YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY APPOINTS RYAN HILL AS NOLEN CURATOR OF EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Hill brings innovative leadership to the Gallery’s thriving and expanding educational mission and practice

May 1, 2015, New Haven, Conn. — The Yale University Art Gallery announces the appointment of Ryan Hill as the next Nolen Curator of Education and Academic Affairs, beginning June 1, 2015. In this role, Hill assumes leadership of a growing, thriving, and ever-evolving Education Department that embodies the Gallery’s mission of encouraging appreciation and understanding of art and its societal role through direct engagement with original works of art. The Gallery’s education programs stimulate active learning about art and the creative process through research, teaching, and dialogue among Yale students, faculty, artists, scholars, alumni, and the broader public. A widely respected thinker and practitioner in the field of museum education, Hill is well positioned to serve the Gallery’s partners and audiences and to expand its leadership role among college and university art museums, through best practice as well as innovative means of connecting campus and community through art and education.

Hill comes to New Haven from the Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., where, as Director of Digital Learning, he developed and managed the Hirshhorn’s celebrated ARTLAB+ programming. Engaging teenagers from the D.C. area in a dynamic community of digital learning and art making, ARTLAB+ is grounded in the museum’s collections while possessing a broad reach beyond its perimeter. In 2014 the Smithsonian Institution recognized the ARTLAB+ team with its Innovation in Education award.

Hill’s deep understanding of the value of digital learning and the importance of a STEAM-based curriculum — emphasizing the integral connections among science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics — has catalyzed his transformative programs. Prior to joining the Hirshhorn in 2006, Hill worked for five years as Manager of Adult Interpretive Programs at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, where he developed and oversaw a gallery guide program now studied in museology courses and used as a model in museums worldwide. Before his time at the Guggenheim, Hill was Education Manager and Gallery Educator at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. The interdisciplinary and collaborative spirit of Hill’s work in museum education is at the core of the creative culture at Yale University as well as at the Gallery in particular, which places a growing emphasis on public programs, educational offerings, exhibitions, and academic research that integrate and illustrate the symbiosis of the arts and sciences. A practicing artist and seasoned professor, Hill brings the vitality
of studio practice and the rigor of university teaching to his new position, where relationships with Yale College faculty who teach in the Gallery and with students and faculty at the neighboring Yale School of Art play a pivotal role in the life of the museum.

“Yale University is the only Ivy League institution with four professional schools of the arts—with world-renowned programs in music, drama, architecture, and visual art—resulting in a potential for cross-pollination unparalleled at other institutions,” states Pamela Franks, Deputy Director for Exhibitions, Programming, and Education and the Seymour H. Knox, Jr., Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Gallery. “Ryan Hill’s vision as an educator and an artist is an excellent match for the creativity and innovation that define the arts at Yale.”

Hill joins a talented team of curators and educators in the Nolen Center for Art and Education, a dedicated space for museum education within the Gallery’s Street Hall that encompasses collaborative work spaces, object study classrooms, and the Nolen Center Library, a rich resource on the Gallery’s collection that is open to the public. “The extraordinary 2008 education endowment from the Nolen-Bradley Family coupled with the major expansion of the Gallery in 2012 transformed the realm of possibility for the teaching mission at the heart of this institution, enabling us to reach all of our audiences more meaningfully and bring the Yale community and the broader public together through art more than ever before,” explains Jock Reynolds, the Gallery’s Henry J. Heinz II Director. “As the next Nolen Curator of Education and Academic Affairs, Ryan Hill will lead the teaching and learning endeavors onward to the future, building on a strong practice of teaching with original works of art and a solid commitment to engaging all of our audiences.”

Since the Gallery reopened in 2012, it serves more visitors than ever before—in excess of 200,000 annually. During the 2013–14 fiscal year, the Gallery welcomed 14,000 K–12 students, 173 Yale University courses in a variety of disciplines, and another 100 groups from area colleges and universities. In addition, adult tours, led by the award-winning Wurtele Gallery Teachers and the undergraduate Gallery Guides, serve thousands of participants annually. A great variety of other educational offerings include programs for teens, teachers, families, early-childhood caregivers, and visitors with memory loss.

“I am honored to join the Gallery’s teaching staff and Yale’s learning community,” Hill states. “The Gallery’s encyclopedic collection is full of unexpected relationships and perspectives on the creative process—an endless, effortless conversation between objects whose meanings are transformed with each individual viewing. As a devotee of those conversations, I am delighted to serve the museum.”

Hill received a Master of Arts in Studio Art from California Institute of the Arts in 1992. He also holds a Master of Arts in Film and Television from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Bachelor of Arts in Art and History from the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has taught studio art, art history, and museum studies courses at numerous institutions, among them American University, George Washington University, and the Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, D.C.; the City University of New York; and several universities in Los Angeles, including California Institute of the Arts and Marymount College. Hill is a graduate of the Getty Museum’s Next Generation Leadership program.
Yale University Art Gallery

The Yale University Art Gallery, the oldest college art museum in the United States, was founded in 1832 when the patriot-artist John Trumbull gave more than 100 of his paintings to Yale College. Since then its collections have grown to more than 200,000 objects ranging in date from ancient times to the present.

In addition to its world-renowned collections of American paintings and decorative arts, the Gallery is noted for outstanding collections of Greek and Roman art, including artifacts from the ancient Roman city of Dura-Europos; collections of early Italian paintings; the Société Anonyme Collection of 20th-century European and American art; modern and contemporary art and design; Asian art; African art; art of the ancient Americas; and Indo-Pacific art.

In December 2012, the Gallery completed a comprehensive expansion and renovation project that united its three buildings—the landmark Louis Kahn building (1953), the Old Yale Art Gallery building (1928), and Street Hall (1866)—into a cohesive whole with a rooftop addition by Ennead Architects (2012). The Gallery is both a collecting and an educational institution, and all activities are aimed at providing an invaluable resource and experience for Yale faculty, staff, and students, as well as for the general public.

General Information

The Yale University Art Gallery is located at 1111 Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut. Museum hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10 am–5 pm; Thursday until 8 pm (September–June); and Saturday–Sunday, 11 am–5 pm. The Gallery is closed Mondays and major holidays. Free and open to the public. For general information, please call 203.432.0600 or visit the website at www.artgallery.yale.edu.

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