



## Christopher Bedford

Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director of The Baltimore Museum of Art

Christopher Bedford assumed the role of Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director of The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) in August 2016, as the 10th director to lead the museum, which is renowned for its outstanding collections of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Bedford is recognized as an innovative and dynamic leader, fostering community engagement with the visual arts, and developing programs of national and international impact. In 2016, he was appointed by the United States Department of State to be commissioner and co-curator of the U.S. Pavilion in the 57<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, which will debut an exhibition featuring new work by Mark Bradford.

Prior to joining the BMA, Bedford served as director of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University from 2012 to 2016, where he led the museum in strengthening its engagement with both the university community and the greater Boston area. Among the first major works he commissioned for the institution was *Light of Reason* (2014), a site-specific sculpture by Chris Burden that now provides an inviting gateway to the museum and a dynamic outdoor space for the community. Bedford also spearheaded the launch of Rosebud, a new satellite gallery housed in an empty storefront in Waltham, Massachusetts, featuring works from the museum's collection of video art. During his tenure, he organized a number of major exhibitions that enhanced the national profile of the Rose, including *Lisa Yukavage: The Brood* (2015), *Mark Dion: The Undisciplined Collector* (2015), *Mark Bradford: Sea Monsters* (2014), *Mika Rottenberg: Bowls, Balls, Souls, Holes* (2014), *Chris Burden: The Master Building* (2014), and *Walead Beshty: Untitled* (2013); and secured numerous significant gifts for the collection.

Previously, Bedford served as chief curator and curator of exhibitions at the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University (2008-2012), where he organized exhibitions featuring Nathalie Djurberg, Omer Fast, Paul Sietsema, and David Smith, as well as a nationally travelling exhibition of the work of Mark Bradford that toured to the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. From 2006 to 2008, he served as assistant curator and curatorial assistant in the Department of Contemporary Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and was consulting curator in the Department of Sculpture and Decorative Arts for the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Born in Scotland and raised in the United States and the United Kingdom, Bedford received a Bachelor of Arts from Oberlin College, and an M.A. in art history through the joint program at Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Museum of Art. He also studied in the doctoral programs in art history at the University of Southern California and the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London. A contributor to numerous publications including *Art in America*, *Artforum*, and *Frieze*, Bedford is author of *Mark Bradford* (Wexner Center for the Arts, 2010), and is a trustee of Art + Practice, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, and Maryland Citizens for the Arts.