

# BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART APPOINTS NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Austin, Texas: September 19, 2013—The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin announces two key appointments to its staff: Karen Sumner to Director of Development and Gabriela Truly to Director of Collections and Exhibitions. Sumner and Truly come to the Blanton from two of the country's leading arts institutions—the Honolulu Museum of Art and the Dallas Museum of Art, respectively.

"I feel very fortunate to welcome to the Blanton team these exceptionally talented and well-respected museum professionals," states Blanton director Simone Wicha. "As a native Texan, Karen has a unique understanding of philanthropic communities in Austin and across the state. Her extensive experience in developing major gift, endowment, and campaign strategies at premier arts institutions will position us towards a bright and secure future."

"Gabriela's depth of experience managing diverse collections," adds Wicha "will pave the way for long-term plans for the care and expansion of our collection of over 17,000 objects. For many years, she has coordinated exhibitions and loans with museums around the world; those connections will complement the Blanton's own program of collaborating with the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and other venerable institutions."

### KAREN SUMNER

Karen Sumner returns to Texas after many years of development work in Honolulu. In Hawaii, she served as Director of Development of the Mid-Pacific Institute, Vice President of Development for the Honolulu Symphony, and for the past nine years as Director of Development for the esteemed Honolulu Museum of Art. Karen received a degree in communications from Trinity University in San Antonio, and has served on the boards of several local and national professional organizations.

### GABRIELA TRULY

Gabriela Truly comes to the Blanton from the Dallas Museum of Art, where she had been employed since 1996. First serving as Associate Registrar, then Collections Manager, and ultimately as Director of Collections Management, Gabriela has been directly involved in all collection improvement projects at the DMA over the past 17 years. Prior to that, she served as Director of Operations and Registrar for the San Antonio Museum of Art. She founded the Association of Registrars and Collection

Specialists in 2012 and is a member of several state and national professional organizations. Originally from Mexico, Gabriela received her masters degree in Pre-school Pedagogy from Estefania Castaneda in Tampico, Tamaulipas.

### **ABOUT THE BLANTON**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art is one of the foremost university art museums in the country and holds the largest public collection in Central Texas. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 AM – 5 PM, Saturday from 11 AM – 5 PM, and Sunday from 1 – 5 PM. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9 PM. Admission Prices: Adults \$9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth/College Students (13-21) \$5. Admission is free to members, all current UT ID-holders. For additional information call (512) 471-7324 or visit [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org).

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