

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

Kristen A. Shepherd, Executive Director and CEO of The Museum of Fine Arts, St Petersburg, Steps Down

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (August 4, 2022) – [The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg](#) (MFA) announced today the departure of Executive Director and CEO, Kristen A. Shepherd. Shepherd’s resignation was accepted earlier in July by Dimity Carlson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, who stated, “We are grateful for Kristen’s dedication and vision over the past five and a half years. She guided the MFA through the challenges of the pandemic, as well as through a period of substantive growth. Kristen has also facilitated acclaimed exhibitions and important loans and accessions. Additionally, she put a strong team in place to continue to move the museum forward.” She added, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire museum community, we wish Kristen all the best and look forward to an on-going friendship.”

During Shepherd’s tenure, the Museum of Fine Arts presented several highly acclaimed exhibitions, including *Jewels of the Imagination: Radiant Masterworks by Jean Schlumberger from the Mellon Collection*; *A Feast for the Eyes: European Masterworks from the Grasset Collection*; *Antioch Reclaimed: Ancient Mosaics at the MFA*; *‘The Grasshopper and the Ant’ and Other Stories, as told by Jennifer Angus*; as well as the current critically acclaimed, *Gio Swaby: Fresh Up*; and the future exhibition *True Nature: Rodin and the Age of Impressionism*.

“I’m so proud of all that we’ve accomplished together over the last five and a half years,” states Shepherd. “We’ve weathered an unprecedented global pandemic that was a challenge for all institutions. I’m departing at a good moment, with a talented team in place. I am looking forward to taking a brief break this summer and I wish everyone at the museum continued success.”

Under Kristen’s leadership and guidance, significant works were added to the encyclopedic collection at the MFA. This includes Kehinde Wiley’s *Leviathan Zodiac (The World Stage: Israel)* and two Pre-Raphaelite works from the Setton Collection, including John Roddam Spencer Stanhope’s masterpiece, *Juliet and her Nurse*, and other key acquisitions.

During her time at the MFA, Kristen also spearheaded a major renovation of the 1965 galleries to showcase the full depth and diversity of Florida’s largest encyclopedic museum. She also initiated and fostered an ongoing partnership with Art Bridges Foundation, an initiative of arts patron Alice Walton, to expand access to American Art through loans and programming at regional museums across the nation.

An executive committee of key board members in close collaboration with museum leadership is in place to guide the museum during the interim period before the next director comes onboard.

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ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive NE is the largest encyclopedic art museum in Florida. The collection includes works of art from ancient times to the present day and from around the world, including ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, Native American, European, American, and contemporary art. The photography collection is one of the largest and finest in the Southeast. For more information, please visit mfastpete.org and follow @mfastpete on social media.

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