

Frankenthaler

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 1, 2024

RICHARD ARMSTRONG ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HELEN FRANKENTHALER FOUNDATION

*Foundation prepares for National Gallery retrospective commemorating
Frankenthaler's centennial*

NEW YORK – The Board of Directors of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation announced today that Richard Armstrong has been elected to serve as a Director on its Board.

A seasoned museum director, curator, and arts administrator, Armstrong has more than five decades of experience in museum governance and curation at preeminent art institutions across the country, most recently having served as the Director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation from 2008 to 2023.

Armstrong joins the Board as the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation moves into its second decade of operations and prepares for a major retrospective at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The retrospective commemorates the artist's centennial in 2028 and will travel internationally.

“We are delighted to have Richard Armstrong join us at such an exciting moment, as we continue to expand our curatorial and philanthropic activities and raise even greater awareness of Frankenthaler's singular achievements,” said **Lise Motherwell, Board Chair**. “Richard's experience leading the Carnegie and Guggenheim Museums over the last 28 years makes him an ideal partner as we navigate a global art world - with both our philanthropy and Helen's work; he will be integral to building a legacy of which Helen would be proud,” added **Board President Clifford Ross**.

“The Helen Frankenthaler Foundation has achieved wide, positive impact in the visual arts during the past decade,” said **Richard Armstrong**. “I am honored to work alongside the Board and the Foundation's Executive Director, Elizabeth Smith, to continue and advance its important work.”

In the past decade, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation has organized 15 national and international solo museum exhibitions and, in collaboration with the Gagosian Gallery, nine solo shows all with accompanying scholarly material. The Foundation has also contributed more than \$45 million in direct organization grants and \$30 million in gifts of seminal paintings, works on paper, and prints by Frankenthaler to 29 museums around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Kunstmuseum Basel and the Tate Modern.

During his 15-year tenure as Director of the Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, Armstrong spearheaded global initiatives to broaden the geographic scope of the

Guggenheim's collection and activities, particularly its Asian Art Initiative and the forthcoming Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. With an emphasis on scholarship exploring lesser-known histories, exhibitions presented under Armstrong's direction include *Lee Ufan: Marking Infinity*; *Doris Salcedo*; *Art and China after 1989: Theater of the World*; and *Hilma af Klint: Paintings for the Future*, among many others. Under his leadership, the Guggenheim's endowment more than doubled, and the Education and Public Program departments saw comprehensive growth.

The rise of global recognition of Helen Frankenthaler's work and the Foundation's philanthropy have been supported by its ongoing relationship with the Gagosian Gallery.

"Richard's experience and global perspective make him an ideal addition to the Foundation's board and will help bring Helen Frankenthaler's work to a wider audience in an international and contemporary context," said **Larry Gagosian, owner of Gagosian Gallery**. "It has been an honor to represent Helen and her legacy for more than a decade, working with the Foundation's Board and its talented Executive Director, Elizabeth Smith, on the nine international solo exhibitions we have held since 2013. Richard joins during an especially exciting time as we look forward to Helen's survey exhibition at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, retrospective at the National Gallery in Washington, DC, and the publication of a revised version of her celebrated 1989 monograph by John Elderfield."

From 1996 to 2008, Armstrong was the Henry J. Heinz II Director at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, and between 1981 and 1992, Armstrong curated exhibitions and co-organized four Biennials at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Armstrong is a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) and serves in an advisory capacity on several foundation boards, including the Artistic Council, Fondation Beyeler, Basel, Switzerland; the Steven Myron Holl Foundation, Rhinebeck, New York; the Ishara Foundation, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; the Fine Foundation, Pittsburgh; and the Al Held Foundation, Boiceville, New York.

###

About Helen Frankenthaler Foundation

Established and endowed by Helen Frankenthaler during her lifetime, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation advances the artist's legacy and inspires a new generation of practitioners through a range of philanthropic, educational, and research initiatives. Since becoming active in 2013, the Foundation has continued to strategically expand its program, which includes organizing and supporting significant exhibitions of the artist's work, fostering new research and publications, advancing educational programs in partnership with arts organizations around the world, and launching groundbreaking initiatives that foster systemic change in the field. As a primary resource on the artist, and a steward of her collection and archive, the Foundation holds an extensive selection of Frankenthaler's work in a variety of mediums, her collection of works by other artists, and original papers and materials pertaining to her life and work.