



BRUCE MUSEUM
One Museum Drive • Greenwich, CT 06830-7100
203.869.0376 • www.brucemuseum.org

Press Release

Bruce Presents

Architecture 20/20: New Visions for Public Spaces in the Age of COVID-19

Thursday, June 4, 2020, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, Virtual Webinar via Zoom

GREENWICH, CT, June 3, 2020 — *Bruce Presents*, the Bruce Museum's program series featuring thought leaders in the fields of art and science, returns on Thursday, June 4, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, with a Zoom virtual panel discussion: ***Architecture 20/20: New Visions for Public Spaces in the Age of COVID-19***.

How will the global coronavirus pandemic change how public spaces are designed or modified, from classrooms to auditoriums, public restrooms to restaurants, hallways to elevators? How will the need for adequate social distancing impact how public spaces are used in a post-lockdown environment?

Providing expert insight into these new and pressing issues are five distinguished architects whose practices focus on the design of public buildings and spaces, and three directors of leading arts and cultural institutions:

- **Dr. Carol R. Bentel**, Partner, [Bentel & Bentel Architects](#)
- **Steve Dumez**, Principal and Director of Design at [EskewDumezRipple](#)
- **Pamela Franks**, Executive Director of the Williams College Museum of Art
- **Maitland Jones**, Principal at [Deborah Berke Partners](#)
- **Nick Koster**, Director at [Snøhetta](#)
- **Paul Schulhof**, Principal at [Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects](#)
- **Nico Wheadon**, Executive Director of [NXTHVN](#), a multidisciplinary arts incubator
- **Robert Wolterstorff**, The Susan E. Lynch Executive Director of the [Bruce Museum](#)

Participation in the virtual *Bruce Presents* on Zoom for the benefit of the Bruce Museum is \$25 for Museum members, \$35 non-members. To reserve a place, visit brucemuseum.org or call 203-869-0376; a link to join the online conversation will be sent to registered attendees prior to the program.

The program will conclude with a Q&A session moderated by Leonard Jacobs, producer of *Bruce Presents*.

Support for *Bruce Presents* is generously provided by Northern Trust and Berkley One, a Berkley Company.



BRUCE MUSEUM
One Museum Drive • Greenwich, CT 06830-7100
203.869.0376 • www.brucemuseum.org

Press Release

More on our panelists:

Dr. Carol Bentel FAIA, FIIDA is a partner at Bentel & Bentel Architects/Planners and Chair of the School of Visual Art's BFA Interior Design: Built Environments department. Dr. Bentel is a Fulbright Fellow, Fellow of the American Academy in Rome, Fellow of the AIA College of Fellows (and is a new inductee of the College of Fellows of IIDA). Dr. Bentel was the 2008 Chair of the AIA National Committee on Design and is Vice-Chair of the NYS Preservation League. Dr. Bentel is a Hospitality Design Platinum Circle Honoree, a three-time recipient of the James Beard Award for restaurant design (The Modern Restaurant at MoMA, Untitled at the Whitney, and Le Bernardin), also receiving other national awards from the AIA, SARA, and IIDA. Dr. Bentel's work is in *Built by Women NYC*. Dr. Bentel has served on the faculty of SVA, NYIT, NYCCT, Harvard University, MIT, Webb Institute, and Georgia Tech. Dr. Bentel received her Ph.D. in History, Theory and Criticism in the Department of Architecture at MIT.

Under **Steve Dumez's** leadership, the New Orleans-based EskewDumezRipple has received numerous prestigious awards for design excellence, including more than 50 national awards, among them the 2014 AIA Architecture Firm Award, and over 100 additional awards at the local, state, and regional level. Dumez is lead designer of the Bruce Museum's transformative \$45 million expansion and renovation project. The centerpiece of the New Bruce is a three-story, 40,000 square-foot addition that will more than double the size of the current Museum, offering more space for art and science, education, and community connections.

Pamela Franks is the Class of 1956 Director of the Williams College Museum of Art. Prior to assuming this role in 2018, Franks served as Senior Deputy Director and the Seymour H. Knox, Jr., Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Yale University Art Gallery. She previously worked at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas. Since earning her Ph.D. in art history from the University of Texas at Austin in 2000, Franks has been a passionate advocate for academic and public engagement in art museums. Franks directed Yale's Mellon-funded Collection Sharing Initiative with six partner college and university art museums from 2008 to 2013 and organized the 2014 conference *Expanding a Shared Vision: The Art Museum and the University*. A specialist in contemporary art, Franks' most recent curatorial project, *Matthew Barney: Redoubt*, originated at the Yale University Art Gallery in 2019 and travels to the UCCA in Beijing and the Hayward Gallery in London.

Maitland Jones started working for Deborah Berke in 1992 and formed Deborah Berke Partners with her and Marc Leff in 2002. His first projects focused on art and art-making: live/work lofts in Soho, offices for designers, and Yale's School of Art. Mait taught at Yale's School of Architecture, and the *Akademie der bildenden Künste* in Vienna. He is currently leading projects for Princeton University and NXTHVN in New Haven, CT.

