

ART PAPERS

ART PAPERS ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP & RADICAL 3-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Atlanta, GA (November 17, 2023)—Art Papers is pleased to announce the appointment of Sarah Higgins to the newly created role of Executive + Artistic Director. In this role, she will oversee the implementation of a radical new strategic plan and lead the organization to its 50th anniversary in 2026.

Higgins joined Art Papers in 2018 as Interim Editor, after which she was appointed Editor + Artistic Director. In her new role, Higgins will oversee a three-year strategic plan designed to celebrate the legacy of Art Papers, to mobilize the organization’s resources in service to the cultural community, and to arrive at a thoughtful, meaningful, and controlled conclusion of operations in 2026, at 50 years.

Art Papers Board President Ramie Little said, “We are thrilled that Sarah will be stepping into this new leadership role. We’re inspired by the meaningful and contemplative work to be done over the next three years, as Art Papers nears its 50th anniversary.”

This new direction was prompted by systemic challenges that are not unique to Art Papers. They present an opportunity to acknowledge the complex situation arts organizations find themselves in today with transparency and address it publicly as a catalyst to fertilize the ground from which new arts platforms and practices will emerge.

Art Papers will continue to publish diverse voices and meaningful themes on ARTPAPERS.org, and during the next three years, also focus on producing thoughtfully designed programming that brings together a variety of constituents invested in addressing the challenges faced by the nonprofit arts sector—locally and nationally. The organization will facilitate research and present public programs that examine new ways to define success and sustainability for arts institutions, host a national symposium on the state of arts writing and publishing today, and publish outcomes from these programs so communities may benefit from the knowledge produced by them.

In the lead-up to Art Papers’ 50th anniversary in 2026, the final year of programming, the organization will celebrate the integrity, cultural significance, and legacy of its 50-year history by publishing a hardback “50 Years of Art Papers” book, and by completing its archives, which are held by Emory University.

About the plan, Higgins said, “Art Papers is impacted by systemic instability across all the sectors we intersect—publishing, art criticism, and mid-size arts nonprofits most crucially. As we sought to find a sustainable path forward, we recognized that all viable options lead the organization away from its founding ethos. Rather than putting survival before the integrity of our work, we have opted to embrace the metaphor of *fire ecology*—an ecosystem in which old growth must burn in order to enrich the soil and fertilize new growth.”

Dan Talley, one of Art Papers’ co-founders commented, “I support this well-conceived plan. It’s a beautiful and dignified coda that encapsulates Art Papers’ birth, evolution, and completion.”

ABOUT SARAH HIGGINS

Sarah Higgins has served as Editor + Artistic Director of Art Papers since 2019. Previously, she was curator at the Zuckerman Museum of Art at Kennesaw State University from 2015 to 2019. She has curated more than 40 exhibitions for institutions such as the Hessel Museum of Art, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, and Atlantic Center for the Arts.

From 2013 to 2015, Higgins worked as graduate program coordinator at the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College. She was community arts director and curator of Atlantic Center for the Arts' Harris House in New Smyrna Beach, Florida from 2007 to 2011. There, she developed multidisciplinary arts and residency programs, community outreach, and educational programming. Before 2007, she worked as an Educator at Artpace in San Antonio, Texas. Higgins holds a BFA in Printmaking and Sculpture from the Atlanta College of Art and an MA in Curatorial Studies from the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College.

ABOUT ART PAPERS

Atlanta-based and globally engaged, Art Papers explores the ways contemporary art and culture affects and reflects our human experience. We do this through publishing and public programming.

www.ARTPAPERS.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Amy Miller

Interim Executive Director

404.588.1837

director@artpapers.org