



museum of arts and design

GLENN ADAMSON APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN

New York, NY (September 4, 2013) – Lewis Kruger, Chairman of the Board of the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD), announced today that Dr. Glenn Adamson has been appointed as the museum's new Nanette L. Laitman Director. Adamson, who comes to MAD from the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) in London, succeeds Holly Hotchner, who stepped down at the end of April. Adamson will assume his role at the museum on October 15, 2013.

Adamson is among the most prominent and respected voices in the field of applied arts and design today. He currently leads the V&A's Research Department, a unique cross-disciplinary department that oversees, assesses, and supports the development of museum projects, and fosters research excellence across all the museum's activities. As Head of Research, he helps to initiate and shape major exhibitions, manages partnerships with museums and universities, and leads academic fundraising. Adamson also contributes to the V&A's publications, educational programming, media relations, and commercial activities.

"Glenn has incredible vision and depth of knowledge in the field. He brings to MAD a strong commitment to new scholarship and to exploring process in contemporary art and design, which is at the heart of our mission. At the same time, he brings tremendous energy that will sustain and strengthen our growth as an institution," said Kruger. "As we celebrate the fifth anniversary in our building at Columbus Circle, Glenn's appointment marks an exciting new chapter in MAD's trajectory, expanding the role the museum plays in New York, in the US, and around the world."

Added Michele Cohen, chair of the Director Search Committee, "Glenn is one of the most important craft theorists working today and a respected leader in the field. His international perspective meshes perfectly with MAD's exhibition and education program, which represents a global roster of emerging and established artists. It was this which distinguished him in our worldwide search for a new director."

"I am honored to have been selected to serve as the next director of MAD. I began my career in museums at this institution, working as an intern just after graduating from college, and I have closely followed MAD's development and expansion in the years since," said Adamson. "I look forward to building on the museum's recent successes and to working with the museum's visionary board and senior leadership to enhance and extend MAD's potential. I believe that we are positioned to be the leading museum dedicated to making, across all creative fields."

In addition to his work in the Research Department, Adamson has also curated modern and contemporary design exhibitions during his tenure at the V&A, including co-curating the major survey *Postmodernism: Style and Subversion 1970 to 1990*, which opened in 2011 and traveled to Italy and Switzerland, and the forthcoming exhibition *The Future: A History*, which will inaugurate the V&A's new temporary exhibition galleries in 2017. He initially joined the staff in

2005 as Head of Graduate Studies, working to expand the museum's postgraduate design course administered in conjunction with the Royal College of Art.

An advocate for the reconsideration of craft as a pervasive cultural force rather than a circumscribed artistic category, Adamson has had a widespread influence on makers as well as craft historians and theorists. He has published several books including *The Invention of Craft* (V&A, Bloomsbury, 2013), *The Craft Reader* (Berg, 2010), *Thinking Through Craft* (V&A, Berg, 2007), and is founding co-editor of the *Journal of Modern Craft*, a peer-reviewed academic journal. He has collaborated with MAD on previous projects, contributing academic essays to catalogues that accompanied the recent exhibitions *Space-Light-Structure: The Jewelry of Margaret De Patta* (2012) and *Crafting Modernism: Midcentury American Art and Design* (2011). He also curated *Gord Peteran: Furniture Meets Its Maker*, which was presented at MAD in 2009.

Prior to his work at the V&A, from 2000 to 2005, Adamson served as Curator for the Chipstone Foundation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which collects and promotes research within the field of decorative arts. During this time, Adamson was responsible for organizing exhibitions, consulting on acquisitions, and development. He also served as Adjunct Curator at the Milwaukee Art Museum, where he organized a number of exhibitions, including the award-winning *Industrial Strength Design: How Brooks Stevens Shaped Your World* (2003).

Born and raised in Boston, Adamson received his BA in Art History from Cornell University (1994) and earned his doctorate in Art History from Yale University (2001). He serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Crafts Study Centre, Farnham, and is the most recent recipient of the mid-career Iris Award for outstanding contribution to the decorative arts.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN

The Museum of Arts and Design explores the value of making across all fields of contemporary creative practice. The Museum focuses on the ways in which artists and designers transform the world around us, through processes ranging from the artisanal to the digital. MAD's exhibition program is dedicated to creativity and craftsmanship, and demonstrates the limitless potential of materials and techniques when used by gifted and innovative artists. The Museum's permanent collection is global in scope and includes art, craft, and design from 1950 to the present day. At the center of the Museum's mission is education. The Museum houses classrooms and studios for master classes, seminars, and workshops for students, families, and adults. Three open studios engage visitors in the creative processes of artists at work and enhance the exhibition programs. Lectures, films, performances, and symposia related to the Museum's collection and subjects across the full spectrum of making practices are held in a renovated 144-seat auditorium.

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