

CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON ANNOUNCES JUNE DEPARTURE OF DIRECTOR MARTI MAYO

Houston, TX—February 14, 2007—The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston today announced that Marti Mayo will leave the position of director of the museum, effective June 30, 2007. The Museum shortly will announce the appointment of an interim director. Mayo will continue in a consulting role to the Museum during this transition.

Mayo's departure comes after thirteen years of dynamic leadership under which annual attendance more than tripled as the Museum organized and presented nationally and internationally touring exhibitions such as *Matthew Ritchie: Proposition Player*; *Splat Boom Pow!: The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art*; *Andrea Zittel: Critical Space*; and *Wishing for Synchronicity: Works by Pipilotti Rist*; all of which contributed strong scholarship and research to the field of contemporary art. Among the projects documenting the history and significance of the Museum to the region include *Finders/Keepers*, a history of the Museum since its founding in 1948; *Perspectives@25: A Quarter Century of New Art in Houston*, tracing the evolution of this long-running exhibition series; and *Jim Love: From Now On*, the first major museum exhibition in 20 years to focus on the work of the late Houston sculptor.

Also during Mayo's tenure, the Museum instituted a roster of educational programming that has made it a leader in innovative approaches to museum education, conducted its first successful capital campaign, completed a facility renovation and expansion, and saw significant gains in its endowment.

"Marti Mayo's years of service to the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston have proved invaluable, as her contributions have established the institution as a vital part of the Houston community and the national and international contemporary art world," said Board President Elizabeth Howard. "Her leadership in serving Houston and the region while raising the profile and visibility of the Museum beyond Texas has set us on a path to continued success."

Previously, Mayo served as director of the Blaffer Gallery, the art museum of the University of Houston (1986-1994), curator of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (1980-1986), and in various curatorial positions at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (1974-1980). She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Association of Art Museum Directors, the Board of Trustees of the American Federation of Arts, the Board of Trustees of Houston's South Main Association, the Board of Trustees of the Houston Museum District Association (of which she is a past president), and the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, an artistic and academic award winning high school in Houston. She has served in a variety of board capacities at the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County, now the Houston Arts Alliance.

In her career as both a curator and museum director, Mayo organized over 40 solo and group exhibitions, among them major projects on the work of artists such as Joseph Glasco, Barbara Kruger, Robert Morris, Robert Rauschenberg, Julian Schnabel, Pat Steir, and Mark Tansey, as well as numerous Texas-based artists such as Gay Block, James Drake, Vernon Fisher, Rachel Hecker, Lucas Johnson, Gael Stack, and Michael Tracy. She has written and lectured extensively

on contemporary art and artists, and has been a panelist, juror, and consultant for many international, national and regional exhibitions, competitions, and institutions.

Mayo has taught at the University of Houston and the Glassell School of Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She received her Master and Bachelor of Arts degrees from The American University, Washington, D.C.

About the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a non-collecting institution dedicated to presenting the best and most exciting international, national, and regional art of the last 40 years, and to providing a forum for the discussion and understanding of the art of our time. Through dynamic exhibitions accompanied by scholarly publications and accessible educational programs, the Museum reaches out to local, regional, national, and international audiences of all ages. Recent exhibitions include *Wishing for Synchronicity: Works by Pipilotti Rist*, the first comprehensive U.S. survey of the seminal work of the Swiss video artist; *Andrea Zittel: Critical Space*, the first comprehensive American solo exhibition of Zittel's three-dimensional work and home environments; and *Double Consciousness: Black Conceptual Art Since 1970*, a survey illustrating African-American artists' indelible influence on conceptual art.

The Museum is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard at the corner of Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. The Museum is open to the public Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum and to most events is free and open to the public. The entire Museum is accessible to the physically handicapped. Call 713 284 8250 or visit www.camh.org.

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