

## Employment Opportunity

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### Senior Curator

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) is seeking a Senior Curator to advance our exhibitions, curatorial strategy, and public realm initiatives within and beyond the museum. This key role will join CAMH's senior leadership team at a pivotal moment in the Museum's 74-year history and represents a unique opportunity to positively impact an ambitious kunsthalle program in the United States' most diverse city.

### About the Museum

CAMH presents extraordinary, thought-provoking arts programming and exhibitions to educate and inspire audiences nationally and internationally.

Established in 1948, CAMH is one of the oldest non-collecting contemporary art museums in the country and is internationally known for presenting pivotal and landmark work by artists recognized as the most important of the 20th and 21st centuries. CAMH's mandate is to be present, to connect artists and audiences through the urgent issues of our time, and to adventurously promote the catalytic possibilities of contemporary art. CAMH's programming, both in and beyond the Museum, is presented free to the public, and advocates for artists' essential role in society.

### Position Description

The Senior Curator brings insightful and seasoned leadership to CAMH's Curatorial Department, which encompasses exhibitions, community projects, and artist-driven initiatives in the public realm. The role offers a rich platform for a curator who is equally committed to making impactful exhibitions, directly engaging with communities, and imagining new possibilities for artists to work at civic scale.

The ideal candidate works from a position of deep integrity, curiosity, and ambition. CAMH seeks a leader who balances joy and a sense of humor with intellectual rigor and a disciplined approach to managing complex projects. You bring a collaborative, influencing style of leadership rooted in care for your colleagues and a commitment to the broader success of the Museum. As a key member of the senior management team, you will manage and advocate for the Curatorial Department, and counsel and collaborate with the Executive Director and senior colleagues on strategic goals.

The ideal candidate keenly understands the specific context and opportunities of contemporary and artist-centered organizations—their curatorial practice seeks to cultivate trust of artists and care for community. The Senior Curator will chart an adventurous path for CAMH that elevates artists, authentically engages diverse audiences, and meaningfully engages the public life of our community and city.

As a non-collecting museum, CAMH is focused on the art of our time and realizing projects that create unexpected, and hopefully unforgettable, experiences of contemporary art. The Museum typically presents six exhibitions per year, which are mostly organized by CAMH, and often tour to major venues nationally. Historically, CAMH has presented important, curator-driven exhibitions including debut solo Museum shows (Cindy Sherman, Julian Schnabel, Garrett Bradley); catalytic mid-career surveys (Robert Rauschenberg, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Pipilotti Rist); art history defining exhibitions such as *Radical Presence*, *The Dirty*

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*South*, and *The Old, Weird America*; and apex projects by established yet under-recognized artists such as Barkley Hendricks and Ming Smith (forthcoming).

Recently, CAMH has significantly broadened its curatorial reach through local partnerships with community organizations such as Houston Freedmen's Town Conservancy and collaborations with the City of Houston and Houston Independent School District (HISD). Additionally, CAMH supports multiple national public art initiatives that directly benefit local contexts and audiences and span from intimate experiences to civic scale. These projects offer expansive opportunities to work beyond the walls of the Museum.

The role presents significant scope and opportunity for a curatorial leader with an entrepreneurial mindset, and a strong belief in the role of artists and the Museum to serve as catalysts of cultural change.

Title: Senior Curator

Reports to: Executive Director

Direct Reports: Curator, Assistant Curator, and additional staff as assigned

Status: Full time, Exempt

Salary Range: \$90,000 - \$110,000 annually, full benefits; relocation considered on a case-by-case basis

Schedule: M - F, with additional evening and weekend hours per events, travel required

### Principle Duties and Responsibilities

Responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Work closely with Executive Director, senior leadership, and curatorial team to ensure curatorial program is aligned to CAMH mission, vision, and strategic priorities;
  - Maintain strong and dynamic relationships with artists to support and enhance their vision in concert with Museum opportunities;
  - Envision and implement an exceptional exhibition program that positions CAMH at the forefront of contemporary art in the United States;
  - Conceive, curate, and implement visionary exhibitions and projects including single-artist exhibitions, surveys, and public art projects;
  - Seek new resources for exhibitions and projects through effective collaboration with Development colleagues;
  - Cultivate support for CAMH exhibitions and projects through direct relationships with trustees, foundations, and private philanthropy;
  - Collaborate closely with colleagues, particularly in the Learning and Engagement, to support audience engagement priorities including a dynamic range of public programs, accessible language in interpretive materials, and training for colleagues on all current and upcoming exhibitions;
  - Manage, collaborate with, and mentor curatorial team, including curators and fellows to ensure a dynamic, heterogeneous, and inventive approach guides CAMH's Curatorial Department;
  - Ensure effective operations of the curatorial department in collaboration with curators and exhibitions teams;
  - Build new relationships with collaborators from diverse disciplines in support of artists' vision and Museum initiatives;
  - Oversee curatorial budgets to ensure optimal use of Museum resources;
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- Serve as a spokesperson and ambassador for CAMH and its exhibitions and projects in public forums, conferences, throughout the community, with donors, and through the media;
- Serve as a key leader within the Museum, providing counsel and collaboration to colleagues at all levels of the organization, with a focus on collective success;
- Additional duties as assigned.

