



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Henry Art Gallery**

Faye G. Allen Center for the Visual Arts  
University of Washington  
15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street  
Box 351410  
Seattle, WA 98195-1410  
Gallery information (phone number for publication): 206.543.2280

**January 12, 2012—Seattle**

### **Luis Croquer appointed to the position of Deputy Director of Art and Education at the Henry Art Gallery**

Sylvia Wolf, Director of the Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, announced today



that Luis Croquer has been appointed to the position of Deputy Director of Art and Education, concluding a comprehensive international search. Croquer was formerly Director and Chief Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit. He plans to assume his responsibilities March 13, 2012.

The Deputy Director of Art and Education (DDAE) is a new position at the Henry, designed to provide strategic leadership, oversight, and management of integrated exhibition, collection,

and education initiatives. The DDAE is a curator first and foremost, partnering with the Henry Director and curatorial team on developing the artistic direction for the Henry. In addition, the DDAE will support institution-wide efforts to promote and identify funding sources for Henry exhibitions, publications, and education programs as the Henry embarks on a major fundraising campaign.

“Luis is the perfect creative partner to join in shaping the future of the Henry at this crucial time in our history,” said Wolf. “As we celebrate our 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the region’s sole museum devoted to contemporary art, Luis brings a global perspective, a keen and discerning eye for the new, and an independence of mind that have earned him the respect of colleagues worldwide. He also brings a deep understanding of museum practice and is gifted in collaborating with artists and peer institutions. I look forward to working with Luis on advancing the Henry as an internationally recognized platform for the discovery and experience of contemporary art, artists, and ideas.”

Henry Board Chair, Bill True, adds “I am delighted that Luis is joining the Henry as the Deputy Director of Art and Education. His unique combination of curatorial expertise, knowledge of the international art scene, and managerial experience will advance and serve both the Henry Art Gallery and the Seattle art community.”

Croquer remarks “It is with genuine pleasure and great enthusiasm that I join the team at the Henry Art Gallery. As the oldest art museum in Washington State, the Henry has a distinguished and long history of strong commitment to contemporary art. That combination of rethinking the past and contextualizing the contemporary perfectly matches my desire to explore in depth the role of art, collections and programs in the 21st century. I am very eager to contribute to this new and very important phase in the Henry’s life under Sylvia’s leadership, and to support her exciting vision for the museum. I am also thrilled to be moving to Seattle, a place long recognized as a hotbed of innovation and progressive thinking.”

As Director and Chief Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, Croquer provided artistic direction of exhibitions and public programs, and oversaw activities in education, development and external relations. During his three-year tenure, he established for MOCAD an international reputation for presenting cutting edge contemporary art. He also developed a regional following through innovative community outreach, and he secured significant foundation grants to support MOCAD activities.

Anne Pasternak, Director of Creative Time, New York, remarks, “Over the years, I have watched Luis's work with enthusiasm, often traveling to MOCAD to view his exhibitions, and have been wowed by his global artistic reach and his capacity to build support for the organization. Luis has a rich mix of talents: intellectual rigor, a deep and thoughtful approach to contemporary culture, a broad global perspective, and the

capacity to engage audiences of all levels of interest and sophistication in contemporary art."

Prior to MOCAD, Croquer was Special Projects Assistant to the Director at the Museo del Barrio, New York, where he laid the foundation for a program of traveling exhibitions and national and international collaborations. As Senior Curator at the American Federation of Arts, New York, he initiated and led the reshaping of the AFA's exhibition program, and negotiated and oversaw curatorial exchanges with The Louvre, and Les Art Decoratifs, Paris, among other international venues. As Curator of Historical Exhibitions at the Drawing Center, New York, Croquer researched, programmed and implemented the Center's historical exhibitions program.

Artists Croquer has worked with include William Anastasi, Edgar Arceneaux, Katinka Bock, Martha Friedman, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Jef Geys, Jesper Just and Christian Marclay. Recent projects include Spatial City: An Architecture of Idealism, the first exhibition in the US of work drawn from the French Regional Contemporary Art collections, developed and co-curated in collaboration with the Fracs, INOVA, Milwaukee and the Hyde park Center, Chicago. He also curated LifeStories, featuring Pina Bausch, Patricia Esquivias, Simryn Gill, Peter Lemmens, Jàn Mančuška, and Rachel Mason; and barely there I & II, an exhibition in two parts featuring Francis Alÿs, Marcel Broodthaers, James Lee Byars, Luis Camnitzer, Frank Capra, Jason Dodge, Hans-Peter Feldmann, Pablo Helguera, Paul Ramirez-Jonas, Christoph Keller, Kimsooja, Mark Lombardi, Lee Lozano, Christian Marclay, Rivane & Sergio Neuenschwander, Max Ophüls, Wilfredo Prieto, Yvonne Rainer, Ranjani Shettar, Pascal Marthine Tayou, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Nicolás García Urriburu, Franz Erhard Walther, Francesca Woodman and Adolf Wölfli.

Croquer was born in El Salvador and has lived in Austria, El Salvador, England, Gabon, India, Italy, Lebanon, Switzerland, the US, and Venezuela, in addition to traveling extensively in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. He has a BA in Anthropology and Communications from Goldsmiths College, University of London, and an MA in Modern and Contemporary Art History, Theory and Criticism from the State University of New York at Purchase. Croquer has been the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship; the Hilla Rebay International Fellowship by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; and a Curatorial Fellowship from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

## **About the Henry Art Gallery**

THE HENRY ADVANCES THE ART, ARTISTS, AND IDEAS OF OUR TIME.

Since its founding in 1927, the Henry Art Gallery has served the Pacific Northwest as a pioneer in bringing contemporary art and ideas to the region. The Henry is a hub for audiences of all ages to experience the discovery, wonder, and surprise that contemporary art, artists, and ideas provide. The Henry staff, board, and community are committed to taking risks, and fostering dialogue and debate. Exhibitions, collections, and public programs at the Henry stimulate research and teaching at the University of Washington, provide a creative wellspring for artists, students, and educators, and reveal a record of modern artistic inquiry from the advent of photography in the mid-19th century to the multidisciplinary art and design of the 21st century.

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