

THE MENIL COLLECTION APPOINTS THOMAS RHOADS TO SERVE AS INTERIM DIRECTOR

HOUSTON, TX, November 20, 2015 – Janet Hobby, President of the Board of Trustees of the Menil Collection, today announced that the Board has appointed Thomas Rhoads to serve as the museum’s interim director. Rhoads will assume his duties on December 15, 2015, when the current director, Josef Helfenstein, departs as previously announced to assume the leadership of the Kunstmuseum Basel. Rhoads will continue as interim director until the Board completes its international search for a new director.

“We are very pleased to have secured the expertise of such a capable interim director for the Menil Collection as Tom Rhoads,” Janet Hobby stated. “His seasoned knowledge, coupled with the dedicated, ongoing work of our outstanding senior staff, will enable the Board to proceed efficiently but with all due diligence in identifying our next director. We look forward to introducing Tom to the entire Menil community early in 2016, after we have all had our opportunity to say farewell, and a warm thank you, to the extraordinary Josef Helfenstein.”

A veteran museum administrator, Thomas Rhoads most recently served as the Associate Director for Administration of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. During a tenure of a dozen years, he was responsible for the daily operations of the Getty, including formulating and implementing policies and procedures in budget, operations, personnel, and general management.

Rhoads began his career as a program and financial officer in the Visual Arts Division of the New York State Council on the Arts, concentrating on contemporary visual arts organizations. In 1988 he moved to California to become the founding executive director of the Santa Monica Museum of Art. He created the organizational structure for the Santa Monica museum, developed its programs and exhibitions, and presided over the move into its home at the Bergamot Station arts center. Following his tenure at that museum, Rhoads joined the Getty in 2000.

As scheduled, the Board of the Menil Collection has completed the organizational phase of its search for a new director. The Board anticipates beginning to review the credentials of potential candidates in early 2016.

About the Menil Collection

A legacy of the late Houston philanthropists John and Dominique de Menil, the Menil Collection opened in 1987. Housed in the first United States building designed by the Italian architect Renzo Piano, the Menil's main museum building anchors the 30-acre campus that includes the Cy Twombly Gallery, a site-specific Dan Flavin installation, the Byzantine Fresco Chapel— now a venue for long-term installations by contemporary artists— and outdoor sculpture. A new building for the Menil Drawing Institute designed by Johnston Marklee and expected to open in 2017 will be the first freestanding facility in the United States designed expressly for the exhibition and study of modern and contemporary drawings. Presenting regular rotations of artworks from the growing permanent collection, the Menil also organizes special exhibitions and programs throughout the year, publishes scholarly books, and conducts research into the conservation of modern and contemporary art. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 7pm, and charges no admission fee.

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