

The Menil Collection Appoints Corina Rogge as Director of Conservation



HOUSTON—*April 18, 2023*—Rebecca Rabinow, Director of the Menil Collection, today announced the appointment of Dr. Corina Rogge as Director of Conservation. Rogge will start her position June 1, 2023.

Rogge will be responsible for the care and treatment of the museum's collection with consideration of profession-wide ethics, principles, and methods used in the conservation, preservation, and restoration of cultural heritage. She currently serves as the Andrew W. Mellon Research Scientist, a role that supports both the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Menil Collection. Rogge also serves as Vice President and a fellow for the American Institute of Conservation, the nation's leading membership

association for current and aspiring conservators and allied professionals in the field.

Rebecca Rabinow, Director of the Menil Collection, said, "We are eager to welcome Dr. Corina Rogge as the Menil Collection's new Director of Conservation. As the third person to lead this department established upon the museum's founding more than 35 years ago, Dr. Rogge brings exceptional enthusiasm, curiosity, deep intellect, and understanding to the role. An internationally recognized conservation scientist, she is committed to working with our team of respected conservators who specialize in a wide range of media, from paintings to objects to works on paper. The hiring of a conservation scientist to lead the department is an important development for the Menil, one that is intended to further the museum's history of innovation in the field and our commitment to training future conservators."

Dr. Corina Rogge said, "The Menil is such a unique institution, founded for Houstonians by John and Dominique de Menil. It is a place where you can come and have a direct, experiential relationship with art and develop a real appreciation of human creativity across time and different cultures. It is also a vibrant, research institution that is at the forefront of producing scholarship and dedicated to pursuing new ideas and initiatives. It has been my privilege to be part of these efforts in my role as the Andrew W. Mellon Research Scientist, and it is an incredible honor to be entrusted with furthering them as Director of Conservation. I look forward with great enthusiasm to help lead the future growth of this institution and the community it serves."

The Menil's conservation department oversees the documentation, examination, and conservation of artworks, matting and framing, imaging, and preparation of works for exhibition or loan. There is an emphasis on researching techniques and analyzing materials, both to elucidate how a given artist worked and to better understand how an artwork may age as different materials have variable responses to environmental factors including light, temperature, humidity, and pollutants. The department stewards the Artists Documentation Program (ADP), founded at the Menil in 1990, which features a database of video interviews between conservators and contemporary artists to understand the materials and techniques

applied to their artworks. Now a shared project of the Menil and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, these interviews are accessible online at adp.menil.org.

Rogge arrives at the Menil with more than 20 years of experience in the field. She has served as the Andrew W. Mellon Research Scientist, and as an Adjunct Assistant Professor, Rice University Department of Chemistry, since 2013. Rogge was previously the Andrew W. Mellon Assistant Professor of Conservation Science, Department of Art Conservation, at Buffalo State College, and Instructor of Chemistry at Rice University, among other roles. She holds a PhD in Chemistry from Yale University and a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College.

About the Menil Collection

Philanthropists and art patrons John and Dominique de Menil established the Menil Foundation in 1954 to cultivate greater public understanding and appreciation of art, architecture, culture, religion, and philosophy. In 1987, the Menil Collection's main museum building opened to the public. Today, the Menil Collection consists of a group of five art buildings and green spaces located within a residential neighborhood in central Houston. The Menil remains committed to its founders' belief that art is essential to human experience and fosters direct personal encounters with works of art. The museum welcomes all visitors free of charge to its buildings and surrounding green spaces. menil.org

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