

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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ART INSTITUTE NAMES NEW CHAIR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Matthew Witkovsky to Head Museum's Photography Collection and Exhibitions

The Art Institute of Chicago announces the appointment of **Matthew Witkovsky**, formerly associate curator of photography at the National Gallery of Art, as the **new Chair of the Department of Photography** at the Art Institute. Mr. Witkovsky, who will join the museum on January 19, 2009, will oversee the collection management and operations of the department as well as curate photography exhibitions and manage the transition to additional photography galleries in the museum's new Modern Wing.

"I greatly admired Matt's landmark exhibition, *Foto*, the first sustained look at modern photography from central Europe in the first half of the twentieth century," said James Cuno, President and Eloise W. Martin Director of the Art Institute. "It demonstrates his imagination and skill as a scholar and a curator. I also believe that Matt's work in both European and American art will foster even greater cooperation and collaboration with other departments here at the museum, particularly as we move the modern and contemporary collections into the Modern Wing."

Witkovsky has been first assistant, then associate curator in the Department of Photographs at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. since October 2003; prior to those appointments he was a research associate in the National Gallery's Department of Modern and Contemporary Art. He has also served in various curatorial capacities at the Guggenheim Museum and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Witkovsky's research has centered on early modern European art, including (in addition to photography) the Dada movement and Czech avant-garde art and architecture. He contributed instrumentally to the catalogue and Washington installation of *Dada: Zurich, Berlin, Hannover, Cologne, New York, Paris*, seen also at the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, and at The Museum of Modern Art in New York in 2005 and 2006. Witkovsky has written extensively on central European photography and on the history of the snapshot, or casual photography, in the United States. He is the author of *Foto: Modernity in Central Europe* (2007) and numerous essays in scholarly journals such as the *History of Photography*, *Art Bulletin*, *October*, and *Cahiers du Musée national d'art moderne*.

Witkovsky received his undergraduate degree in literature from Yale University and M.A. and Ph.D. in the history of art from the University of Pennsylvania. He has been a visiting fellow at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and an Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow at the National Gallery of Art. His work has also been recognized with many awards from the scholarly community, including the Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Award from the College Art Association for *The Art of the American Snapshot*, the American Association of Museum Curators Award for *Dada*, and the Kraszna-Krausz Award for *Foto*.

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MUSEUM HOURS:

10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Thursday

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday

TARGET FREE EVENINGS THURSDAY AFTER 5:00 p.m.

FREE ALL OF FEBRUARY

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Please check www.artic.edu before your visit.

Museum Admission: Adults, \$12.00; children 12 and over, students, and seniors, \$7.00; children under 12 free; members always free. Free Evenings are free to all, except for certain special exhibitions that may require full or extra admission fee. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Check Us Out" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago. To reach the Art Institute on the World Wide Web, contact us at: <http://www.artic.edu/aic>

The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park.