

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION CREATED NEW CURATORIAL
POSITION FOR MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART**

Vesela Sretenovic Appointed to New Post

Washington, D.C.—Dorothy Kosinski, Ph.D., director of The Phillips Collection, announced today the creation of a new curatorial position for modern and contemporary art. She has appointed Vesela Sretenovic, Ph.D., to the post.

In her new position, Sretenovic is responsible for enhancing the museum's longstanding engagement with contemporary art, working with living artists, both nationally and internationally, to reinvigorate the Phillips's legacy as a place for conversation, experimentation, and dialogue. As part of this process, she will also collaborate with the museum's Center for the Study of Modern Art, developing interdisciplinary programs that engage artists, members of the public, scholars, students, and teachers.

“What is most exciting about Vesela joining our curatorial team is her tireless commitment to the art of today,” says Kosinski. “Her fervor for engaging contemporary artists is particularly relevant to the Phillips in the 21st century and is in complete harmony with Duncan Phillips's enduring passion for the living artist. The depth of training and skillful sensitivity that she brings to our renowned permanent collection promises to have a creative impact on our exhibitions, acquisitions, and programs at our Center for the Study of Modern Art.”



Courtesy of The Phillips Collection

Sretenovic brings to the Phillips significant experience as a museum professional and scholar. For the last ten years, she worked at the David Winton Bell Gallery, Brown University, where she organized numerous special exhibitions of contemporary art, including solo shows of the work of Charles Long, Joseph Beuys, and Sean Scully. During her tenure, Sretenovic also planned public events, lectures, and symposia, including a symposium on Joseph Beuys, and on theoretical and practical aspects of installation art. She previously worked for the University at Buffalo Art Gallery and the Brooklyn Museum, as well as several galleries in New York. She also taught art history and art theory at the Rhode Island School of Design.

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Sretenovic has presented her scholarship in contemporary art in many public lectures and academic conferences, most recently at The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute Conference in Williamstown, Mass. She received her doctorate in humanities and master's degree in philosophy from Syracuse University. Her dissertation was entitled *Maurice Merleau-Ponty's Ontology of Vision in Relation to Contemporary Installation Art*. She earned a master's degree in modern art history, theory, and criticism from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and a bachelor's degree in the history of art from the University of Belgrade.

"I am thrilled to be joining The Phillips Collection," says Sretenovic. "I look forward to exploring new ways of aligning the collection with the practices of contemporary art and bringing living national and international artists into the fold."

ABOUT THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION

The Phillips Collection offers an intimate encounter with one of the finest collections of impressionist and modern American and European art, with works by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Vincent van Gogh, Edgar Degas, Henri Matisse, Pierre Bonnard, Paul Cézanne, Pablo Picasso, Paul Klee, Claude Monet, Honoré Daumier, Georgia O'Keeffe, Arthur Dove, Mark Rothko, Milton Avery, Jacob Lawrence, and Richard Diebenkorn, among others. The Phillips Collection, America's first museum of modern art, has an active collecting program and regularly organizes acclaimed special exhibitions, many of which travel nationally and internationally. The museum also produces award-winning and in-depth education programs for K–12 teachers and students, as well as for adults. Its Center for the Study of Modern Art explores new way of thinking about art and the nature of creativity, through artist visits, seminars, and classes. Since 1941, the museum has hosted concerts in its wood-paneled Music Room. The Phillips Collection is a private, non-government museum supported primarily by donations.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Phillips Collection is located in the heart of Washington's historic Dupont Circle neighborhood, at 1600 21st Street, NW, near the Dupont Circle Metro (Q Street exit). Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays until 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Mondays and New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

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