

**AAMC Foundation**

# PACC

**2025 MENTORS**



**Grace Deveney, Associate Curator, Art Institute of Chicago  
Chicago, IL**

Grace Deveney is the David C. and Sarajeane Ruttenberg Associate Curator of Photography and Media at the Art Institute of Chicago. Recent exhibitions include Kameelah Janan Rasheed: Unsewn Time; Peter Hujar: Performance and Portraiture, and Kwame Brathwaite: Things Well Worth Waiting For (all 2023). She was associate curator of Prospect.5: Yesterday we said tomorrow, a New Orleans--based contemporary art triennial (2021). Previously, she was a visiting curator at the School of Art Gallery, University of Manitoba (2021–2022), and an assistant curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. She holds a Ph.D. in Art History from Northwestern University.



**Shawnya Harris, Deputy Director of Curatorial and Academic Affairs, Georgia Museum of Art  
Athens, GA**

Shawnya Harris is the Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson Curator of African American and African Diasporic Art at the Georgia Museum of Art where she has worked since 2015. Harris began her museum career in North Carolina where she earned a Ph.D. in art history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned her undergraduate degree in African American Studies from Yale University.

Harris has curated numerous award-winning exhibitions, including a recent retrospective, "Emma Amos: Color Odyssey," which traveled to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Her exhibitions and publications have garnered several awards from regional art associations including the Southeastern Museums Conference, the Southeastern College Art Conference. National awards include a James A. Porter and David C. Driskell Book Award in African American Art History in 2018 for her publication, "Expanding Tradition: Selections from the Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson Collection." Harris completed a fellowship at the Center for Curatorial Leadership in 2021 and was recently named the Georgia Association of Museums Museum Professional of the Year.



**Shalini Le Gall, Director, Ackland Art Museum  
Chapel Hill, NC**

Shalini Le Gall will begin serving as the Director of the Ackland Art Museum at UNC Chapel Hill in fall 2025. Prior to this role, Le Gall served as the Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs at the Portland Museum of Art in Maine and the Linde Family Foundation Curator of Academic Programs at the Colby College Museum of Art. Le Gall has led curatorial and education teams, planned exhibitions and installations, and developed strategic academic initiatives and collection priorities. She holds an MA and PhD in art history from Northwestern University and BA in theology from Georgetown University.



**Leilani Lynch, Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver  
Denver, CO**

Leilani Lynch is the Associate Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. There, she has organized numerous museum exhibitions, including Suki Seokyeong Kang: Mountain—Hour—Face (2025) Movements Toward Freedom (2024), Gala Porras-Kim: A hand in nature (2024); Steven Yazzie: Meandered (2024); Ken Gun Min: The Lost Paradise (2024); and Anna Tsouhlarakis: Indigenous Absurdities (2023). From 2015-2022, Leilani held several curatorial positions at The Bass, Miami Beach where she curated exhibitions with artists including Jamilah Sabur (2022), Cara Despaigne (2022), Naama Tsabar (2021), Mika Rottenberg (2017) in addition to co-organizing exhibitions by Adrián Villar Rojas (2022), Haegue Yang (2019), and Paola Pivi (2018). In 2024-25, Lynch participated in the Association of Art Museum Curators' Propel Fellowship. She has spoken on panels and lectures for STPI – Creative Workshop, Singapore, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, ArtTable, and ICOM, and served on juries for Artadia, the Association of Art Museum Curators, Creative Capital, Headlands Center for the Arts, Bemis Art Center, Oolite Arts, and others. She holds a BA in Art History from University of California, Berkeley and an MAS in Curating from Zurich University of the Arts.



**Felicia Mings, Curator, Art Gallery of York University  
Toronto, Canada**

Felicia Mings is a curator at The Joan and Martin Goldfarb Gallery of York University in Toronto, Canada. She focuses on interpreting and presenting modern and contemporary art with an emphasis on arts of Africa and the Caribbean, along with their diasporas. Mings' recent curatorial projects include the Toronto iteration of Charles Campbell: An Ocean to Lividity, 2025, Maryam Taghavi: Unfolding Worlds, 2025, Dele Adeyemo's From Longhouse to Highrise: The Course of Empire, 2023, and Meleko Mokgosi: Imaging Imaginations, 2023. Felicia holds a master of arts in visual and critical studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a bachelor of arts from the University of Toronto and Sheridan College.



