



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ARTTABLE BRINGS TOGETHER FOUR TOP WOMEN ART MUSEUM DIRECTORS
— HOLLY BLOCK, THELMA GOLDEN, ANNE PASTERNAK, AND LAURA RAICOVICH—
FOR CONVERSATION MODERATED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES' ROBERTA SMITH**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT THE NEW SCHOOL

July 25, 2016, NEW YORK, NY—ArtTable, the leadership organization for professional women in the visual arts, announces a panel discussion for this September featuring the women helming art museums in four of New York City's five boroughs: **Holly Block**, executive director, The Bronx Museum of the Arts; **Thelma Golden**, director and chief curator, The Studio Museum in Harlem; **Anne Pasternak**, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director, the Brooklyn Museum; and **Laura Raicovich**, president and executive director, the Queens Museum. Moderated by co-chief art critic of *The New York Times* **Roberta Smith** the conversation will focus on the role each institution plays in its community, while also featuring insights and anecdotes from each participant.

"This is a historic moment for the art community and more broadly for the City of New York. At this moment, four of our most important art museums are being led by accomplished and inspiring women leaders, while the chief art critic at one of our most significant newspapers is also a woman," said **Jane Borthwick, ArtTable Board President**. "As an organization, ArtTable has always supported and championed women in the visual arts, and this is a moment to step back and celebrate the achievements of these five women, to learn from their wealth of experiences, and consider the state of the arts in our city."

This event is the first in a series of annual public programs organized by ArtTable in collaboration with the Vera List Center for Arts and Politics at The New School is titled *New Visions, New Voices*.

"We're thrilled to welcome ArtTable back to The New School, and with it some of our most illustrious women museum directors," said **Pamela Tillis, Director of Public Programs, New School**. "Twelve years ago, we collaborated on a similar program, and in this political climate it is reassuring -- not least to our students -- to observe a field where women have become vastly more prominent."

ABOUT THE EVENT:

NEW VISIONS, NEW VOICES: Featuring Holly Block, Thelma Golden, Anne Pasternak, Laura Raicovich, and moderated by Roberta Smith

Monday, September 19, 2016

6:30–8:00pm (doors open at 6:00pm)

The New School, John L. Tishman Auditorium (63 5th Ave, New York, NY 10003)

Tickets:

\$25; New School students and faculty: free of charge

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit: www.arttable.org/newvisions

SUPPORT

This program is supported by Chubb Insurance

ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS



Holly Block, Executive Director, The Bronx Museum of the Arts

In 2006, Holly Block was appointed as the executive director of The Bronx Museum of the Arts. She previously served as a curator at the museum from 1985 to 1988. For 18 years, from 1988 to 2006, Ms. Block was executive director of Art in General, a leading nonprofit arts organization in Lower Manhattan. In 2013, Ms. Block was appointed by Department of State as co-commissioner of the United States Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale and presented the work of artist Sarah Sze. In 2015, she launched the most significant museum collaboration between the U.S. and Cuba in the last 50 years with El Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Havana. This cultural collaboration, *Wild Noise*, includes an exhibition exchange, a residency for artists, and a teen exchange program. In addition, Ms. Block has spearheaded a free admission policy since 2012, increasing attendance from a modest 20,000 annual visitors to more than 100,000 today.



Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator, The Studio Museum in Harlem

Thelma Golden is director and chief curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem where she began her career in 1987 before joining the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1988. After a decade at the Whitney, she returned to the Studio Museum in 2000 as deputy director for exhibitions and programs, and was named director and chief curator in 2005. Golden was appointed to the Committee for the Preservation of the White House by President Obama in 2010, and in 2015 joined the Barack Obama Foundation's board of directors. Golden is the recipient of the 2016 Audrey Irmas Award for Curatorial Excellence. Born in St. Albans, Queens, Golden currently resides in Harlem.



Anne Pasternak, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director, Brooklyn Museum

Since Anne Pasternak joined the Brooklyn Museum in September 2015, she has been envisioning new ways to connect its historical collections with leading-edge practices. Previously, she served as president and artistic director of Creative Time, a New York City based non-profit arts organization that commissions and presents adventurous public art projects. Renowned projects include performances in the historic Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, sculptural installations in Grand Central Station's Vanderbilt Hall, sign paintings in Coney Island, skywriting over Manhattan, and among the most remarkable, the *Tribute in Light*, the twin beacons of light that illuminated the sky above the former World Trade Center site six months after 9/11, and which continue to be presented on the anniversaries of that date.



Laura Raicovich, President and Executive Director, Queens Museum

Laura Raicovich has served as the president and executive director of the Queens Museum since January 2015. Prior to this position, Raicovich worked in several of the top arts and cultural institutions, she previously served as the Director of Global Initiatives at Creative Time, the deputy director of the Dia Art Foundation, in addition to holding positions at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Public Art Fund, and NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. In the past two decades of her career, Raicovich has proven herself to be an experienced art professional and transformative cultural producer as well as an authority on socially engaged and collaborative art.



Roberta Smith, Co-Chief Art Critic, *The New York Times*

In 2011, Roberta Smith became the first woman to hold the Co-Chief Art Critic title at *The New York Times*. Prior to her start as a staff writer at The Times in 1986, Smith had written exhibition reviews for *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *the Village Voice* among others. Smith has written numerous essays for catalogues and monographs on contemporary artists, and wrote the featured essay in the Judd catalogue raisonné published by the National Gallery of Canada in 1975. In 2003, the College Art Association awarded Smith the Frank Jewett Mather Award for Art Criticism.

ABOUT ARTTABLE

ArtTable is the foremost national membership organization dedicated to advancing women's professional leadership in the visual arts. Through its activities and programs, ArtTable serves women at all stages of their careers, expands opportunities for women from diverse backgrounds, engages with critical issues in the field, and fosters community through its national network.

MEDIA CONTACT

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Images: Holly Block, photo by Peter Serling, 2013; Thelma Golden, courtesy of Julie Skarratt; Anne Pasternak, courtesy of Brooklyn Museum; Laura Raicovich, courtesy of *Art in America* Magazine; Roberta Smith, photo by Marco Grob for *Interview Magazine*

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