



**LAUREN  
LESSING, PHD  
DIRECTOR**

Lauren Lessing became the ninth director of the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art in August 2018. Since arriving at the Stanley, she has overseen several initiatives, including the fundraising and operational planning for a new \$50 million museum facility opening in September 2022. Lessing has expanded the museum staff and led the creation of a new five-year strategic plan and a ten-year collection plan. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she developed a comprehensive database of art museums in the United States and founded a new, inclusive organization for art museum directors. As director, Lessing leads the management and care of the museum's renowned collection and has revitalized the Stanley as an educational resource across campus and the state of Iowa.

Lessing is an art historian and educator with more than 25 years of experience, working in museums such as the Art Institute of Chicago and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri. Before her appointment at the University of Iowa, she served as the Colby College Museum of Art Mirken Director of Academic and Public Programs in Waterville, Maine. She has published and presented widely on topics related to the history of American art, and she was the co-executive editor of the art history journal *Panorama* from 2017 to 2019. Lessing holds a BA in fine art from Earlham College, as well as an MLS, an MA, and a PhD in the history of art from Indiana University in Bloomington, where she studied with Sarah Burns.

**CORY  
GUNDLACH, PHD  
CURATOR OF  
AFRICAN ART**

Cory Gundlach joined the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art as a curatorial research assistant in 2012 and was appointed curator of the arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas in 2015. He is currently participating in curatorial planning for the 2022 inaugural exhibition and facilitating "Reimagining Ritual and Style in African Arts," a series of online events with top scholars in the field of African arts taking place in fall 2021. During his tenure with the museum, Gundlach has curated "The Path of Power" (2016), "Art & the Afterlife: Fantasy Coffins by Eric Adjetey Anang" (2017), and "Follow Her Lead: Womanhood in African and Diasporic Arts" (2019). Gundlach's work was instrumental in the 2014 launch of the Art and Life in Africa (ALA) website, a globally popular teaching tool originally authored by Dr. Christopher D. Roy in 1997. Gundlach has since assumed leadership of the ALA website following Dr. Roy's death in 2019.

Before joining the Stanley Museum of Art, Gundlach worked at the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins, Colorado, and the Morris Graves Museum of Art in Eureka, California. Gundlach holds a BA in studio art from Humboldt State University, a BA in art history from Colorado State University, and an MA and PhD in art history with an emphasis in African art from the University of Iowa.



**KIMBERLY  
MUSIAL  
DATCHUK, PHD**

**CURATOR OF  
LEARNING AND  
ENGAGEMENT**

Kimberly Datchuk joined the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art as assistant curator of special projects in 2015 and was appointed to her present role, curator of learning and engagement, in 2019. She is currently leading academic and public engagement planning for the 2022 museum reopening. During her tenure with the Stanley Museum of Art Datchuk has curated or co-curated eight exhibitions including “Looking Back: Ferdinand Bac, 1859–1952” (2018), “The Full Spectrum: How We See, Feel, and Experience Color” (2018), and “Contemporary Haitian Painting” (2019).

Datchuk holds a BA in art history from the University of Michigan, and an MA and PhD in art history, specializing in 19th-century European art, from the Pennsylvania State University.

**KATHERINE  
WILSON**

**ASSOCIATE  
DIRECTOR OF  
EXHIBITIONS AND  
COLLECTIONS**

Katherine Wilson joined the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art as a registrarial assistant in 2011 and has worked her way up to her current position as the manager of exhibitions and collections, which she has held since December 2016. She is currently overseeing the relocation of the museum’s collection to Iowa City. During her tenure with the Stanley Museum of Art, Wilson introduced, and is chief administrator of, the collection’s management software, served as the primary staff liaison with the building construction team, managed the world tour of Jackson Pollock’s *Mural*, collaborated across university departments to promote digitization and access to the museum’s collections, and managed all incoming and outgoing loans. Wilson holds a BA in art education from the University of Northern Iowa and an MA in library and information sciences from the University of Iowa.

