



10
YEARS

Press Release

Bechtler Museum of Modern Art Welcomes New Curator

(Charlotte, N.C.) — The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art welcomes Anastasia James as the museum's new Curator. James holds an M.A. in Curatorial Studies from The Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College and comes to the Bechtler from Los Angeles, California where she served as Curator for the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art.

James brings with her decades of experience in museum and academic settings and has curated and managed exhibitions featuring a diverse range of emerging, established and international artists for institutions and galleries. She has held curatorial positions at the Dorsky Museum at SUNY New Paltz, The Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco and The Andy Warhol Museum. In addition to curating, James is also the co-editor of two book-length monographs of Warhol associates Billy Name and Brigid Berlin.

As Charlotte's dedicated modern art museum, the Bechtler is committed to preserving, presenting and interpreting its collection of nearly 1,400 works by many of the major figures of mid-20th Century modernism including Josef Albers, Alberto Giacometti, Barbara Hepworth, Jasper Johns, Le Corbusier, Henry Moore, Niki de Saint Phalle, Pierre Soulages, Jean Tinguely and Andy Warhol.

Inspired by his parents, Hans and Bessie Bechtler, Andreas Bechtler gifted this remarkable collection (amassed by the Bechtler family over 70 years) to the city of Charlotte in 2010. Many of the works are accompanied by books, photographs and correspondence illustrating personal connections to the Bechtler family. The museum building was designed by Swiss architect Mario Botta and opened to the public January 2010.

"We are thrilled to have Anastasia join our museum team during our milestone 10-year anniversary as we celebrate a decade of art and community," said Ted Garner, board chair. "Her background and innovative drive are a perfect combination as we look ahead to the next decade, and beyond."

Her scholarly research focuses on under-recognized artists post-World War I to the present and the influence of philosophy and educational pedagogy on modern art practices. In her projects, James prioritizes diversity and accessibility and actively advocates for inclusion of women and people of color in exhibitions, programs, acquisitions and through the creation of community advisory groups.

James, who began her appointment in December, is currently coordinating the upcoming installation of *Multiplied: Edition MAT and the Transformable Work of Art* in collaboration with the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, the only other venue in the United States to host this exhibition. *Multiplied* opens at the Bechtler May 22 and will be on display through September 13, 2020.

In addition, James is developing an exciting program of exhibitions for 2021, including solo survey exhibitions of female artists and group exhibitions that explore a more playful side of modern art.

As a Curator, she is known for innovative and inclusive approaches when designing exhibitions and programming. Her projects have been referred to by the press as "celebratory," "strident," and "remarkable." For her recent retrospective of the artist Cary Leibowitz, which foregrounded issues related to identity, *Forbes Magazine* described James as "wonderfully adventurous." In addition to curating exhibitions, James has produced, managed, and assisted on over 30 exhibitions with curators around the world.

“The process of developing exhibitions is such a joyful one for me and I want to communicate that joy to visitors. Within our collection and the history of modern art there are so many unique untold stories that I look forward to sharing through intellectually playful exhibitions and engaging educational programs. I hope to make people feel connected by drawing attention to the more humanizing, personal, whimsical, and intimate aspects of modern art.”

ABOUT THE BECHTLER MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Home to Charlotte’s iconic *Firebird* sculpture by Niki de Saint Phalle, the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art is filled with works by Miró, Giacometti, Calder, Warhol, Klee and a wealth of other 20th-century notables. The Bechtler collection juxtaposes whimsy with work of significant intellectual depth and historical significance. Cosmopolitan in nature yet intimate in scale, the museum, designed by Mario Botta, provides an experience that is inspiring and approachable. The artworks were committed to the city of Charlotte by Andreas Bechtler who, along with his family, built the collection over 70 years. Located in the heart of Uptown, the Bechtler is a light-filled community space created to engage audiences of all ages through exhibitions, jazz and film series, interactive art activities, and family days throughout the year. Visit bechtler.org for full calendar of events.

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Bechtler Museum of Modern Art
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Images Available Upon Request