

EMBRACE!

November 14, 2009-April 4, 2010

DENVER
ART MUSEUM

100 W 14th Ave Pkwy
Denver, CO 80204-2788
www.denverartmuseum.org

Dr. Lewis I. Sharp **Frederick and Jan Mayer Director, Denver Art Museum**



Photo by Ray Ng

Dr. Lewis Sharp became Director of the Denver Art Museum in 1989, after serving as curator and administrator for the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1982 to 1989. Sharp, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware, has published numerous works on American art. Under his directorship, the Denver Art Museum has moved decisively to develop a national agenda, which has included refining and augmenting the Museum's collections and initiating one of the most innovative educational programs for children and adults in this country. In 1993 and 1997, Sharp led the Museum through major renovation projects, which included several new galleries, an education center and special exhibition galleries. Continuing his drive to enhance and improve the Museum, Dr. Sharp most recently managed the completion of the Frederic C. Hamilton Building, which nearly

doubled the size of the current complex. Spearheading this expansion project, Dr. Sharp worked with world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind to design the new building with expanded permanent gallery and exhibition space for the Museum.

Cathey Finlon **Interim President, Denver Art Museum**



Appointed in April 2009 as the Interim President of the Denver Art Museum, Cathey Finlon will develop long-term plans and help transition the Museum into the hands of new leadership. Finlon has served on the Board of Trustees for the Museum since 1994 and took a leave of absence from her position to serve in this new role. Aside from her strong leadership with the Museum's board, she was the owner and CEO of McClain Finlon Advertising for 26 years before closing the business in 2008. Finlon built the company from a five-person agency to become one of the top 50 ad agencies in America, and one of the top five largest woman-owned businesses in Colorado. In addition to building her own successful company, she spent ten years in development with the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences and the Denver Art Museum.

Christoph Heinrich **Polly and Mark Addison Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, Deputy Director,** **Denver Art Museum**



Christoph Heinrich joined the Denver Art Museum as the Polly and Mark Addison Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art in September 2007. In January of 2009, Heinrich was named the Deputy Director of the DAM to assist in overall planning and development of the Museum. Heinrich spent 12 years at the Hamburg Kunsthalle, a museum that also underwent an expansion to develop a permanent space for modern and contemporary art. While at the Kunsthalle, Heinrich organized more than 50 exhibitions, 18 of which were major loan exhibitions. Some of his most notable

exhibitions include *Andy Warhol: Photography* and *Francis Bacon: The Portraits*.

Heinrich began his position at the DAM in September 2007, replacing founding curator Dianne Vanderlip, who retired in January of the same year. As one of the DAM's newest curators, he helped organize the first rotation in the modern and contemporary gallery entitled *Focus: The Figure*, which showcases the figure through photography, paintings, video and sculpture. He also brought German art star Daniel Richter and his paintings to the museum in *Daniel Richter: A Major Survey*, the artist's first museum show in the United States. Heinrich has been ambitiously planning *Embrace!* to showcase the dynamic Hamilton Building and offer the ultimate blank canvas to artists around the world.

Heinrich was born in Frankfurt/Main and attended the Universitat Wien in Vienna, where he studied Art History and Dramatics. He later attended Ludwig-Maximilian-Universitat München, where he earned both his M.A. and Ph.D.

Sonnet Hanson

Master Teacher for Modern & Contemporary Art and Head of Adult & College Programs, Denver Art Museum



As the Master Teacher for Modern and Contemporary Art, Sonnet Hanson develops and implements a wide array of interpretive strategies to connect a variety of audiences with the modern and contemporary art collection. Hanson also oversees the development of museum-wide public programs for adult and young adult audiences in her role as the Head of Adult and College Programs. In 2007, she led a team that developed the DAM's Untitled event series, designed to connect young adult visitors with the DAM and its collection through unconventional programming and offbeat encounters with art. Building on the success of Untitled, she is currently directing a more extensive project designed to further cultivate a young adult audience through new onsite and online experiences. Sonnet capitalized on the unique nature of *Embrace!* to bring audiences into the artistic process.

She draws on her experience as an educator in both informal and formal educational settings, and with diverse groups of learners at the high school, community college and university levels. Hanson holds a Master of Teaching degree and a Master of Arts in French Language and Literature from the University of Virginia, where she conducted a study of approaches to museum interpretation at several historical and commemorative sites in France.