

## TELFAIR MUSEUMS' CURATORS

### COURTNEY A. MCNEIL

Courtney A. McNeil is Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs at Telfair Museums, with responsibility for overseeing all of the organization's programmatic activities, including collections, exhibitions, and education. She directs a schedule of 15-20 annual exhibitions as well as educational programming with the goal of engaging diverse audiences and aligning with Telfair's strategic vision. McNeil is also responsible for curating the museum's collection of pre-1945 American and European fine art. She has been a member of Telfair's curatorial department since 2006. Prior to joining Telfair, McNeil worked at Childs Gallery in Boston, where she specialized in nineteenth and early twentieth century American painting and American and European prints and drawings. Among the many exhibitions McNeil has curated are *Spanish Sojourns: Robert Henri and the Spirit of Spain*; *One Hundred Years of Harmony: Paintings by Gari Melchers*; *Kahlil Gibran and the Feminine Divine*; *Mickalene Thomas at Giverny*; *Dan Winters's America: Icons and Ingenuity*; and *Women Artists in Savannah, 1920-1960*. Her exhibitions have been recognized regionally and nationally with awards and grants from organizations including the Southeastern Museums Conference, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Terra Foundation for American Art. McNeil holds a BA in English with a minor in art history from Georgetown University and an MA in the history of art from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London.

### SHANNON BROWNING-MULLIS

Shannon Browning-Mullis is Curator of History and Decorative Arts at Telfair Museums. She has overseen numerous projects, including the ongoing reinterpretation of the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters to incorporate the narratives of the home's enslaved men, women, and children into the site's history, telling a more complete story. This work reflects Browning-Mullis' interests in the histories of oppressed people and social justice issues in the world today. Browning-Mullis holds an MA in history from Georgia Southern University, where her thesis examined the propaganda produced by the South African Defense Force as justification for their involvement with the Khwe and !Xun people during the border wars of the 1970s and 1980s. She also holds certification through the National Association of Interpretation and has experience training interpreters to discuss difficult histories at historic sites. Browning-Mullis has curated exhibitions including *Savannah Families Abroad: The Consumption of Culture in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* and *If these Walls could Talk: 200 Years of William Jay Architecture*.

### HARRY DELORME, JR.

Harry DeLorme, Jr., Telfair Museums' Senior Curator of Education, is a curator, educator and visual artist with 30 years of experience as a museum professional. DeLorme holds BFA and MFA degrees in Drawing and Painting from the University of Georgia, Athens, where he began his museum work at the Georgia Museum of Art. He trained at two Institutes for Museum Educators at the Museum of Modern Art in New York that launched the now widely-used Visual Thinking Strategies. He currently oversees the museum's education department, and with the education staff organizes programs and resources for audiences of all ages, including lectures, festivals, family days, school tours, and outreach programs. He developed Telfair's hands on family gallery, the ArtZeum, and the TechSpace, a rotating gallery of interactive new media art for all ages. As a curator, DeLorme has organized exhibitions of Southern art, particularly self-taught art and the history of artists active in Savannah. DeLorme also created and curates Telfair's annual PULSE Art + Technology Festival – one of only a few museum-based events of its kind. DeLorme was a part-time instructor of studio art for 14 years at Armstrong State (now Georgia Southern) University. As an artist he has exhibited his work at local, national, and international venues.

## ERIN DUNN

Erin Dunn is Assistant Curator at Telfair Museums, where she previously held the position of Richard Middleton Curatorial Fellow since 2014. In addition to assisting the Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and the Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Dunn curates temporary and traveling exhibitions at the museum. Among others, Dunn has curated *Objectified*, a selection of still lifes from the permanent collection, as well as several artist-specific exhibitions ranging from the modernist painter James Brooks to the contemporary photographer Neal Slavin. In 2016, Dunn organized *Watershed: Contemporary Landscape Photography*, which was awarded an Excellence in Exhibition award from the Coastal Museums Association and traveled to the Vero Beach Museum of Art (2017) and the Westmont-Ridley Tree Museum of Art (2019). Her publication for the exhibition was awarded an Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation grant. Additionally, Dunn has spearheaded several exhibitions for Telfair's #art912 initiative, which raises the visibility and promotes the vitality of artists living and working in Savannah. She has previously worked at the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens, Georgia and the Michael C. Carlos Museum in Atlanta, Georgia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from Emory University and a Master of Arts in Art History from the University of Georgia.

## RACHEL REESE

Rachel Reese is Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at Telfair Museums since 2015. She oversees the museum's permanent collection of modern and contemporary art and organizes temporary exhibitions in the Jepson Center. Among many, Reese has curated solo exhibitions with Carrie Mae Weems, Paul Stephen Benjamin, Nick Cave, William Wegman, Triple Candie, and a group exhibition titled *Generation* with Iraqi-Canadian artists Sawsan AlSaraf, Sundus Abdul Hadi, and Tamara Abdul Hadi that received a 2017 SEMC exhibition award. Reese also maintains a long-term modern and contemporary permanent collection exhibition titled *Complex Uncertainties: Artists in Postwar America*, a 2018 Coastal Museums Association Exhibition of Excellence Awardee. Reese held prior positions at Atlanta Contemporary, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery in Philadelphia, and Deitch Projects, Petzel Gallery, and Andrew Kreps Gallery in New York. As an arts writer, Reese is the former editor of BURNAWAY Magazine in Atlanta, and her writing and artist interviews appear in BOMB Daily, Temporary Art Review, TWELV Magazine, and ART PAPERS, among others. Reese is the 2018 consulting curator for the Public Art Exhibition on Hilton Head Island and was a 2018 ArtFields juror. Reese holds an MFA from City College New York and a BFA from the University of Georgia.

## CYNDI SOMMERS

Cyndi Sommers is the Assistant Curator of Decorative Art at Telfair Museums. In residence at the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters for the past 16 years, Sommers has provided support for every project, large and small, that has taken place at the historic site. Currently, collections care and exhibit planning are foremost responsibilities. Silver, ceramics, and textiles are favorite subjects for research; and her interest in textiles is far-ranging, including the study, dating, and conservation of historic quilts, and incorporating modern techniques with traditional patterns in the construction of bedding, wall hangings, and apparel. In addition to making quilts for family and friends, Sommers creates lap quilts for patients at Hospice Savannah. Telfair exhibitions presented by Sommers include *Historic Cottons to Modern Polyester: Quilts from Telfair's Collection* in 2016, and *Tea for Two: British and American Tea Tradition*.