

**PUBLIC ART FUND APPOINTS NICHOLAS BAUME AS DIRECTOR AND CHIEF CURATOR;
FORMER CHIEF CURATOR AT THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART, BOSTON**

July 31, 2009 – New York: On behalf of the Board of Directors, Susan K. Freedman, President of the Public Art Fund, announces the appointment of Nicholas Baume as its Director and Chief Curator. Baume comes to the Public Art Fund from the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, where he has served as Chief Curator since 2003. He will assume his new post on September 21, 2009.

“There were a number of exceptional candidates, but the selection committee and I recognized in Nicholas the key qualities that make for a successful Director and Chief Curator of the Public Art Fund: bold curatorial vision, strong artist relationships, superb leadership skills, as well as a passion for New York City and public art,” said Freedman.

During his tenure at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Nicholas Baume directed the expansion of the museum’s artistic program including the transition into its new building with more than triple the amount of exhibition space. Baume helped to establish the museum’s permanent collection through the acquisition of numerous significant works, and launched its ongoing *Momentum* project series, which features site-specific installations by emerging artists. His team produced up to 12 new exhibitions and commissions annually, working with both internationally renowned and emerging artists. ICA shows organized by Baume include *Sandra & Gerald Fineberg Art Wall: Ugo Rondinone* (through December 2010); *Momentum 14: Rodney McMillian* (through October 2009); *Momentum 12: Gerard Byrne* (2008); *Tara Donovan* (2008; with Jen Mergel); *Anish Kapoor: Past, Present, Future* (2008); *Momentum 9: Kader Attia* (2007); *Thomas Hirschhorn: Utopia Utopia = One World, One War, One Army, One Dress* (2005; with Ralph Rugoff); *Getting Emotional* (2005); *Momentum 2: Lucy McKenzie* (2004); *Kai Althoff: Kai Kein Respekt* (2004); and *Momentum 1: Carol Bove* (2004). Baume also curated ICA’s inaugural exhibition in its new space, *Super Vision* (2006), which showcased 27 international artists. At the same time, Baume managed a curatorial team of eight, and worked closely with ICA’s Director, Jill Medvedow, and Board to establish the ICA in its award-winning new home.

A native of Sydney, Australia, Baume graduated with joint honors in Fine Arts and Philosophy from the University of Sydney. From 1988 to 1993, he was the Director and Curator of John Kaldor Art Projects and Collection, Sydney, working directly with Australia’s leading collector and patron of contemporary international art. In 1993, he joined the newly established Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. While there, he organized the first exhibition of John Kaldor’s private collection and curated major projects by Jeff Koons and Sol LeWitt. Baume also established the museum’s influential international lecture series, featuring Renzo Piano, Jenny Holzer, Jean Baudrillard, and Peter Greenaway, among others. In 1998, he joined the staff of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art,

Hartford, Connecticut, as the Emily Hall Tremaine Curator of Contemporary Art. During his time at the museum, he directed the prestigious *Matrix* exhibition series, which highlights work by emerging contemporary artists providing many with their first U.S. shows. He also developed two major traveling exhibitions: *Sol LeWitt: Incomplete Open Cubes* and *About Face: Andy Warhol Portraits*. Baume has written and produced numerous exhibition catalogues.

"New York City has always fired the artistic imagination. From Andy Warhol to Francis Alys, from Keith Haring to Jeff Koons, artists have found both inspiration and opportunity in this extraordinary place. Public Art Fund has played a key role in making the City itself a platform for contemporary artists. I'm thrilled to have the chance to build on that legacy, connecting new art and diverse audiences to harness the creative energy of our moment," said Baume.

About Public Art Fund

Public Art Fund is New York's leading presenter of artists' projects, new commissions, installations, and exhibitions in public spaces. Since 1977, the Public Art Fund (www.publicartfund.org) has worked with over 500 emerging and established artists to produce innovative temporary exhibitions of contemporary art throughout New York City. By bringing artworks outside the traditional context of museums and galleries, the Public Art Fund provides a unique platform for an unparalleled public encounter with the art of our time.

Current Public Art Fund exhibitions include *The Ego and the Id* by Franz West at Doris C. Freedman Plaza (through March 2010); *A Clearing in the Streets* by Julie Farris and Sarah Wayland-Smith at Collect Pond Park (through October 2009); *wall and door and roof* by Richard Woods at City Hall Park (through September 2009); and *Trapdoor* at MetroTech Center in Brooklyn, featuring works by Ethan Breckenridge, Francis Cape, Martha Friedman, and Sara Greenberger Rafferty (through September 2009).

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