

ART PAPERS

Art Papers Announces the Forthcoming Departure of Executive Director Saskia Benjamin

Atlanta, GA, April 6, 2023—After 11 years with Art Papers, Saskia Benjamin has announced that she will step down as executive director on July 21, 2023. The board of directors will lead the search for the next executive director and are working closely with Saskia to ensure a smooth transition.

“My departure from Art Papers is bittersweet. I have enjoyed working with extraordinarily talented individuals, including a committed staff, a supportive board, two supremely talented editors, and too many partners and supporters to name,” stated Saskia Benjamin. “It has been my distinct pleasure to lead Art Papers for over a decade. This organization will always be special to me but after stewarding it through challenging times, including many changes in the field of arts publishing, as well as the pandemic, I am looking forward to pursuing new opportunities, and to witnessing how the organization thrives under new leadership.”

Under Saskia’s leadership the organization has:

- Produced 48 issues of ART PAPERS magazine, transitioning from a bi-monthly publishing schedule to quarterly.
- Worked with 2 Editors and 16 Guest Editors to re-imagine the content and design of ART PAPERS.
- Re-designed and re-launched ARTPAPERS.org as a dynamic publishing platform dramatically expanding the organization’s editorial reach.
- Secured the long-term conservation of Art Papers’ legacy by placing the archives at the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library at Emory University
- Launched the Mildred Thompson Art Writing & Editorial Fellowship for emerging Black writers/editors.
- Professionalized the Auction, raising over \$2.7 million in total and mounting it in 7 different locations over 11 years, even producing a virtual event during the pandemic.
- Secured new sources of funding including: National Endowment for the Arts American Rescue Plan, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Graham Foundation, Homestead Foundation, The Imlay Foundation, WISH Foundation, and South Arts among others.
- Collaborated with diverse organizational partners including Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta Celebrates Photography, MODA ATL, High Museum of Art, Atlanta Contemporary, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Emory University, Kennesaw State University, ADAC, Critical Design Lab, Temporary Studios, Telfair Museums, Birmingham Museum of Art, and the Newcomb Art Museum at Tulane University, among others including several new partnerships this year.

“I thank the members of the Board who took a chance on me, so many years ago, as a first time executive director,” said Saskia. “I’ve had the opportunity to learn and grow while making Art Papers what it is today. With so many exciting opportunities on the horizon for the organization, it is time that I pass the torch to a new executive director.”

Benjamin is committed to shepherding the organization’s ambitious programs and partnerships for the remainder of her tenure. Included among these initiatives are a summer partnership with

[ARTNOIR](#), a NYC-based art collective that develops collaborative platforms for cultural producers of color. ARTNOIR will mine the ART PAPERS archives and commission new texts to produce an exclusive online dossier of content for ARTPAPERS.org. Additionally, they will take over the curation of the homepage for two weeks as part of the dossier's launch celebration.

We are excited to announce our fall issue of ART PAPERS magazine will be guest edited by Carson Chan and team at MoMA's [Emilio Ambasz Institute for the Joint Study of the Built and Natural Environment](#). The issue will act as an editorial extension of the Institute's inaugural exhibition.

ART PAPERS EXHIBITS will return with an exhibition that expands our Summer editorial theme of *Refusal/Renewal*. Timed to coincide with Atlanta Art Week in October, the exhibition will feature artists based in Atlanta as well as artists from outside the state. Through this exhibition program we bring the pages of ART PAPERS to life, bring the community together, and directly benefit artists.

Also this fall, Art Papers, in conjunction with the Newcomb Art Museum at Tulane University, will launch an art writing workshop in New Orleans. The writing workshop is designed to engage arts writers and aspiring arts writers with practical "how to" information and to offer an inside look at the state of arts criticism. This workshop will address needs that are not exclusive to New Orleans: increasing the breadth and depth of experienced arts writers and publishing opportunities especially in communities outside cultural capitals and preparing emerging writers to pursue publishing opportunities while strengthening their skills.

Art Papers editor + artistic director Sarah Higgins states, "Saskia's leadership has been steadfast, adaptive, and insightful. Enough cannot be said about her accomplishments in carrying Art Papers through the rough seas of industry transitions and the pandemic, and she leaves us at a time when those storms have subsided. She will be dearly missed, but we look forward to welcoming new leadership as we turn the page to a new chapter."

Speaking on behalf of the board of directors, co-presidents Kevin Mobley and Chris Watkins thanked Saskia for her leadership and announced that the board will conduct a thorough search over the next months to find Art Papers' next executive director. "It is our priority to find a dynamic leader who will help shape the future of Art Papers into its 50th year and beyond."

Find more information about the job opening [HERE](#).

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ABOUT ART PAPERS

For 47 years Art Papers has provided multiple platforms for publishing and presenting diverse voices and critical perspectives on the cultural moments and urgent conversations happening in and beyond the arts. The organization is committed to creating space for and amplifying diverse voices, especially ones that have historically been marginalized. Based in Atlanta, Art Papers represents the American South globally and offers an under-represented perspective on the art world, championing important work being produced outside of cultural capitals and mainstream markets. www.ARTPAPERS.org

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