

MEET THE BIENNIAL 2008 JURORS

MARK KRISCO

ARTIST, CURATOR AND INSTRUCTOR

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

Mark Krisko has held his current position as Instructor, Art History, Theory, and Criticism, at the Art Institute of Chicago since 2001. He holds a concurrent position as curator of the Francey and Dr. Martin Gecht Collection.

Major exhibitions he has curated include: *Graphic Modernism*, Art Institute of Chicago; *The Road to Rome: Paintings by Father Jerome Tupa OSB*, Pope John Paul II Cultural Centre, Washington, D.C. and Chicago; Kohl Children's Museum, Wilmette, Illinois.

Exhibitions of his own paintings have been held at John Almquist Gallery; North Country Day School, Winnetka; Anne Loucks, Glencoe; University Club; Gescheidle Gallery, Lyons Wier (all Chicago), and *Midwest Realists*, a travelling exhibition curated by the Paine Art Centre and Arboretum, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

His published works include: *Selected Paintings and Sculpture from the Collection: Oklahoma City Museum of Art* (catalogue entries); *Graphic Modernism: Selections from the Francey and Dr. Martin Gecht Collection*; *The Road to Rome: A Modern Pilgrimage, Paintings and Text by Father Jerome Tupa*.

He has also delivered numerous performances as Whistler, delivering Whistler's *Ten O'Clock*. He also lectures extensively on an ongoing basis for the Art Institute of Chicago and elsewhere, including presentation of paper at the Oxford Round Table Session in the summer of 2006.

Born in Waukegan, Illinois in 1955, Krisko was raised in Oak Park, Illinois. He earned his degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago who, in his graduate year, awarded him a scholarship to attend the renowned Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. His post-graduate thesis, on the American painter Fairfield Porter, was written exclusively from his series of interviews with the circle of artists who knew Porter.

FRANKLIN SIRMANS

CURATOR OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

THE MENIL COLLECTION, HOUSTON, TEXAS

Prior to taking his position at The Menil Collection, Franklin Sirmans mounted exhibitions as an independent curator at museums in Europe, Asia and the U.S., including the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Comune di Milano in Italy and the Museum Villa Stuck in Munich.

Some of his notable projects include *Basquiat* (Brooklyn Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; 2005); *Make it Now: New Sculpture in New York* (Sculpture Center, 2005); *One Planet Under a Groove: Contemporary Art and Hip Hop* (Bronx Museum of Art; Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; 2001-2003); and *Ralph Bunche: Diplomat for Peace and Justice* (Queens Museum of Art, 2004). He has also been a curatorial advisor at PS 1 since February of 2006, and has organised exhibitions such as *Bearable Lightness* and solo presentations of artists including SunTek Chung, Philip Maysles, Curtis Mitchell and Senam Okudzeto.

He has taught art history, most recently at both Maryland Institute College of Art and Princeton University. Sirmans has edited and contributed to numerous exhibition catalogues, including *Transforming the Crown: African, Asian and Caribbean Artists in Britain*; *Gary Simmons* (Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago); *Black Belt, Black Romantic, Freestyle and Frequency* (both at the Studio Museum in Harlem); *Jean-Michel Basquiat and Double Consciousness: Black Conceptual Art since 1970*. A former U.S. editor of *Flash Art* and editor-in-chief of *ArtAsiaPacific*, Mr. Sirmans has written widely on art and culture for such publications as *Art in America*, *The New York Times*, *Essence* and *Newsweek International*. Sirmans has also contributed monographic essays for catalogues on artists including Kevin Ei-Ichi deForest, Kehinde Wiley, Gajin Fujita, Wendell Gladstone and David Hammons.

Born in New York City in 1969, Franklin Sirmans was raised in Harlem, Albany and New Rochelle, New York. He earned English and Art History degrees from Wesleyan University, where he wrote his honors thesis on the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat.