



Smithsonian  
***Donald W. Reynolds Center for  
American Art and Portraiture***  
***Smithsonian American Art Museum***

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**Media only:** Laura Baptiste (202) 633-8494

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## **Smithsonian American Art Museum Announces the Appointment of Two New Contemporary Curators--- John Hanhardt and Joanna Marsh**

The Smithsonian American Art Museum has appointed two new curators. The Consulting Senior Curator for Film and Media Arts is John Hanhardt and The James Dicke Curator of Contemporary Art is Joanna Marsh. Hanhardt will be responsible for a media arts initiative at the museum which includes acquisitions, exhibitions, educational programs and archival research resources related to film, video and the media arts. Marsh will be responsible for research, exhibitions and acquisitions related to the museum's growing contemporary collection.

Hanhardt began his appointment at the museum on Sept. 1, 2006; Marsh begins work on April 30.

"I am delighted that the museum has attracted Joanna Marsh and John Hanhardt, two terrific curators who will bring new vitality to our contemporary program," said Elizabeth Broun, The Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Hanhardt was the senior curator of film and media arts at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City from 1996 until last year. From 1974 to 1996, he was curator and head of the film and video department at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Before that, he established the film department and film study collection at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Minn. Among his many exhibition credits are "Bill Viola: Going Forth By Day" (2002), "The Worlds of Nam June Paik" (2000) and "Andy Warhol's Video & Television" (1991). In addition to his contributions to a number of publications and catalogues, he was the editor of the influential anthology "Video Culture: A Critical Investigation," published in 1986. Hanhardt holds a master's degree in cinema studies from New York University (1970) and a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester (1967).

Marsh comes to the museum from the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Conn. where she currently is the associate curator of contemporary art. While there, she generated numerous exhibitions as part of the "Matrix" series featuring young or emerging artists, ranging

from Jonathan Horowitz to Iona Rozeal Brown and Kota Ezawa. She also curated installations of work by Sol LeWitt and Robert Rauschenberg. Her most recent exhibitions have included “Shifting Terrain: Contemporary Landscape Photography” (2006) and “Connecticut Contemporary” which opens at the Wadsworth Atheneum in April. She received a master’s degree in post-war and contemporary art from the Sotheby’s Institute at the University of Manchester in London in 2001 and holds a bachelor’s degree in art history and English literature from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. (1999).

“Joanna’s experience managing a contemporary program and her outstanding rapport with artists and collectors make her a natural fit for the museum,” said Eleanor Jones Harvey, chief curator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. “And John’s appointment reflects the museum’s growing interest in film and video. His impressive curatorial background and relationships with leading artists, scholars and collectors will greatly benefit the museum’s media arts program.”

Funding for the contemporary curator position is provided by the James F. Dicke Endowment for Contemporary Art, which was established in 2003. James Dicke is the chair of the museum’s Board of Commissioners. Ken Hakuta, also a member of the museum’s Board of Commissioners, provided support for the museum’s media arts initiative.

In recent years, the museum has strengthened its commitment to contemporary art through acquisitions and its annual Lucelia Artist Award, established in 2001. At its grand opening in July 2006, the museum debuted new contemporary acquisitions including major works by Christo, David Hockney, Edward and Nancy Kienholz, Nam June Paik and Martin Puryear, among others. Hanhardt will launch a new four-part lecture series, “The Media Arts: A History,” in May. In September, the 2007 Lucelia Artist Award winner will be announced in conjunction with the exhibition “Celebrating the Lucelia Artist Award, 2001–2006.”

### **About the Smithsonian American Art Museum**

The Smithsonian American Art Museum celebrates the vision and creativity of Americans with approximately 41,000 artworks in all media spanning more than three centuries. Its National Historic Landmark building, a dazzling showcase for American art and portraiture, is located at Eighth and F streets N.W. in the heart of a revitalized downtown arts district. Museum hours are 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Metrorail station: Gallery Place/Chinatown (Red, Yellow and Green lines). Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Recorded museum information: (202) 633-7970. Web sites: [americanart.si.edu](http://americanart.si.edu) and [reynoldscenter.org](http://reynoldscenter.org).

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