

Contact: Florie Hutchinson, Media Relations
Florie.Hutchinson@gmail.com
415-515-4696



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / MAY 29, 2020

ICA Announces New Executive Director and Chief Curator



Contact: Florie Hutchinson, Media Relations
Florie.Hutchinson@gmail.com
415-515-4696



The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art is delighted to announce the appointment of Alison Gass as Executive Director and Chief Curator effective July 1. Gass replaces Cathy Kimball, who has led the institution for the past 20 years through significant growth and its move to its current space in downtown San Jose. Gass takes the helm of the ICA at an exciting time in the institution's history as the ICA celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

Gordon Yamate, President of the ICA Board of Directors said, "Ali is a widely renowned leader in the field of contemporary art and museums. We were impressed by her record of accomplishment at prominent art institutions and her demonstrated commitment to creating opportunities for artists to create immersive and site-specific work, the distinguishing hallmark of the ICA's programming. It's a great tribute to Cathy's leadership of the ICA that we are able to attract high caliber applicants for the executive director position. We discovered that Ali is an effective mentor for her staff and that she attracts great talent to the institutions that she has led. She's exactly the right person to take the helm now and to steer the ICA into the future. We are fortunate to be envisioning a bright future even in these times of global uncertainty and a new normal. We look forward to working with Ali as the ICA continues to deepen its relevance as a contemporary arts space locally, nationally, and internationally."

Gass added, "Throughout my career I have found the most satisfaction working with living artists and creating spaces for the broadest possible audiences to engage with a contemporary artistic practice that is reflective of the world around us. There could not be a more important time to support artists and determine how to create experiences to help people be inspired, engage challenging topics, and feel part of a community. I look forward to joining the terrific board and staff of the ICA as we navigate through this moment towards an exciting future. And I am beyond thrilled to be coming home to the Bay Area, the place where I know and deeply love the arts community."

Until recently, Gass served as the Dana Feitler Director of The Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago where she secured a \$5M gift to launch the Feitler Center for Academic Engagement, launched a fellowship for diversity in the curatorial field at the institution, and received a \$1M grant from the MacArthur Foundation to curate a city-wide activation by previous Genius grant recipients in the field of visual arts. Previously, she was the Chief Curator and Associate Director for Exhibitions and Collections at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University. Both at the University of Chicago and at

Contact: Florie Hutchinson, Media Relations
Florie.Hutchinson@gmail.com
415-515-4696



Stanford, Gass led the development of a globally focused and community engaged exhibitions program, prioritizing diversifying the collections, exhibitions program, staff and visitorship of the university's museum. Gass began her curatorial career at the Jewish Museum in New York City, then became an Assistant Curator at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. At SFMOMA Gass curated the SECA art award exhibitions, the New Work series, a platform for the work of emerging and mid-career artists. After leaving SFMOMA Gass served as Deputy Director and Chief Curator at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University, where she helped launch the new building and established a global contemporary program. She has commissioned projects and organized exhibitions of leading artists from around the world including Mika Rottenberg, Imran Qureshi, Hope Gangloff, Trevor Paglen, Amanda Williams, Samuel Levi Jones, and many others. She has taught at universities across the country and has been published in a number of journals and exhibitions catalogues. She holds degrees in Art History from Columbia University and the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU.

Gass will begin her position July 1.



San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art
560 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113
408-283-8155 / www.sjica.org

Admission to the ICA galleries is always free.
The ICA is wheelchair accessible.

Gallery Hours

The ICA is currently closed.