Since joining Snøhetta in 2011, **Nick Koster** has been actively involved with the design and construction of exterior public spaces on Snøhetta projects. A LEED AP certified landscape architect, Koster is currently managing the landscape and public realm of Ford R&E Campus Master Plan; a multi-site master plan in his home state of Michigan. Recently completed projects include the renovation and expansion of The French Laundry grounds in Northern California, as well as Snøhetta's redesign of Times Square in New York City. Academically trained as an architect at the University of Pennsylvania, Nick brings a technical and detailed eye to designing the public realm.



BRUCE MUSEUM
One Museum Drive • Greenwich, CT 06830-7100
203.869.0376 • www.brucemuseum.org

Press Release

Paul Schulhof is a partner at Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects | Partners (TWBTA). TWBTA has won numerous awards, including the 2013 AIA Architecture Firm Award given to a single architecture firm in the U.S. each year. Paul has overseen a wide range of cultural and civic projects and is currently working on the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, and the expansion of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

Nico Wheadon is the founding executive director of NXTHVN, a multidisciplinary arts incubator in New Haven, CT, committed to fortifying the broader arts economy through strategic partnerships with the education, entrepreneurship, philanthropy, and government sectors. She is also an adjunct assistant professor of Art History and Africana Studies at Barnard College, and Professional Practices at Hartford Art School. Wheadon is the former director of public programs and community engagement at the Studio Museum in Harlem, where she was celebrated for the pioneering artist projects, community engagement initiatives, and strategic partnerships she delivered during her five-year tenure. She has lectured internationally at universities, conferences and symposia, and currently serves on the advisory boards for the Lubin School of Business Transformative Leadership Program, the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage, and More Art. Wheadon holds an MA in Creative & Cultural Entrepreneurship from Goldsmith's College, University of London, and a BA in Art-Semiotics from Brown University.

Robert Wolterstorff was named The Susan E. Lynch Executive Director and CEO of the Bruce Museum in May 2019. He served as Executive Director of the Bennington Museum in Vermont from 2012 to 2019, leading the 167-year-old museum through a well-received curatorial makeover. An architectural historian with a passion for contemporary art and Victorian design, Wolterstorff previously served as Director of the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion in Philadelphia and as Executive Director of Victoria Mansion in Portland, Maine. Over a 27-year career in the arts and museum leadership, Wolterstorff has also held curatorial and research positions at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Clark Art Institute, the Williams College Museum of Art, and the college's Chapin Rare Book Library. He served as a trustee for the New England Museum Association from 2006 to 2015. Wolterstorff earned a master of fine arts and a doctorate in art history from Princeton University, where he wrote his dissertation on the 18th-century neoclassical architect Robert Adam. He has a master's in art history from Williams College and a bachelor's in biology from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"The COVID-19 crisis makes urgent the need for new thinking about how we gather in our public spaces. It's certain to lead to innovative, even surprising, ideas for how we can create new spaces, and for how we better use spaces that already exist," says **Wolterstorff**, and an architectural historian by training. "Museums are places where we come together, in real space, to engage in culture and discussion. Bringing people together is essential if a museum is to create a sense of community. These ideas of gathering and of community are deeply embedded in the designs for the New Bruce, and that's why this topic is so important to me right now. The Bruce Museum is delighted to present this timely discussion featuring my fellow museum directors and five world-class architects, famous for their design of public spaces."

Leonard Jacobs produces *Bruce Presents* and will moderate the **Architecture 20/20** panel. "Earlier this year, we aimed to convene a group of architects to imagine the 2020s—trends in design and technology. With the disruption caused by COVID-19, now we're making a powerful pivot: Will the crisis revolutionize the design, form and function of public space—and how?"



BRUCE MUSEUM
One Museum Drive • Greenwich, CT 06830-7100
203.869.0376 • www.brucemuseum.org

Press Release

Suzanne Lio, Managing Director of the Bruce Museum, conceived *Bruce Presents*. “We’ve long been an important resource in our community for forward-thinking public programs. By leveraging our unique network of institutional and professional connections, the series will offer unprecedented access for our members and visitors to major thought leaders in the fields of art and science.”

Launched in 2019, *Bruce Presents* has received enthusiastic reviews. Presentations on art have featured philanthropist/collector **Jennifer Stockman**, filmmaker **Olympia Stone**, and art historian/author **Dr. Ágnes Berecz**. Programs on science have featured an exclusive live Skype with Antarctica researcher **Dr. Kim Bernard** and a provocative dialogue between artist/activist **Alexis Rockman** and **David Abel**, an award-winning environmental reporter at *The Boston Globe*.

####

About the Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution highlighting art and science. Changing galleries for art and permanent galleries for the natural sciences encompass regional to global perspectives. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and voted the best museum in Fairfield County by area media in recent years, the Bruce plays an integral role in the cultural life of area residents. The Museum attracts approximately 70,000 visitors annually, including 24,000 schoolchildren, and also has special programs for families, seniors, students, and community organizations. Located in a park setting just off I-95, exit 3, at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Museum is also a 5-minute walk from the Metro-North Greenwich Station. The Bruce Museum is temporarily closed in accordance with state and local guidelines. Normal operating hours: Open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm; closed Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit brucemuseum.org.

Media Contact: Scott Smith, Director of Marketing and Communications, 203-413-6735 or ssmith@brucemuseum.org.