



Contact: Katrina Carl
805.884.6430
kcarl@sbma.net



SBMA Announces New Chief Curator

Eik Kahng to Oversee 19th - and Early 20th -Century European Art Collection

September 1, 2009 – The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) is pleased to announce the addition of Eik S. Kahng as the new Chief Curator and Curator of 19th- and Early 20th-Century European Art. Ms. Kahng comes to Santa Barbara from the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, MD, and will take up her new position on November 1, 2009.

"We are delighted that Eik has agreed to join the Museum," says Larry Feinberg, SBMA Director. "She is a superb scholar and her experience perfectly matches our needs, especially in one of the strongest areas of the Museum's collection – 19th-century French art. In her role as Chief Curator, she will, in fact, oversee all of our collections of pre-20th-century European art including Greco-Roman antiquities and our extensive holdings of works of art on paper. Eik will also act as liaison and representative voice for our curatorial team on issues and policies."

"I am so excited to be a part of such a thriving organization and to enjoy the collaboration of such gifted colleagues," states Ms. Kahng. "This is a jewel of a museum and I hope to be able to organize important international loan exhibitions for the community to enjoy. I am also thrilled to have the chance to work with SBMA's fine permanent collection."

Ms. Kahng brings with her nearly 15 years of curatorial experience in major museums, including the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, TX, and Dallas Museum of Art, and, since 2001, the Walters Art Museum where she was the Curator and Head of the Department of 18th- and 19th-Century Art.

While at the Walters Art Museum, Ms. Kahng organized or co-organized numerous important exhibitions, including *The Age of Impressionism European Masterpieces from Ordrupgaard* in 2002, *Origins of the Russian Avant-Garde* in 2003, *Sublimity and the Horse* in 2005, *Louise Bourgeois Femme* in 2005, *Carbide and the Modern Landscape* in 2006, and *Djà vu: Revealing Repetition in French Masterpieces* in 2007.

In addition, she was the recipient of a variety of awards and honors, including a senior fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, Washington, D.C. in 2006, and invitations to participate in roundtable discussions at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the Pulitzer Foundation. She was also one of ten top-notch curators selected for the class of 2009 by the Center for Curatorial Leadership, a new program designed to equip the curator with the skills to play a leadership role in an art museum.

Ms. Kahng graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University in 1985, studied at the Sorbonne, and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1989 and 1996 respectively. She has published widely on a broad range of topics with a particular emphasis on 18th- and 19th-century French painting and its critical reception. Her essay “*L’Affaire Graze and the Sublime of History Painting*” appeared in the March 2004 issue of *Art Bulletin*. She was co-editor and essayist for the award-winning catalogue *Anne Vallayer-Costa: Painter to the Court of Marie Antoinette* (2002), which accompanied the traveling exhibition that she organized for the Dallas Museum of Art. She also taught at the graduate level for the art-history department at The Johns Hopkins University, where she was a member of the adjunct faculty.