**DEREK (D.K.)  
NNURO**

**CURATOR OF  
SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Derek Nnuro joined the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art in 2019 as associate writer and has been promoted to curator of special projects, his current appointment. In addition to co-curating exhibitions, he has been published in the Stanley Museum of Art magazine. Outside of his work at the Stanley, Nnuro is a writer; his debut novel, entitled *What Napoleon Could Not Do*, is forthcoming from Riverhead/Penguin Random House. He is co-founder and co-instructor of the Reclamation Project, an initiative that, through the literature of the African Diaspora, reconnects, reconstructs, and heals the distance and divide created by the Middle Passage between Black people on either side of the Atlantic. Nnuro holds a BA in Public Health from John Hopkins University and an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, where he was a recipient of a Teaching Writing Fellowship.



**STEVE ERICKSON**  
MANAGER  
OF DESIGN,  
PREPARATION AND  
INSTALLATION

Steve Erickson has worked at the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art since 2006. As manager of design, preparation and installation, Erickson works collaboratively with the Stanley's curators to design and install exhibitions. One significant, large-scale installation included "VOOM Portraits: Robert Wilson" (2008), which encompassed much of the museum's 30,000 square-foot gallery space. After the 2008 flood, Erickson worked to keep the museum relevant and accessible to the university, the state, and the global audience. As the staff expert on packing and installation, he traveled across Europe and the United States to consult and oversee the installation of Jackson Pollock's *Mural*. He also aided the BNIM design team in developing new building plans. Outside of his work at the Stanley, Erickson has been a practicing artist for over 35 years. His most recent exhibition, *Painter*, was shown at the Figge Art Museum in Davenport, Iowa, in 2020. He received his BA from Saint Olaf College in 1984 and an MFA from the University of Iowa in 1991.

**DIANA TUIITE**  
INTERIM CURATOR  
OF MODERN AND  
CONTEMPORARY  
ART

Diana Tuite recently joined the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art as visiting senior curator of modern and contemporary art in the fall of 2021 and was tasked with developing the plans for the inaugural installation. Before her time at the Stanley, Tuite worked at the Colby College Museum of Art as Katz curator of modern and contemporary art, where she chaired a subcommittee dedicated to diversity, inclusion, equity, and access. In this role, she coordinated "Wíwənikan . . . the beauty we carry," a guest-curated survey of contemporary art by the Wabanaki people. Her current traveling exhibition, "Bob Thompson: This House Is Mine," is accompanied by a catalog published by Yale University Press. Other recent exhibitions include "Torkwase Dyson: Nautical Dusk," "Self and Society: The Norma Boom Marin Collection of German Expressionist Prints," and "Hew Locke: Here's the Thing."

**ROLE OF  
STUDENTS/  
GRADUATE  
FELLOWS/  
INTERNS**

The University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art is dedicated to training the next generation of museum professionals through undergraduate work, internships, and graduate fellowships. Offering paid, pre-professional opportunities to students and encouraging different points of view are values embedded in the museum's mission and strategic plan. Not only do student employees gain experiences and transferable skills, they also make valuable contributions to museum planning, programming, and thinking. Students come from diverse backgrounds and areas of study to perform a variety of work—from researching artworks and their institutional history to creating digital and social media content based on collections and programming.



**BARBARA  
WILSON**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
IOWA'S 22ND  
PRESIDENT

Dr. Barbara J. Wilson began her term as the 22nd president of the University of Iowa on July 15, 2021. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism and her master's degree and PhD in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She came to Iowa most recently having served as the executive vice president/vice president for academic affairs of the University of Illinois System. Prior to that, she served as head of the Department of Communication, vice provost for academic affairs, executive vice provost for faculty and academic affairs, Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and interim chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. President Wilson was a member of the Illinois faculty at Urbana-Champaign for 21 years. She was also a professor of communication at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of Louisville. President Wilson's research focuses on the social and psychological effects of the media, particularly on youth. She is coauthor or coeditor of four books and over 80 research articles, book chapters, and technical reports. In 2008, she was elected as Fellow of the International Communication Association.

President Wilson is a native of Appleton, Wisconsin. Her spouse, John Lammers, is a retired professor of communication. They have two grown daughters.