Anne Breckenridge Barrett Named CCP Director

Center for Creative Photography
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Anne Breckenridge Barrett has been named director of the UA Center for Creative Photography.

Breckenridge Barrett has more than 20 years of experience in museums, nonprofit management and law. She is currently the director of collections and exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, a position she has held since 2013. Among the landmark exhibitions she has helped produce are "David Bowie Is," "Kerry James Marshall: Mastry" and the recent "Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg."

Breckenridge Barrett, who was selected through an international search, succeeds Katharine Martinez, who retired in 2016. Breckenridge Barrett begins her appointment in January.

"Annie is a dynamic leader with broad experience and a passion to advance CCP [1] to even greater prominence," said R. Brooks Jeffery, associate vice president for research, who oversees CCP, the Arizona State Museum and the UA Museum of Art. "CCP is a beloved institution and the search process brought together multiple voices to define CCP’s role in a 21st century research university and the qualities of engaged leadership to direct it."

The center was established in 1975, and its initial collection contained the archives of five master photographers: Ansel Adams, Wynn Bullock, Harry Callahan, Aaron Siskind and Frederick Sommer. The collection has grown to include 239 archival collections comprising the work of some of the most recognizable names in 20th-century North American photography, including W. Eugene Smith, Lola Alvarez Bravo, Edward Weston and Garry Winogrand.

As director, Breckenridge Barrett will advance CCP’s new strategic road map, which focuses on increasing external revenue to ensure the center’s long-term financial sustainability while expanding its impact as a premier institution of American photography.

"I am thrilled to join the Center for Creative Photography and humbled by the appointment," Breckenridge Barrett said. "The excellence of the CCP collection and archive have established it as a leading university cultural institution and research center, and I am inspired by the opportunity to build upon its reputation and create innovative programming that promotes civic engagement while nurturing connections across a thriving university community."

She said she was looking forward to working with center staff and UA colleagues "to define the institution’s next chapter."

"Personally, I am so pleased to concentrate on photography, a medium that has stimulated me throughout my career."
Breckenridge Barrett holds a Bachelor of Arts in art history from American University, a Master of Arts in visual arts administration from New York University, and a Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School.

During her tenure at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Breckenridge Barrett has led the museum’s transformation into a 21st-century museum in line with its vision to be “artist activated and audience engaged.” In addition to a renovation of public spaces to enhance opportunities for civic engagement, the museum launched an award-winning website and new identity, mounted its most successful exhibitions to date, and commissioned world-class artists Chris Ofili and Ernesto Neto to create site-specific works that bring public spaces of the museum to life.

“The Center for Creative Photography is critical to the University's research enterprise,” said UA Senior Vice President for Research Kimberly Andrews Espy [2]. “Annie will lead the way to realize our goals to better connect CCP to our academic programs, faculty, students and communities as a crucible for research and engagement. She’s a collaborator and will work with the other University museums and centers to position the UA as an international arts and culture destination.”

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