

Contact: Brooke Witkowski
617-369-3605
bwitkowski@smfa.edu



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New President Selected for School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA)

Christopher Bratton, former president and chief executive officer of San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) and video artist, appointed president of the SMFA and deputy director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

May 10, 2010 (Boston, MA)—Malcolm Rogers, Ann and Graham Gund Director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), and the Board of Governors of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), are pleased to announce that Christopher Bratton, former president and chief executive officer at San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI), has been named the new president of the SMFA and deputy director of the MFA. He will assume responsibilities July 1, 2010.

In his position of SMFA president and MFA deputy director, Bratton will be creating sustainable strategies to ensure the long-term viability of the School. This will include attracting innovative artists (faculty and students) from around the world, conceptualizing innovative and distinctive programs that continue to enhance the value of an SMFA education and strengthening partnerships between the School and the MFA.

Malcolm Rogers, Ann and Graham Gund Director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, says, "I am delighted to have Chris on board to invigorate the connection between the Museum and the School and to work on exciting initiatives for the future."

During his tenure at SFAI, Bratton revitalized the college by initiating new curricula, creating new schools within the college and diversifying funding and supporters. Bratton also increased the college's global visibility with international partnerships with China, Mexico, Brazil, Korea and Russia. Prior to helming SFAI, Bratton was a key part of the academic, then administrative team at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), where he served as chair of the department of video (1993–1995, 1997–2000), chair of the department of film, video and new media (2000–2002) and dean of undergraduate studies (2002–2004). His academic appointments include assistant professor, associate professor and professor at SAIC and visiting professor at Brown University.

SMFA Board of Governors Chair Katherine R. Kirk says, "Chris Bratton brings experience as a leader, a collaborator and a working artist to the presidency of the SMFA. We look forward to welcoming him to the Museum School which has such an important history and such a promising future. As he prepares to take on his new role, I want to again thank Dr. Deborah H. Dluhy for her significant contributions and extraordinary dedication to the school over the past thirty years."

Bratton is the co-founder of Video Machete, a community-based non-profit, which uses multi-media, video production and alternative press to explore and document the stories and perspectives of communities that are erased and distorted by mainstream media. As a practicing video artist, these types of collaborative new media projects have influenced his role as an educator and administrator.

Founded in 1876 and accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), is one of only three art schools in the country affiliated with a major museum—the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Its mission is to provide an education in the fine arts that is interdisciplinary and self-directed for motivated artists. SMFA graduates are pioneers who help shape the future of contemporary art. For more information about our programs and partnerships, visit www.smfa.edu.

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