### Qualifications and Characteristics

The ideal candidate possesses the following characteristics:

- Driven by values, and acts with integrity and purpose;
  - Acts in the best interest of the Museum;
  - Self-motivated and aspirational;
  - Acts as a thought leader and convener of ideas around contemporary art;
  - Highly resilient and creatively adapts to challenges;
  - Strong will to advance ideas tempered by humility and curiosity in the ideas of others;
  - Embraces CAMH values of kindness, empathy, mutual respect, and trust in artists;
  - Strives to participate in and cultivate a workplace culture of equity and belonging;
  - Embraces working within a diverse environment with a high degree of cultural sensitivity and emotional intelligence, both within CAMH's majority BIPOC staff, and within the extraordinary diversity of Houston;
  - Approaches their work with joy, a sense of discovery, and possibility;
  - Seeks first to understand the position of their colleagues;
  - Pro-actively offers direct and constructive feedback and dissent in the spirit of improving the Museum, and supporting the success of their colleagues;
  - Accepting of constructive feedback;
  - Fearless in approach, and prudent with resources;
  - Radical with ideas, and pragmatic in practice;
  - Significant experience in developing major exhibitions for museums and public venues;
  - Significant experience in curating and developing public artworks;
  - Significant experience in supervising and mentoring teams;
  - Adept at cultivating new resources in support of exhibitions and public projects;
  - Equally comfortable working with artists and colleagues as engaging with donors and trustees;
  - Enthusiastically engages and inspires new and diverse audiences;
  - Significant publication and scholarship record;
  - Highly adaptive to varied workplace and community contexts;
  - Advanced degree in related field is strongly preferred; equivalent experience required;
  - 7-10 years of professional curatorial experience, with increasing responsibility in prior roles;
  - Exceptional written and oral communication skills; ability to advocate for the complex ideas of contemporary art with a common touch to a general or novice audience;
  - High level of accuracy and attention to detail;
  - Must be willing to work primarily within our offices in the Museum District;
  - Fully vaccinated against COVID-19;
  - Maintains high expectations and ambition for CAMH and is driven to lead one of the most impactful contemporary arts institutions in the United States.
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### **Salary and Benefits**

The Senior Curator will be eligible to participate in CAMH's health insurance benefit plans and have the opportunity to contribute to a pre-tax health and childcare savings plan. You are eligible for 24 Paid Time Off (PTO) days annually. These benefits commence on the first day of the 3rd full month after your employment begins. You will have the opportunity to contribute to a 401(k) retirement plan. The starting salary range is \$90,000 per year and compensation will be commensurate with experience.

Research shows that women and individuals from underrepresented backgrounds often apply to jobs only if they meet 100% of the qualifications. We recognize that it is highly unlikely that an applicant meets 100% of the qualifications for a given role. Therefore, if much of this job description describes you, then you are highly encouraged to apply for this role.

### **Submission Process**

Email cover letter expressing interest in the role along with a current CV to [hr@camh.org](mailto:hr@camh.org). Initial interviews may take place virtually, whereas finalists will be invited to meet in person in Houston. Candidates will be requested to provide a curatorial portfolio and/or provide a presentation, and provide professional references.

Applicant review will continue until the position is filled. Please indicate your last name and Senior Curator in the subject line (e.g., "Last name | Senior Curator"). No phone calls, please. Candidates whose qualifications are best aligned with the components of this job description will receive a response.

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston fully subscribes to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity. It is our policy to provide employment, compensation, and other benefits related to employment based on qualifications, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local law. In accordance with requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, it is the Museum's policy to provide reasonable accommodation upon request during the application process to eligible applicants in order that they may be given a full and fair opportunity to be considered for employment.

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