



Katonah Museum of Art
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: January 18, 2016

Katonah Museum of Art Announces New Members to its Board of Trustees

Katonah, NY, January 18, 2016 — The Katonah Museum of Art (KMA) has announced the addition of six new members to its Board of Trustees over the past year: **Sherry Blockinger, Whit Conrad, Mike Davies, Vanessa Diebold, Jorge Pedraza, PhD, and Sara Slocum**. This expansion of the Board arrives at a pivotal moment, energizing the Museum with bold leadership as the KMA develops a strategic roadmap for the future.

“I am delighted to welcome these new members to our Board of Trustees,” said Board President, Tara Coniaris. “They bring with them a wealth of creativity, knowledge, and leadership experience from cultural, educational, and financial institutions. I anticipate that the addition of their perspectives on the Board will benefit the KMA greatly as we embrace an important phase of enhancing engagement with our audiences, and renew our commitment to the community as a cultural asset.”

Executive Director, Darsie Alexander, who joined the KMA in 2014, adds, “This is an incredibly exciting moment for the Museum. Each of these individuals will bring tremendous energy to our organization and vitally contribute to its forward momentum.”



Sherry Blockinger is the executive pastry chef and creative director/owner of ‘sherry b dessert studio’ in Chappaqua, NY. A visible member of the community and a forward-thinking business professional, Sherry is both an innovator in her field and an advocate committed to supporting the growth of local organizations and entrepreneurial activities throughout Westchester. Sherry began her career with a degree in Communications from Purdue University, where she regularly returns as a guest lecturer. Her early career included various positions in media, marketing, and communications. She earned her Grand Diplôme in Pastry Arts from the French Culinary Institute in New York City. She now resides in Katonah with her husband, Jeffrey Blockinger; daughter, Jocelyn; and two rescue dogs, Lily and Tex.



Whit Conrad is a professional artist who lives in Manhattan, spends his weekends in Westchester, and works out of a studio in Long Island City. His work has been shown at various public venues in New York City and Bedford, NY, and at solo shows in Portland, ME (2014); Gallery Sensei in New York City (2014); and The Lionheart Gallery in Pound Ridge (2015). Prior to embarking on a career as an artist, Whit was a Senior Partner at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, which he joined in 1971. Whit advised on capital markets transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and other corporate matters. He is a graduate of the New York Studio School in painting, earned a JD degree from Harvard Law School, and BA from Yale University.



Mike Davies is a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, and the Head of Market Risk, Credit Risk, Product Risk, and Investment Risk, as well as Chair of the Wealth Management New Product Committee. Educated in the UK, he holds an MBA from Ashridge Business School, an MA in Economics from the University of Warwick, and a BS in Economics and Statistics from the University of Southampton. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, Mike worked at UFJ International (now part of Mitsubishi UFG) for 12 years in London, leading the risk management division. He now resides in Armonk with his wife and two children.



Vanessa Diebold is President of the Diebold Institute for Public Policy Studies, which for the past ten years has focused its grants primarily on children and education. From 2009 to 2011, while living part-time in Washington, DC, Vanessa was a volunteer Docent at the National Archives, conducting public tours of the Founding Documents. At the Archives, Vanessa was also a member of the Civil War Conservation team, which digitized documents related to Civil War Widows' pension files. Vanessa graduated from Hunter College with a BA in History and worked for many years in the Egyptian Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art before having a family and moving to Bedford Hills. She currently lives in Ridgefield, CT.



Jorge Pedraza, PhD is the co-founder of a wireless cell site real estate company, Unison Site Management, which is currently setting up operations in Latin America. Prior to establishing himself as an entrepreneur, Jorge worked in Paris for four years as the Director of *Le Monde Interactif*, the online arm of the French paper of record, *Le Monde*. Jorge was a Professor of Literary Studies at Williams College from 1989 to 1998. He received a BA in history from Cornell University, and a PhD in Comparative Literature from Yale University. Jorge resides in Katonah with his wife, Jennifer McQuaid, and three children.



Sara Slocum is an avid art collector with a focus on contemporary art and living artists. She currently serves as the Board's Acting Chair of Governance, and is involved with several other non-profits: as a member and past President of the Board of Bottomless Closet; a member of the Rippowam Cisqua School Board of Trustees; and as a supporter of Northern Westchester Hospital, serving on the Steering Committee for the NWH Gala for the past two years. Previously, Sara worked in retail consulting and market research for companies in New York and Massachusetts. She received a master's degree from the London School of Economics and a BA from Haverford College. She lives in Bedford with her husband, Josh Slocum, and their four children.

ABOUT THE KATONAH MUSEUM OF ART:

The Katonah Museum of Art, through innovative exhibition and education programs, promotes the understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts for diverse audiences. The Museum presents exhibitions that explore ideas about art, culture, and society – past and present.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS:

The Nest, an exhibition of art in nature

March 6 - June 19, 2016

Drawing inspiration from the wonder, complexity, and metaphorical resonance of the bird's nest, *The Nest, an exhibition of art in nature* features a selection of real birds' nests alongside works by contemporary artists, which consider the environmental, aesthetic, and cultural facets of the nest. With sculpture, painting, photography, and video, artists consider the ways in which the nest speaks to both the workings of nature and the human experience. Artists include Dove Bradshaw, Björn Braun, John Burtle, Shiela Hale, Nina Katchadourian, Judy Pfaff, James Prosek, Kiki Smith, and Paul Villinski, among others.

Matisse Drawings: Curated by Ellsworth Kelly

Fall 2016

Matisse Drawings: Curated by Ellsworth Kelly, a unique exploration of Henri Matisse's drawings by one of America's greatest abstract artists, provides new insight into the French master's work. For this special exhibition, Ellsworth Kelly surveyed Matisse's drawings from 1900 through 1950, revealing Matisse's process and the range of his creativity as a draughtsman. Many of the 45 works on view, from quick sketches to highly detailed images, have rarely or never-before been exhibited. To accompany this display, Kelly selected work from his own large-scale Suite of Plant Lithographs (1964–66) for presentation in an adjacent gallery, illuminating both the sympathies and distinct differences between the two artists. The entire installation, including frame choice and placement of works, was conceived by Kelly, and this is among the last exhibitions on which he worked before his death (December 27, 2015). In his tribute to Kelly, Jerry Saltz described him as "the artist I now think of as the American Matisse."

The Katonah Museum of Art is located at 134 Jay Street, Katonah, NY 10536. Museum hours are: Tuesday through Saturday from 10am – 5pm, Sunday from 12pm – 5pm, closed Monday. General admission: \$10 adults, \$5 seniors & students. Members & children under the age of 12 always enter free. For more information, please call (914) 232-9555 or visit www.katonahmuseum.org.

Stay connected with the Katonah Museum of Art on Facebook (facebook.com/KatonahMuseum), Instagram ([@KatonahMuseum](https://Instagram.com/KatonahMuseum)) and Twitter ([@KatonahMuseum](https://Twitter.com/@KatonahMuseum).)

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