

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION



ST. PETERSBURG, FL (November 3, 2023) — [The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg](#) (MFA), today announced that the Board of Trustees and Anne-Marie Russell have agreed on a leadership transition and succession plan for the MFA and that Ms. Russell will step down as the Museum's Executive Director & CEO on March 1, 2024.

Ms. Russell took on the leadership role at MFA with a clear mandate from the Board to elevate the Museum's operations to the highest industry standards and best practices to prepare for

reaccreditation. Having successfully implemented these initiatives, Ms. Russell will immediately hand over the day-to-day running of the Museum to a senior leadership team. For the remainder of her tenure, Ms. Russell will focus on collections stewardship and programming while continuing to advise the MFA on special projects. The Board has initiated the process of selecting a new Executive Director & CEO in collaboration with a global executive search firm.

Piers Davies, Chairman of the Board, said, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to extend our appreciation to Anne-Marie for her many contributions to the MFA. Anne-Marie assumed her role with the specific objective of preparing the MFA for its reaccreditation in 2024 and ensuring that the Museum adhered to the highest standards of museum best practices. Her unwavering commitment to implementing these best practices and guiding the organization through a timely restructuring have proven invaluable.”

The Board has appointed Dr. Stanton Thomas, Chief Curator, and Darcy Schuller, Chief Strategy Officer, to co-lead the Museum during this transitional phase. Dr. Thomas and Ms. Schuller's exceptional experience, blending curatorial and business expertise, ensures the Museum's continued commitment to excellence and building further the MFA's standing as a preeminent encyclopedic museum.

Dr. Stanton Thomas received his Ph.D. in Northern Renaissance art from Case Western University and holds an M.A. from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Dr. Thomas has been promoted to Chief Curator and leads the Museum's curatorial and program initiatives. Some of Dr. Thomas's most notable projects include *A Feast for the Eyes: European Masterpieces from the Grasset Collection* (2019), *Drawn to Beauty: The Art and Atelier of Jean Schlumberger* (2018-2019), and *The Nature of Art* (2023-2024).

Darcy Schuller earned her M.B.A. in Strategic Marketing and Information Technology Management from the University of Texas at Austin and holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Michigan State University. With more than two decades of leadership and business expertise, she has an impressive track record in nonprofit and corporate settings. As the Chief Strategy Officer, Ms. Schuller oversees all aspects of the Museum's business and revenue-generating operations.

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ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG

The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) has an encyclopedic collection of art from around the globe and across the centuries, with almost 5,000 years of civilization represented in thousands of objects extending from antiquity to the present. The collection includes works by Georgia O'Keefe, Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Auguste Rodin, Kehinde Wiley, Jacob Lawrence, and many others, as well as ancient Greek and Roman, Asian, African, Art of the Americas and Native American art. The Museum's photographic collection is one of the largest and most well-respected in the Southeast. The museum's rotating exhibition galleries feature a diverse selection of temporary exhibitions from all over the world, as well as exhibitions curated from the museum's extensive collection. In addition to its robust exhibition program, the MFA engages the community through exciting public programs and events and serves students through youth programs and a partnership with the Pinellas County School System.

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