

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Kathleen Brady Stimpert, 512-475-6784, kathleen.bradystimpert@blantonmuseum.org

Stacey Kaleh, 512-471-8433, stacey.kaleh@blantonmuseum.org

BLANTON MUSEUM MAKES KEY ADDITIONS TO CURATORIAL STAFF



AUSTIN, Texas – February 25, 2015, – The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin announces three key appointments to its curatorial team: Evan Garza to Assistant Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art; Jeongho Park to Curatorial Research Associate for the Department of Prints and Drawings, and European Paintings; and Beth Shook to Curatorial Research Associate, Latin American Art. Garza, Park, and Shook bring to the Blanton distinctive visions and valuable experience in their respective fields, and are uniquely suited to propel the museum’s initiatives in these three core areas.

“We are excited to welcome these three emerging talents to our curatorial team,” says Blanton Director Simone Wicha. “They will offer critical support for the museum’s exhibitions and programs while gaining valuable professional experience alongside some of the top curators in the field. Through conducting scholarly research on objects in the Blanton’s collection, as well as assisting with the development of exhibitions and other projects, they will contribute greatly to the museum’s mission to foster new knowledge and maintain a program of excellence.”

EVAN GARZA

A Texas native, Evan Garza comes to the Blanton from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston where he served as Exhibitions and Public Programs Coordinator. In this role, he curated the critically acclaimed 2012 exhibition, *Something Along Those Lines*, featuring the work of Adel Abdessemed, Carlos Cruz-Diez, Gego, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Sol LeWitt, Bruce Nauman, Fred Sandback, and others. In 2013, Garza co-curated *PAINT THINGS: beyond the stretcher* at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, the first major museum exhibition in the country to examine sculptural and performative forms of painting. Garza is also the co-founder and assistant director of the Fire Island Artist Residency (FIAR), the first residency program in the United States exclusively

for emerging LGBTQ artists. At FIAR, he worked with artists including Nayland Blake, Amy Sillman, Jim Hodges, and Mickalene Thomas and expanded a self-funded project into the fastest-growing residency program in the U.S. In 2014, he was appointed Commissioner of the Boston Art Commission at the discretion of Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

Prior to these positions, Garza was Curator at Villa Victoria Center for the Art's in Boston's South End, Editor-at-Large for *New American Paintings*, a contributing columnist for *The Boston Phoenix*, and, in Texas, Director of the Deborah Colton Gallery, where he curated *DIGITALIA: Intimacy and the Hyperreal* (2008). He has contributed to more than ten books and exhibition catalogues and has lectured extensively on contemporary art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Cornell and Harvard Universities, among other institutions. He holds degrees in Psychology and Creative Writing from the University of Houston.

Working alongside Blanton curator Veronica Roberts, Garza will assist with exhibitions, installations, and publications, work with contemporary artists on commissioned projects, and help develop acquisition strategies for the museum's modern and contemporary collection.

JEONGHO PARK

Most recently the Anne L. Poulet Curatorial Fellow at The Frick Collection in New York City, Jeongho Park brings extensive research experience to the Blanton's Department of Prints and Drawings, and European Paintings as its new Curatorial Research Associate.

Park curated the nationally recognized 2014 exhibition *Men in Armor: El Greco and Pulzone Face to Face* at The Frick Collection and has contributed to many scholarly publications on the topics of El Greco and Spanish painting. He served as curatorial assistant at Seoul National University Museum and has been awarded fellowships at esteemed institutions such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Frick Collection, and New York University. Park has presented lectures at numerous institutions, from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., to the Louvre in Paris. He is a Ph.D. candidate in Art History at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, and holds Master's and Bachelor's degrees from Seoul National University.

At the Blanton, Park will assist Senior Curator Francesca Consagra in organizing installations of the museum's permanent collection, with special exhibitions, and will conduct advanced object research to further interpretation of the permanent collection.

BETH SHOOK

Beth Shook has been an integral part of the Blanton team since 2012, when she joined the museum's education department. In May, she returned to her core area of interest and expertise and was promoted to Curatorial Research Associate, Latin American Art. Shook contributed four essays to the Blanton's recently published catalogue, *La linea continua: The Judy and Charles Tate Collection of Latin American Art*, and is currently serving as managing curator for an upcoming exhibition on Puerto Rican artist Francisco Oller. Prior to joining the Blanton, she held curatorial internships at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art and Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and wrote art criticism for D.C. area publications.

Shook holds a B.A. in Spanish from Georgetown University and an M.A. in Art History, with an emphasis in twentieth-century Latin American art, from George Mason University. She was awarded the 2012 annual prize for "Best History and New Media Project" by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University.

Shook will assist Blanton Adjunct Curator Beverly Adams in organizing special exhibitions and installations, and advancing scholarly research on works in the museum's renowned collection of Latin American art. She will also contribute to Blanton publications and serve as managing curator for Latin American art exhibitions traveling from other institutions.

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About the Blanton Museum of Art:

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 10-5, Saturday from 11-5, and Sunday from 1-5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9. 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.

For more information and high-resolution images, please contact:

Kathleen Brady Stimpert, 512-475-6784, kathleen.bradystimpert@blantonmuseum.org
Stacey Ingram Kaleh, 512-471-8433, stacey.kaleh@blantonmuseum.org

Photo Captions:

Evan Garza
Photo by George Bouret

Beth Shook
Photo by Mary Myers

Jeongho Park
Courtesy Blanton Museum of Art