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Media Contact:
Tami Wroath, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
Harn Museum of Art
352.294.7067
twroath@harn.ufl.edu

Curator of Contemporary Art, Kerry Oliver-Smith Retires from the Harn Museum of Art

GAINESVILLE, FL, June 28, 2018—Kerry Oliver-Smith, curator of contemporary art the Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida will retire on June 29, 2018. Oliver-Smith has served in her role since 2000. Prior to her present appointment, she was the Harn's curator of education.

Oliver-Smith oversees the museum's international contemporary collection of more than 1,990 works, in all media, from 1945 to the present and has curated and coordinated more than sixty exhibitions. Her research interests focus on the juncture of art and politics, with an emphasis on photography and film/video practice. Oliver-Smith has augmented the contemporary collection with work by important artists such as Louise Bourgeois, Olafur Eliason, William Kentridge, Yayoi Kusama, Zanele Muholi, Thomas Struth, Andy Warhol, Kehinde Wiley and Haegue Yang.

Exhibitions organized by Oliver-Smith with accompanying catalogues include *Project Europa: Imagining the (Im) Possible*; *Cuba Avant-Garde* and *Swamp: On the Edge of Eden*. Additional exhibitions include *The Architecture of Time in Video Installation*; *Terry Adkins: Deeper Still* and *Art, Media and Material Witness*. For over a decade, she curated *RISK Cinema*, an experimental and art film series. Her final exhibition *The World to Come: Art in the Age of the Anthropocene*, addressing human impact on the environment, opens September 2018.

Oliver-Smith has been awarded two grants from the prestigious Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and several research grants from the University of Florida. She has served on numerous panels and committees of leading organizations, including the National Endowment for the Arts and The Art Museum Curators Association.

Oliver-Smith was born in Argentina and brought up in Latin America. A founder and artistic co-director of Florida's Hippodrome State Theatre, she has an M.A. degree and doctoral studies in Film and Media Studies and has worked extensively in theater and film including projects in the United States, England, Scotland and Spain. In 1985 she garnered the Fringe Theater Award for the translation of a play by Nobel Prize author, Mario Vargas Llosa.

Images are available upon request



PO Box 112700
SW 34th Street and Hull Road
Gainesville, FL 32611-2700
T 352.392.9826
F 352.392.3892
www.harn.ufl.edu

About the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art

Founded in 1990, the Harn Museum of Art is an integral part of the University of Florida. The Harn contributes to an interconnected, international community by integrating the arts and culture into curricula throughout the university's system of colleges and centers. Its holdings include more than 11,100 works in five main collecting areas: Asian art, African art, photography, modern art of the Americas and Europe, and international contemporary art. The museum also has noteworthy collections of Oceanic and Ancient American Art and works on paper. In addition to rotating installations drawn from its permanent collection, the Harn organizes traveling exhibitions, public lectures, panel discussions, academic symposia, and educational programs for adults, students, and children.

The Harn Museum of Art, at 3259 Hull Road in Gainesville, Florida, is part of the University of Florida's Cultural Plaza, which is also home to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is open until 9 p.m. the second Thursday of every month for Museum Nights. The Camellia Court Café is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 352-392-9826 or visit harn.ufl.edu.

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