## **Jade Powers, Birmingham Museum of Art Birmingham, AL**

Jade Powers is the Hugh Kaul Curator of Contemporary Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art. She directs the growth and development of the BMA's contemporary art collection of more than 3,200 works and implements contemporary art exhibitions. She recently installed an exhibition in the BMA's contemporary galleries titled *Marks of Intention* negotiating the way contemporary artists use mark-making. She is currently working on an exhibition and publication highlighting Black American artists at the BMA opening in September 2026 in honor of the Museum's 75th anniversary. Previously Powers was the Curator of Contemporary Art at the Harn Museum of Art in Gainesville, Florida. There she spearheaded the reinstallation of community-favorite public sculpture, *Hammering Man* at 2,938,405 by Johnathan Borofsky, was the on-site curator for the exhibition *Posing Beauty in African American Culture*, and acquired over 20 new works to the collection, 95% of which are works by women and artists of color. Prior to the Harn Museum, Powers served as the assistant curator at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art where she organized the museum's first exhibition spotlighting a Native artist, *Dyani White Hawk: Speaking to Relatives*, commissioned a large-scale atrium installation by Joiri Minaya, and curated nearly a dozen permanent and traveling exhibitions. Powers has been a visiting critic at Washington University St. Louis, University of Kansas, and the Kansas City Art Institute. She's also been a visiting lecturer in the graduate studio art department at the University of Kansas (2020-2021), and a juror for several artist awards. She was a member of the inaugural class of the Association of Art Museum Curators' Professional Alliance for Curators of Color. She has been a featured writer in catalogs including 2019 Charlotte Street Visual Artists Awards (2019), *Dyani White-Hawk: Speaking to Relatives* (2021), *The Regional* (2021), and *Lamerol A. Gatewood* (2021).



**Alejandra Rojas Silva, Curator of European & American Art,  
Honolulu Museum of Art  
Honolulu, HI**

Alejandra Rojas Silva is curator of European and American Art. She holds an M.St in Art History from the University of Oxford and an M.A. and PhD. from Harvard University in Latin American Art. Prior to joining HoMA, she was an Assistant Professor of Art History at Ohio Wesleyan University and had lectured at Ohio State University. She has curated exhibitions in Aotearoa New Zealand, Colombia and the United States ranging from pre-Colombian to contemporary art. She recently co-curated *Home of the Tigers: McKinley High and Modern Art* and *Satoru Abe: Reaching for the Sun*.



**Ilona Smiling, Director, Museum of Belize  
Belize City, Belize**

Ilona Smiling is a Belizean curator and arts professional whose career bridges museum leadership, exhibition design, and cultural programming. She currently serves as Director and Curator of the Museum of Belize, the Museum of Belizean Art, and the national Houses of Culture network. In this role, she leads operations across seven cultural sites, overseeing staffing, programming, strategic planning, and infrastructure development while spearheading initiatives that expand access to Belize's national collections and amplify diverse artistic voices. Smiling has curated national exhibitions such as *Maya: Creating Civilization* (2024) and artist-driven projects including *The Future is Female Artist Series*. She has introduced innovative approaches to museum practice by integrating technology into exhibitions, designing participatory programming, and strengthening community engagement across the country. Internationally, she has expanded her curatorial practice through the Association of Art Museum Curators' (AAMC) Mentorship Program and the Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, which have enriched her professional networks and strengthened her capacity to position Belizean art within global conversations. She is committed to fostering cross-disciplinary collaborations that connect history, art, and contemporary cultural expression, ensuring museums remain vibrant spaces of learning, creativity, and community engagement.





**Gabriela Urtiaga, Chief Curator, Museum of Latin American Art  
Long Beach, CA**

Gabriela Urtiaga is an Argentinian art historian and curator. Since 2019, she has been the Chief Curator at the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Long Beach, California. She was curator of the XIV Biennial of Curitiba, Brazil (2019/2020), and the Chief Curator at the Kirchner Cultural Center (CCK) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, between 2016 and 2019. She has carried out numerous curatorships and developed projects in collaboration with international institutions such as Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Le Bibliothèque Nationale (France); the CentroCentro (Spain); MACRO Museum (Italy); Museo Nacional de Mexico (Mexico), the Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral (Chile), Centro Cultural Recoleta (Argentina), Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions and ICA San Diego (USA), among others. Throughout her career she has worked with prominent international artists such as Marta Minujín, Judy Baca, Julio Le Parc, Tomás Saraceno, Amalia Mesa Bains, Jean Paul Gaultier, Alexandre Arrechea, Guillermo Kuitca, among others. She has been a consultant, speaker, and jury member for the leading art fairs such as Art Basel Cities Buenos Aires, Arteba in Argentina, Frieze Los Angeles and at the Biennale of Lyon and ArtParis in France, advisor committee and nominator for Smithsonian Annual Conference and Kyoto Prize for Art and Philosophy and has lectured at numerous museums and universities around the world.



**Rangsook Yoon, Senior Curator, Sarasota Art Museum  
Sarasota, FL**

Rangsook Yoon is Senior Curator at Sarasota Art Museum of Ringling College of Art and Design. She earned her Ph.D. in art history from Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, with specializations in Renaissance and Art of the Twentieth Century. She has curated numerous exhibitions and managed many touring exhibitions. Widely published in academic journals, edited scholarly volumes, and exhibition catalogs, she has also gained extensive administrative experience and competence in art museums. Prior to her career as a curator and museum administrator, she held several visiting and tenure-track full-time professor positions in universities and colleges.