

# Chief Curator and Executive Director of SculptureCenter, Mary Ceruti, departs to become Executive Director of the Walker Art Center

For Immediate Release

RELEASE DATE  
Nov 13, 2018

MEDIA CONTACT  
Justin Conner  
justin@hellothirdeye.com  
+1 212 355 9009

Long Island City, NY — SculptureCenter's Chief Curator and Executive Director, Mary Ceruti, has been appointed Executive Director of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. During Ceruti's distinguished 20-year leadership, SculptureCenter emerged as an international platform for some of today's most compelling artists.

Early in her tenure, Ceruti led the successful and visionary relocation of SculptureCenter from Manhattan to Long Island City, Queens. She also substantially revamped the program to further establish SculptureCenter's position in the international contemporary art community. Since 1999, SculptureCenter has commissioned dozens of new artworks and presented numerous exhibitions including the US debut exhibitions of **Nairy Baghramian, Anthea Hamilton, Jeppe Hein, Rashid Johnson, Agnieszka Kurant, and Charlotte Prodger**. Other notable projects included *A Voyage of Growth and Discovery* by **Mike Kelley** and **Michael Smith**; *Bill Bollinger: The Retrospective*; *Emilia and Ilya Kabakov: The Empty Museum*; *Leslie Hewitt: Collective Stance*; and *Cercle d'Art des Travailleurs de Plantation Congolaise (Congolese Plantation Workers Art League)*.

When Ceruti arrived in July 1999, the organization occupied a carriage house on the Upper East Side with a gallery on the ground floor and studios for clay and stone carving on the upper floors. In 2001, SculptureCenter purchased a 1908 trolley repair station in Long Island City and commissioned Maya Lin to design a renovation, dramatically increasing the scale and scope of the programs. In 2014, SculptureCenter completed an expansion and renovation of its facilities designed by Andrew Berman Architect. SculptureCenter has been at the center of the explosive growth of the Long Island City neighborhood and Ceruti has been an active leader of the broader western Queens cultural community.

SculptureCenter Board Chair, Andreas Beroutsos said:

"On behalf of SculptureCenter's Board of Trustees, I would like to express my profound thanks to Mary Ceruti for dedicating 20 years to our beloved institution. Throughout her tenure, Mary served the SculptureCenter with distinctive impact and vision. Consistent with our mission, values and history, Mary's leadership focused on artists and supported artistic quality, insight and innovation. We wish Mary the very best for her next chapter at such a distinguished and important institution as the Walker Art Center.

As we enter our 10<sup>th</sup> decade, SculptureCenter remains a magnet for artists, curators and academics, staff and art lovers alike. Our Board is firmly committed to continuing our innovative and cutting-edge programming, expanding our international dialogues and partnerships, and pursuing all the new ideas that will serve the SculptureCenter and our broader communities well in the next 10, 20 years and beyond."

Carol Bove, SculptureCenter President said:

"Mary Ceruti is the architect of an essential platform for art in New York City that has profoundly enriched the conversation around contemporary art. One of SculptureCenter's greatest strengths is identifying significant artists and ideas and presenting them to a broad audience. I would like to thank Mary for her vision and tenacity in creating a free space for artists. I am grateful for the hard-earned

freedoms she has secured for the artist community, and look forward to both a new chapter, and to carrying forward her legacy."

Ceruti made the following statement about her tenure:

"Over the last 20 years, I have worked with and learned from some of the most extraordinary people at SculptureCenter: artists, staff, trustees, patrons, and colleagues. So many amazing projects were made possible! The SculptureCenter team is creative and dedicated and I have great expectations for what comes next. I will always consider it a privilege to have led this brilliant organization to its current place in the contemporary art conversation."

Ceruti will remain at SculptureCenter until January 22, 2019. The Board of Trustees will commence a search for a new Executive Director immediately.

### About SculptureCenter

SculptureCenter leads the conversation on contemporary art by supporting artistic innovation and independent thought highlighting sculpture's specific potential to change the way we engage with the world. Positioning artists' work in larger cultural, historical, and aesthetic contexts, SculptureCenter discerns and interprets emerging ideas. Founded by artists in 1928, SculptureCenter provides an international forum that connects artists and audiences by presenting exhibitions, commissioning new work, and generating scholarship.

For nearly 20 years, SculptureCenter has presented works by over 750 emerging and established artists through its annual exhibition program, and today, SculptureCenter is considered one of New York's most adventurous kunsthallen. Placing importance on investment, inclusiveness, independence, transparency, and rigor, SculptureCenter has developed a strong reputation for championing under-recognized and emerging artists, many of whom have gone on to celebrated and substantial careers such as: Turner Prize nominees Anthea Hamilton and Charlotte Prodger, Sanford Biggers, Nairy Baghramian, Tom Burr, Liz Glynn, Rochelle Goldberg, Camille Henrot, Leslie Hewitt, Rashid Johnson, Ugo Rondinone, Katrín Sigurdardóttir, Alexandre Singh, Monika Sosnowska, Gedi Sibony, Mika Tajima, and recent Hugo Boss Prize winners Anicka Yi and Simone Leigh.

As a non-collecting museum, SculptureCenter's annual exhibition program includes 1–2 commissioning programs by mid-career artists, 10–15 projects by emerging artists, and 3–6 solo and group exhibitions in addition to an exciting series of special projects by emerging artists through In Practice, an open call program, and

Public Process, a public art and education initiative for high school students. SculptureCenter continuously offers a dynamic series of free public programs and events that feature artist talks, performances, film screenings, and concerts, as well as publications.

Lead underwriting support of SculptureCenter's Exhibition Fund has been generously provided by the Kraus Family Foundation with major support by Robert Soros.

The In Practice program is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts and The Pollock-Krasner Foundation. Additional gifts by Andreas Beroutsos, Alex Bilboa, Lewis Canfield, William Cotton, Joan Davidson, Henrique Cesar de Castro, Dorinda Elliott, Dennis Freedman, Saskia Friedrich, Aurelien Jehan, Diana King, Andre LaFontaine, Maximilien Moris, Nazhand Art and Culture LLC, Sheri Pasquarella, Lowell Pettit, Robert Pruzan, Herbert Sambol, and Miyoung Lee Simpkins and Neil Simpkins.

SculptureCenter's programs and operating support is provided by the Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the National Endowment for the Arts; the A. Woodner Fund; Charlotte Feng Ford; New York City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer; and contributions from our Board of Trustees and Director's Circle. Additional funding is provided by the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation and contributions from many generous individuals.

