, and ensure that activities are well planned, presented and delivered on a timely basis.
- Demonstrated knowledge of and passion for modern and contemporary art, including regional, national, and international, and for exploring new directions in the fields of modern and contemporary art and museums.
- The clarity to communicate effectively internally and externally in print, formal presentation, and informal discussion.
- The reliability to uphold policies, develop and nurture positive relationships, maintain the highest levels of confidentiality and ethics as they relate to all aspects of curatorial endeavors.
- Ability and desire to engage diverse audiences and different types of stakeholders, from community members to artists and trustees and promote the diversification of artists when considering acquisitions and programs through the museum's IDEA initiatives.
- Proficiency in Microsoft office required and knowledge / familiarity with PastPerfect (collection database), and social media platforms preferred.
- Superb written and verbal communication skills.

## **Application Materials:**

- Cover letter outlining your interest in the position.
- Resume or curriculum vitae.
- Contact details for three professional references.

**To Apply: Send resume, cover letter, and references to: [jobs@tucsonmuseumofart.org](mailto:jobs@tucsonmuseumofart.org)**

**No Phone Calls Please.** This position will be open until filled.



## **ABOUT THE TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORIC BLOCK**

The Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block (TMA) connects art to life through meaningful and engaging experiences that inspire discovery, spark creativity, and promote cultural understanding. Founded in 1924 as the Tucson Fine Arts Association, the institution has continued to expand its footprint, collections, audiences, and community partnerships over the past century.

Today, TMA encompasses an entire city block in historic downtown Tucson and includes over 70,000 square feet of gallery space; the Alice Chaiten Baker Center for Arts Education, which provides four studio classrooms, two conference rooms, research library, collection storage area, and staff offices; Café a la C'Art; a Museum Store; and five historically significant buildings.

TMA has an annual visitation of over 70,000 and a permanent collection of nearly 11,000 artworks representing multiple continents and centuries. The museum's rotating and permanent collection exhibitions feature original and touring shows focusing on the core collecting areas of Art of the American West, Art of Latin America, Indigenous Arts, and Modern and Contemporary Art, which are supported by docent-led tours, educational activities, and community engagement programs. Art acquisitions and collections care are partially supported by TMA affinity groups, including the Contemporary Art Society, Latin American Art Patrons, and Western Art Patrons.

The institution began to collect modern art in the early 1970s. A substantial donation by Lawrence J. Heller in 1976 added ninety-two objects of European and American modernists by artists such as Marsden Hartley, Arthur Dove, Max Weber, William Baziotes, Jacques Lipchitz, and Marino Marini. In recent years, this collection has expanded to include works by New Mexico modernists, Adolphe Bouguereau, and works on paper by Josef Albers, Pierre August Renoir, Käthe Kollwitz, and Henri Matisse, to name a few.

TMA's collection of contemporary paintings, sculpture (including ceramics and glass), photography, and new media art has continued to grow due to the generosity of artists, collectors, and galleries and includes works by John Chamberlain, Robert Colescott, Andy Warhol, Joyce J. Scott, Gregory Crewdson, Tomás Saraceno, Kara Walker, Enrique Martínez Celaya, and Shelly Niro, to mention a few.

The Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. As an institution built upon the original territories of the O'odham, the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block (TMA) acknowledges the Indigenous Sonoran Desert communities, past and present, who have stewarded this region throughout generations.