

PALM SPRINGS
ART MUSEUM



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For Immediate Release

Nationally Respected Deputy Director of Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, Joins Palm Springs Art Museum as Director of Architecture and Design



Photo by Matt Flynn © Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (March 31, 2016) – Elizabeth Armstrong, The JoAnn McGrath Executive Director of Palm Springs Art Museum, today announced the appointment of Brooke Hodge to the newly created position of Director of Architecture and Design. Hodge is a curator, writer, and critic whose credentials include Deputy Director of Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York; Director of Exhibitions and Publications at Los Angeles' Hammer Museum; Curator of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles (MOCA); and Assistant Dean of Arts Programs at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, among other positions. Hodge will start at the museum on June 1, 2016.

Hodge's curatorial credits include major exhibitions on the work of such international architects and designers as Frank Gehry, Gio Ponti, Zaha Hadid, Robert Wilson, Rei Kawakubo/Comme des Garçons, and most recently of British designer Thomas Heatherwick. For MOCA, she organized the groundbreaking exhibition *Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture*, that

examined the relationship between contemporary fashion and architecture and traveled to museums in Tokyo and London. Additionally, Hodge has contributed architecture, art, fashion, and design articles to *The New York Times T Magazine* blog, *Wallpaper*, and *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, and books related to these subjects.

“Brooke Hodge’s breadth and depth of expertise in architecture and design are on a parallel track with the growth of the museum’s assets and the resurgence of interest in these fields and their vitality of expression in Palm Springs,” said Armstrong. “Her appointment at Palm Springs Art Museum builds on the foundations laid by her predecessor curator Sidney Williams, and is in sync with the public’s broadening definitions and embrace of culture today that include art, architecture, and design in their multitude of forms – from graphic, landscape, interior, and industrial design, to landscape architecture, to furniture and fashion.”

In her new position as Director of Architecture and Design at Palm Springs Art Museum, Hodge will provide vision and leadership in implementing the museum’s commitment to architecture and design. She will oversee its exhibitions, in these disciplines as well as architectural assets such as the E. Stewart Williams designed Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, and the Albert Frey House II. Hodge will lead the long-term shaping of the museum’s architecture and design programs, collections, and related activities.

Hodge brings her writing expertise to exhibition catalogues, brochures, and other publications. Working with museum trustees, staff, donors, and support groups, she will also provide oversight regarding the use, upkeep, and preservation of the museum’s architectural and design assets.

“I am absolutely thrilled to be joining Palm Springs Art Museum and look forward to working with Liz Armstrong and her stellar team to build on the museum’s excellent architecture and design programs. It will be an honor to take the baton from Sidney Williams, who has done so much to advance our understanding of the importance of Palm Springs modern architecture,” stated Hodge. “I can’t wait to be part of a thriving community that is so passionate about architecture and design.”

About Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley and includes three locations in Palm Springs and Palm Desert. The flagship building is located in downtown Palm Springs and features compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the 433-seat Annenberg Theater, all in a 150,000 square foot, architecturally-significant building. Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, features exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture and design. Admission to the A+D Center is free for the next two years thanks to an anonymous donor. Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert is an 8,400 square

foot, Silver LEED-certified building named The Galen that presents rotating exhibitions and special collections. It is surrounded by the four-acre Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden featuring important sculpture works. Admission to the Palm Desert location is free, generously underwritten by Helene V. Galen. For more information, call 760-322-4800, visit psmuseum.org, and follow the museum on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.