

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO APPOINTS
CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN
Zoë Ryan Named Chair and John H. Bryan Curator of Architecture and Design

The Art Institute of Chicago announces today that **Zoë Ryan** has been named the **Chair and John H. Bryan Curator of Architecture and Design, effective July 1, 2011**. Ryan's career at the Art Institute began in 2006 when she was chosen as the first Neville Bryan Curator of Design in the museum's Department of Architecture and Design, and she has remained with the department since, becoming Interim Chair in July 2010 after the departure of curator Joseph Rosa. Among Ryan's first responsibilities will be finding her replacement as the Neville Bryan Curator of Architecture and Design, a position that will focus on contemporary architecture, and completing the preparation for the Art Institute's major fall exhibition devoted to the Chicago architect Bertrand Goldberg.



Remarking on the appointment, Jim Cuno, President and Eloise W. Martin Director of the museum, said: "Zoë is internationally recognized for her work within the fields of architecture and design, and, since assuming the position of Interim Chair, she has shown real leadership of the department. She brings to the position a wealth of experience, extensive relationships in the worlds of architecture and design, and an enthusiasm and tenacity for continually rethinking the

presentation and collection of architecture and design within the museum to effect maximum engagement and to make clear the importance of these disciplines to daily life. I am thrilled that Zoë has agreed to accept this signal position at the museum.”

Ryan came to the Art Institute five years ago from her position as Senior Curator at New York’s Van Alen Institute, an independent not-for-profit architectural organization dedicated to promoting inquiry into the processes that shape the design of public spaces. While at the Van Alen, Ryan organized numerous exhibitions and conferences—including *The Good Life: New Public Spaces for Recreation*; *VARIABLE CITY: Fox Square*; *OPEN: New Designs for Public Space*; *Renewing, Rebuilding, Remembering*; and *The Politics of Design: Competitions for Public Projects*—and was also the editor of the *Van Alen Report*. Prior to joining the Van Alen, she served as a curatorial assistant at The Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Ryan has proven to be a prolific author. Over the years she has served as a contributing editor at *Blueprint* (London) and *Surface* (New York and San Francisco), and she was the New York correspondent for *Monument* magazine (Australia). She has published many articles for magazines and journals that include *The Architect’s Newspaper*, *Contemporary*, *RIBA*, *Frame*, and *Log*. Among her many exhibition catalogues and books are *Building With Water: Concepts, Typology, Design* (2010); *Matali Crasset: Poetic Logic* (2008); *Coney Island: The Parachute Pavilion Competition* (2007); and *The Good Life: New Public Spaces for Recreation* (2006). In addition, she has contributed essays to publications and monographs on designers and artists, including Greg Lynn, Arik Levy, Ron Gilad, Ineke Hans, Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, Lucy Orta, and Matali Crasset.

Since coming to the Art Institute in 2006, Ryan has curated several exhibitions and authored accompanying exhibition catalogues: *Graphic Thought Facility: Resourceful Design* (2008); *Konstantin Grcic: Decisive Design* (2009); and, with Joseph Rosa, *Hyperlinks: Architecture and Design* (2010). She also contributed wallpaper installations for the museum by the design firms Timorous Beasties and 2x4. With Rosa, she conceived the inaugural installations of the Architecture and Design galleries in the Modern Wing, which opened in 2009. And as the Neville Bryan Curator of Design, Ryan has rapidly built the contemporary design collection of the Art Institute by spearheading more than 500 acquisitions, including One Laptop per Child (OLPC) XO Laptop (2007) designed by a team including Yves Béhar, Bret Recor, and Nicholas Negroponte; Tokujin Yoshioka’s Honey-Pop Armchair (2001); Barack Obama’s Campaign Logo and Identity

System '08 (2006), designed by Sol Sender; Cloud (Nuage) Modules (2004) by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec; and an extensive range of textile designs manufactured by New York-based Maharam that includes work by Tord Boontje, Sarah Morris, Paul Smith, Alexander Girard, Charles and Ray Eames, and Giò Ponti.

In 2001, the Art Institute received a gift from Sara Lee Corporation and a gift from John H. Bryan to endow the positions of John H. Bryan Curator of Architecture and the Neville Bryan Curator of Design. The gift from Sara Lee Corporation was given in honor of Mr. Bryan's retirement as CEO of Sara Lee Corporation.

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MUSEUM HOURS

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 am–8:00 pm Thursday

10:30 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

TARGET FREE THURSDAY EVENINGS AFTER 5:00 pm

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

ADMISSION

Adults \$18.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Children 14 and over, students, and seniors \$12.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Chicago residents receive a \$2.00 discount with proof of residency

Children under 14 always free

Members always free

Free Evenings are free to all. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.