

contemporarymuseum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Todd Scott – Himmelrich, Inc.
410-528-5400
todd@himmelrich.com

CONTEMPORARY APPOINTS IRENE HOFMANN **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Contemporary Museum has appointed Irene Hofmann as its Executive Director after completing a national search, announced Board of Trustees President, Thomas P. O’Neil III. Ms. Hofmann will join the Contemporary on January 17, 2006.

Ms. Hofmann is currently the Curator of Contemporary Art for the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach, CA. In her four years as Curator, she has organized acclaimed exhibitions such as the 2002 and 2004 “California Biennial,” and “Girls’ Night Out,” a national touring exhibition featuring work by a new generation of women photographers and video artists, currently on view at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Most recently she curated the first United States museum exhibition of work by the Swiss artist Fabrice Gygi and served as the venue organizer of the current John Waters photography retrospective “Change of Life.”

“Irene is a dynamic, highly-regarded museum professional who understands how to engage the community and ignite a meaningful dialogue on contemporary art. We are delighted she has accepted our offer. Under her able leadership, the Contemporary Museum will leverage its recent achievements and expand its audience in the months and years ahead,” said Thomas F. O’Neil III.

In addition to curating contemporary exhibitions for the Orange County Museum of Art’s Newport Beach location, Ms. Hofmann has also organized programs and exhibitions for the museum’s new Orange Lounge, a satellite space dedicated to video, sound, and new media art located in the nearby South Coast Plaza. Prior to her position in Orange County, Ms. Hofmann held

- more -

HOFMANN APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CONTEMPORARY

positions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Walker Art Center, and the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York.

Hofmann holds a BA in Art History from Washington University in St. Louis, and a MA in Modern Art History, Theory and Criticism from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

"We are gratified to have appointed someone with such a rare combination of intelligence, passion, and vision. Through the search process, it was quite clear that Irene Hofmann has established a national reputation among her peers for shaping cutting edge exhibitions that cast an insightful critical eye on current cultural expression," said Ray Allen, Co-Chair of the Contemporary's Search Committee and Academic Dean at Maryland Institute College of Art.

The Contemporary Museum promotes the art of our time as an educational tool and a catalyst in processes of progressive social change in Baltimore and the surrounding region.

The Museum is the only U.S. institution exclusively dedicated to producing and presenting new art and exhibitions immediately relevant to local audiences by inviting artists, curators, critics and theorists of international stature into its home city, setting them in direct dialogue with Baltimore communities and cultural institutions, and facilitating their collaboration on projects designed to address pressing needs and concerns of common interest.

- end -